


Cedar Hill

Cedar Hill Flowers & Foliage Pty Ltd

ACN 010 925 256

Flowers and Foliage

Winner 1999 & 2000 Sunshine Coast Environment Council Clean Industry Initiative Award
Winner 1997, 1999 & 2000 Sunshine Coast Exporter of the Year Award
Winner 2001 Queensland Primary Industries Environment Award
Winner 2001 Sunshine Coast Exporter Hall of Fame Award
Winner 2001 Queensland Premier's Agribusiness Export Award


Website: www.cedarhill.com.au

30th November 2015

Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission objecting to changes proposed to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 set out in the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for Cedar Hill Flowers and Foliage (CHFF) to submit comments on the proposed changes to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 ("the Bill").

We have been operating on State Land across various tenures for over two decades. Ecological sustainability is crucial to our ongoing business activity from both a resource security and green consumer market perspective. We are a medium sized business employing over 70 Queenslanders. We contribute financially and provide on ground assistance to the management of the State Lands in which we operate.

The Bill proposes to reverse some of the amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA) made by the previous government. The item of concern for us is the proposed change to the object of the NCA, this is the only point addressed in this submission.

We are opposed to reinstating the "conservation of nature" as the sole object of the act.

We support the retention of the current object of the act;

- The conservation of nature while allowing for the following—
 - (a) the involvement of indigenous people in the management of protected areas in which they have an interest under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom;
 - (b) the use and enjoyment of protected areas by the community;
 - (c) the social, cultural and commercial use of protected areas in a way consistent with the natural and cultural and other values of the areas.


We were positive about the expansion of the object of the NCA by the previous government believing that it appropriately facilitated the needs of all stakeholders while upholding the conservation of nature as its primary objective. We do not believe that the conservation of nature within protected areas and the ecologically sustainable commercial use of these areas should be considered mutually exclusive.

Reverting back to the conservation of nature as the sole objective of the NCA will negatively impact industries that depend on access to some of Queensland's protected areas. The proposed changes have the potential to place long term access to protected areas in question and jeopardise regional employment opportunities. These industries provide financial returns to the relevant government departments. They also provide information about any illegitimate activities which may be encountered to the relevant land managers. If legitimate environmentally and socially responsible businesses are restricted or excluded from Queensland's protected areas then a serious threat of uncontrolled, irresponsible and illegitimate operators will exist. Market demand will still exist and opportunities for unscrupulous operators to fill the gap will have been created.

The social, cultural and commercial use of protected areas in a way consistent with the natural and cultural and other values of the areas does not threaten or diminish the NCA's primary objective for the conservation of nature. It provides for the responsible use of these areas in a manner that is consistent with preserving the values for which they were classified as protected areas.

If you would like to further discuss the points raised above or require any clarification then please contact me on the details provided.

Kind Regards,



James Roemermann

Manager

Cedar Hill Flowers and Foliage