

aec@parliament.qld.gov.au.

### **Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

I believe that the previous set of amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) was unacceptable and effectively destroyed the Act's capacity to operate as a nature conservation statute, a cardinal principal that had been previously accepted on a bipartisan basis. Consequently I welcome and supports the reinstatement of "the conservation of nature" as the sole object of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and other proposed amendments to the bill including.

- the reinstatement of three abolished classes of protected area – national park (scientific), conservation park, and resources reserve.
- the removal of special management areas (scientific) from the management principles of national parks (as a consequence of reinstating national parks (scientific).

However I would also like to see further amendments including

- the removal of 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). This could have been done by reinstating national park (recovery), or by redesignating all those areas as conservation parks.
- the 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 am also concerned that the term "ecotourism facility" has not been removed from the legislation.

In summary I congratulate the government on the proposed amendments and commends the government for progressing the policy objectives which will be achieved by the implementation of these amendments however I would also asked that the points of concern also be considered.

Yours sincerely

Kerry O'Carroll, [REDACTED] QLD 4272  
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