

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Straun Mayne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2015 1:11 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: jcmayne@bigpond.com
Subject: RE: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Attachments: letter for national park bill.rtf

PETER MAYNE

ABN 38 209 598 312

“Goathlands”

[REDACTED]
SPRINGSURE 4722

Ms Jennifer Howard MP
Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

VIA EMAIL aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

November 26, 2015

Dear Ms. Howard

**Re: Nature Conservation and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Carnavon National Park Management Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee regarding your deliberations on the Nature Conservation and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

In the past years my family have leased approximately 60000 acres of the Carnavon National Park which is attached to my family property “Goathlands”, which currently runs our organic beef operation. We wish to continue to use this land and believe our case to be unique from other entities. These special considerations include:

- There is **no public access** to this area of the National Park as the gazetted road ends at the boundary of Wealwandangie and Goathlands and to our knowledge such a road has never existed.
- This area of the National Park is **extremely rugged** and would not be suitable for public access. The only access at this time is through private property with no public access.
- During the time my family have used this land for cattle grazing we have never altered the natural terrain in any way, furthermore we **have not added any infrastructure** or water troughs on this land. We have endeavoured to maintain this land in its absolute natural state and believe we have been excellent custodians of the land. The only maintenance we have carried out on the land has

been fire protection and vermin control when required. These processes have been of benefit to the overall conservation of the Park and we would argue are superior to the Carnavon National Park Management Plan. Due to our **organic status** we are particularly careful to **maintain the Park under strict conditions** as required by the Australian Certified Organics, an organisation we are accountable to by audit procedures.

- Our **impact on the land is minimal**. We use this land approximately 3 to 4 months of the year when we run approximately 500 cows and calves during the winter. **This equates to one cow and calf to every 120 acres**. We would never leave the cattle on the Park land for longer than this period due to the poisonous component of the nuts from the Zamia Palms which drop in the spring/summer months and are particularly attractive to the cattle. If these nuts are consumed by the cattle it causes a bone disease called “rickets”, making the cattle crippled and unsaleable. Therefore we can assure the Government that we would only use this land for 3 to 4 months of the year having absolute minimal impact on this land.
- The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 concerns us greatly as it removes any discretion from the Department or the Minister to allow leases such as ours to continue, even though it can be proven that the lease has caused no harm to the conservation values of the Carnarvon National Park. If we lose access to the lease land, it affects the viability of our organic beef operation for no other benefit gained by Queensland. I urge you to consider incorporating some discretion into the Bill which recognises the sheer size of Queensland, the variability of different landscapes and ecosystems and the need to have different regimes in different localities. Ideally this would allow qualified Departmental officers to review all the information and undertake such inspections as necessary, so that they could approve the continuation of leases such as ours, which benefit the outcomes sought for the national park which adjoins us.

If an inspection was done on this land today the evidence would be clear. There is absolutely no environmental impact to the National Park as a result of our family using this land. The evidence in fact, would state clearly that we have been excellent custodians of the land and that our future practices would keep conserving this land better for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Mayne

Straun and Hanna Mayne
All Systems Go Equipment
Maintenance and Repair
'Goathlands'
Springsure Q 4722

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