



J. D. & L.E. Markwell,



27th November 2015

The Chair,
Agriculture and Environment Committee,
Parliament House, George Street,
Brisbane, Qld 4000.

Dear Sir /Madam,

Re proposed Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

We are writing with regard to the proposed Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. We understand submissions can be made until 30 November 2015.

We were appalled by the extremely destructive amendments made by the previous LNP Government to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act) in 2012 and 2013.

We saw evidence of large scale clearing of Native Vegetation just south of Cardwell beside the Bruce Highway recently that we think was probably only possible because of the LNP's destructive amendments.

We welcome the proposed amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 that are contained in the Bill.

We welcome in particular the following:

1. 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.
2. The removal of special management areas (scientific) from the management principles of national parks (as a consequence of reinstating national parks (scientific)).

We wish to express concern that this opportunity had not been taken to:

3. 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 redesignating all those areas as conservation parks.

We request also that :

4. 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).

We wish to express concern that:

5. 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.

The National Parks, Conservation Area that we presently enjoy are the result of dedicated works by so many people (private citizens and organisations, public servants, and elected Members of Local Authorities & State & Federal Parliaments) over the last century. It is so disappointing and devastating that all their good works can be so easily destroyed by poor government.

Yours Faithfully,

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J. D. & L.E. Markwell