



PO Box 7396  
Hervey Bay QLD 4655

27 November, 2015

Chair  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: [aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992***

Wildlife Fraser Coast is an a-political community group whose objectives are to:

1. preserve Australia's flora and fauna
2. educate all sections of the community, particularly the young, in understanding the principles of conservation and preservation of the natural environment
3. discourage the destruction, exploitation or unnecessary development of any part of the natural environment
4. encourage rational land use and proper planning of development and use of the natural environment and management thereof

We have some 68 members.

Wildlife Fraser Coast welcomes the proposed amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

We note these amendments undo damaging changes introduced by the former Newman Government. This effectively allows the Act to revert largely to what was in it prior to the Newman changes.

In particular, we welcome the reinstatement of the sole object of the act (the conservation of nature) and reinstatement of three abolished classes of protected area: national park (scientific), conservation park and resource reserve. We also welcome the removal of special management areas (scientific) from the management principles of national parks (scientific).

Our concern rests not with what is proposed to be changed, but what appears to be

omitted. We would like to see the current amendments expanded to encompass the following:

- Removal of the other special management area provided for in the management principles of national parks in Section 17 of the *Nature Conservation Act*: special management area (controlled action). We believe this would go a long way to reinstating the cardinal principle for the management of national parks, an election commitment of the present government. There are two options for achieving this: reinstatement of national park (recovery) or re-designating all those areas as conservation parks.
- Reinstatement of other classes of protected area that were abolished by the former Newman Government: Wilderness Areas, World Heritage Management Areas, International Agreement Area, and Coordinated Conservation Areas. 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 honour our international obligations and are in step with global categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Removal of the term 'ecotourism facility' which was inserted into Section 35(1)(a) of the *Nature Conservation Act* in 2013. Provision for 'ecotourism facilities' within the Act as a category of protected area has the capacity to allow development of tourist resorts within national parks, which we consider to be contrary to the cardinal principle. We have no objection to ecotourism facilities per se, but do not believe they should be permitted within national parks. 'Ecotourism facilities' within mainland national parks overturn more than a century of park management where tourist resorts have been encouraged on private land adjacent to national parks but not inside parks.

Yours sincerely

Vanessa Elwell-Gavins  
Secretary

Sara Gerdson  
President