

Sub#6

From: Lee K Curtis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 30 November 2012 5:27 PM
To: Health and Community Services Committee
Subject: Ecotourism in National Parks

11.9.1

I would like to make absolutely that you know what official the definition of 'ecotourism' is according to the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

"Environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, both past and present) that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local peoples."

According to the Nature Conservancy, the world's largest and most respected conservation organisation:

'Ecotourism is distinguished by its emphasis on conservation, education, traveler responsibility and active community participation. Specifically, ecotourism possesses the following characteristics:

- Conscientious, low-impact visitor behavior
- Sensitivity towards, and appreciation of, local cultures and biodiversity
- Support for local conservation efforts
- Sustainable benefits to local communities
- Local participation in decision-making
- Educational components for both the traveler and local communities

Increased tourism to sensitive natural areas without appropriate planning and management can threaten the integrity of ecosystems and local cultures. The increase of visitors to ecologically sensitive areas can lead to significant environmental degradation. Likewise, local communities and indigenous cultures can be harmed in numerous ways by an influx of foreign visitors and wealth. Additionally, fluctuations in climate, currency exchange rates, and political and social conditions can make over-dependence upon tourism a risky business.

However, this same growth creates significant opportunities for both conservation and local communities. Ecotourism can provide much-needed revenues for the protection of national parks and other natural areas – revenues that might not be available from other sources.

Additionally, ecotourism can provide a viable economic development alternative for local communities with few other income-generating options. Moreover, ecotourism can increase the level of education and activism among travelers, making them more enthusiastic and effective agents of conservation.'

Will the LNP show that it is in fact forward thinking and truly concerned about the kind of state we leave to our children and grandchildren? Will it be a healthy, productive and sustainable state or will it be a sick razed dead landscape covered with large gaping poisonous holes and wells that no longer are viable and for which you sold your souls? I hope not.

Sincerely,

Lee

=====
Lee K Curtis

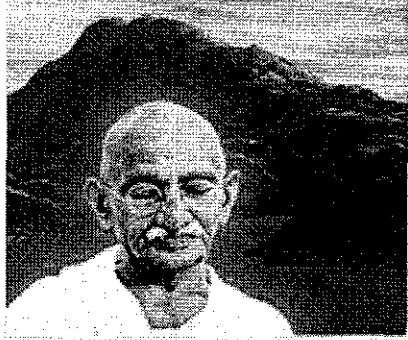
Freelance Copywriter, Editor and Project Manager

Editor, *Queensland's Threatened Animals* <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/6473.htm>

Correspondent, *Wildlife Australia Magazine* <http://wildlife.org.au/magazine/index.html>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.ataglance.com.au



**THE GREATNESS OF A NATION
AND ITS MORAL PROGRESS
CAN BE JUDGED BY THE WAY
ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED**
— MAHATMA GANDHI