

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Alison Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2015 12:00 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission re: The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To The Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,
Please find below my submission regarding the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

I would like to express my concern that the opportunity has not been taken to remove the other special management area provided for in the management principles of national parks in section 17 of the NC Act – special management area (controlled action). That would have gone a long way to reinstating the cardinal principle for the management of national parks, an election commitment of the present government. This could have been done by reinstating national park (recovery), or by re-designating all those areas as conservation parks.

I would like to request that other classes of protected area that were abolished should also be reinstated – namely Wilderness Area, World Heritage Management Area, International Agreement Area, and Coordinated Conservation Area. Regardless of the extent to which these protected areas had been used in the past, they all have a part to play in maintaining a range of protected areas that are in step with the global categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

I would also like to express my concern that the term “ecotourism facility”, which was inserted into section 35(1)(a) of the Nature Conservation Act in 2013, has not been removed from the legislation. This provision has the capacity to allow the development of tourist resorts inside national parks, and it overrides the cardinal principle. Such development would overturn more than a century of park management on Queensland mainland parks where tourist resorts have been encouraged on private land adjacent to national parks but not inside parks.

I support the decision regarding the proposed amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 that are contained in the Bill.

The reinstatement of the sole object of the act (the conservation of nature) and the reinstatement of three abolished classes of protected area – national park (scientific), conservation park, and resources reserve is also welcomed.

The removal of special management areas (scientific) from the management principles of national parks (as a consequence of reinstating national parks (scientific)) is also supported.

Regards,
Alison Warner
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