

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: John Thorsborne [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 30 November 2015 11:07 AM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Subject: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Attachments: IMG.jpg

Dear Committee Members,

Comments on proposed changes to the Bill - plus vital omissions :-

1. First and most important the full restoration of the Cardinal Principle of National Park Management must be made. This was always the very foundation of managing our National Parks - owned by ALL Australians.
2. National Park (recovery) should be reinstated, or all such areas redesignated as Conservation Parks. Special Management Area (controlled action) should be removed as it is too open-ended and open to interpretation by those wishing to commercially exploit National Parks.
3. Other classes of protected area abolished to the shame of the previous Government should definitely be reinstated as follows:-

Wilderness Area, World Heritage Management Area, International Agreement Area (when for Conservation reasons) and Coordinated Conservation Area.

These designated areas are vital for the proper protection and management of areas having specific designations, including those listed under International Agreements e.g. categories established by the IUCN.

These threatened natural areas are too important world-wide to be put at risk.

4. There should be NO resort development (ecotourism facility) , a new provision of the previous Government within a National Park. To allow resort development within a National is to override the Cardinal Principle, which all thinking Australians want reinstated.

It may have escaped this Government's notice but EVERY resort these days only has to recycle SOME of its rubbish or any other token green action to be classed ECO-RESORT.

Only a few Island National Parks have resorts inside the NP and these have not proved economically viable. A prime example is the terrible mess left in Hinchinbrook Island National Park, an area my husband and I are personally very familiar with. This is a double disaster of ecological loss and future clean-up cost on the public purse, which should not be accepted by any Government .

Hinchinbrook island resort lease should be revoked and returned to the National Park, giving Queensland a world asset and a reputation acknowledging this.

I trust the comments will be helpful in finalising amendments to the Bill.

Please refer to attachment listing POSITIVE RESPONSES to th Amendment Bill.

Yours faithfully

Jill Thorsborne - 30/11/2015

The following changes proposed in this Bill are to be applauded:

- Reinstating *the conservation of nature* as the sole object of the Nature Conservation Act.
- Reinstating *national park (scientific)* as a class of protected area.
- Reinstating the management principles of a *national park (scientific)*
- Reinstating *conservation parks* and *resources reserves* as separate classes of protected area and reinstating their management principles, by removing the classes "regional parks" and the "resource use areas" that were required to separate those areas that were previously *conservation parks* and *resources reserves*.
- Removing *special management area (scientific)* from the management principles of national parks.
- Removing the undemocratic provision that specified that no consultation would be required if the change was consistent with State government policy, with similar amendments to be made in the *Marine Parks Act 2004* and the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*.
- Removing an expired provision allowing grazing of livestock in national parks for emergency drought relief.
- Amending the *Land Act 1994* to stop existing grazing leases on protected areas from continuing as rolling term leases.

Reinstating *the conservation of nature* as the sole object of the Nature Conservation Act, and the other amendments listed above, re-establishes the proper purpose, role and management of national parks.

Some other damaging amendments of the previous government have not been corrected or reinstated in this Bill, as follows:

1. The provision for a *special management area (controlled action)* should be removed, in line with the election commitment of the present government to reinstate the cardinal principle for the management of national parks. Also ***national park (recovery)* should be reinstated, or all those area should be redesignated as *conservation parks*.**

2. Some other classes of protected area that were abolished under the previous government have not been reinstated in this Bill, and should be reinstated. These classes (**Wilderness Area, World Heritage Management Area, International Agreement Area, and Coordinated Conservation Area**) are necessary for the proper protection and management of areas having specific designations including those listed under international agreements such as categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).