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Mr Peter Dowling MP  
Chair  
Health & Community Services Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000

CC to MP Glen Elmes  
Member for Noosa  
Minister for ATSI & Multicultural Affairs

Sub # 22



19 December 2012

Dear Mr Dowling,

Please find below the **Peregrine Beach Community Association Inc.'s Submission** to your Committee's consideration of the Bill proposed to amend the **Nature Conservation Act 1992**.

**"Queensland's National Parks currently provide the highest level of protection for our environment, its ecosystems, its unique flora and fauna, as well as places that have been recognised as jewels of significant beauty and intrinsic value by generations of Queenslanders, other Australians and people the world over.**

**Considering commercial development within OUR National Parks seems to be at odds with this Charter of Protection, hence, we submit that the proposed amendment be rejected.**

**National Parks encompass a tiny 5% of Queensland – the remaining 95% of the State is available for private business and commercial development, including eco-tourism.**

**Members of the Peregrine Beach Community Association Inc. submit that:**

**'Our National Parks be kept pristine and free from the ravages of fragmentation, degradation and pollution by the self-interest of eco-tourism and other commercial proposals.**

**Queensland's National Parks have, to date, been reserved for the enjoyment of ALL Queenslanders and visitors who wish to experience our National Parks, untouched by commercialism. Future generations deserve a 'glimpse' of the natural wonder that was once Queensland, which may be threatened by the short-sighted interference and unthinking self-indulgence of current commercial interests.**

**Major pressures on our National Parks, including climate change, human habitation, invasive and habitat changing environmental weeds and feral animals are already contributing to the rapid decline of native species and biodiversity. Our National Parks are too precious to be relinquished – even under the potentially self-serving banner of eco-tourism.**

**The proposed Legislative Bill to amend the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* threatens the legacy that our forefathers sought to leave for us and our grandchildren's grandchildren, the gift of our National Parks for posterity. These amendments threaten to compromise the integrity of National Parks and the conservation values they perpetuate. It will place our celebrated biodiversity at further risk.**

*Are we feeling someone watching us? A new tribe who would destroy this naturally beautiful jewel. A tribe which wants to build restaurants and shops and multi-storey car parks in this magic place.*

*Dennis Massoud (1980s) on the Noosa National Park*

Rochelle Gooch  
Secretary,  
The Peregrine Beach Community Association Inc.