

## Agriculture and Environment Committee

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**From:** Catharina Van vuuren [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 November 2015 7:43 PM  
**To:** Agriculture and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Amendments to the Nature ConservationAct 1992

**Categories:** EA to Process

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to see that the current Labor-led government is seeking to address the destructive principles and practices to our national parks as a result of the changes made to the Nature Conservation Act, 1992, under the previous Newman state government.

Once I was proud of QLD's beautiful and special national parks, but over the decades have observed their gradual decline through minimal management and lack of stewardship. Parks are over run with weeds, wild goats and pigs, as well as visitors who trash our heritage with their SUVs and alcohol-inspired parties in what were once peaceful and beautiful family camping destinations. For many years now, we have avoided staying at national parks for lack of oversight from a well-educated and respected national parks service, with well-managed camping grounds, in favour of private accommodation where we can enjoy peace and quiet and a safe environment-- safe from other people, that is.

I fully support the changes called for by the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society, including:

Reinstating the conservation of nature as the sole object of the Act.

[ ]

Reinstating national park (scientific) as a class of protected area.

[ ]

Reinstating the management principles of a national park (scientific) [ ] Removing special management area (scientific) from the management principles of national parks.

[ ]

Reinstating conservation parks and resources reserves as separate classes of protected area and reinstating their management principles. This involves removing regional parks and the resource use areas that were required to separate those areas that were previously conservation parks and resources reserves.

[ ]

Removing the provision that specified that an amendment to a management plan did not require consultation if the change was consistent with State government policy. The same provision is also to be amended in the Marine Parks Act 2004 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006.

[ ]

Removing an expired provision relating to grazing stock on national parks for emergency drought relief.

[ ]

Amending the Land Act 1994 to ensure that existing grazing leases on protected areas are no longer rolling term leases.

With the impacts of climate change increasingly becoming the norm, protection of what little that is wild and natural that is left in Queensland is becoming more and more important, especially if we want to ensure that our children can enjoy our natural heritage as much as we have.

Catharina van Vuuren

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