

30.11.15

Submission regarding the Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992

In general I support the proposed amendments as a step in the right direction but call on the government to go further and introduce an additional Bill to address other amendments that are also needed to repair the damage done to the NCA by the previous government. It's important the cardinal principle is fully reinstated.

1. I support the following amendments:

- the reinstatement of "the conservation of nature" as the sole object of the NCA
- 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)).
- Removal of provisions that allow management plans under the NCA, Marine Parks Act 2004 and Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 to be amended without public consultation if the amendments relate to a change in State government policy;
- Removing provisions that allowed the chief executive to grant stock grazing permits for emergency drought relief on six prescribed national parks until 31 December 2013 because they have become redundant; and
- Reverting rolling term leases (under the Land Act 1994) within protected areas managed by QPWS for agriculture, grazing or pastoral purposes back to term leases (noting this will not affect leases on State Forest).

2. I am concerned that the opportunity presented by the Bill not removed the other special management area provided for in the management principles of national parks in section 17 of the NCA – 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.

3. I request that other classes of protected area that were abolished should also be reinstated – Wilderness Area, World Heritage Management Area, International Agreement Area, and Coordinated Conservation Area

4. I am concerned that 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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jan Aldenhoven

