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Sub # 31.



From: Gabi [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 December 2012 12:31 PM
To: Health and Community Services Committee
Subject: Private Landuse in National Parks

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18 DEC 2012
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES COMMITTEE

To the Queensland Parliament Committee currently considering amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Forestry Act 1959:

My major concern with the amendment is the intention to allow areas of National Park to be leased to private interests for the establishment of "ecotourism" resorts especially because the term ecotourism is very loosely defined.

I personally do not support private tourist developments in National Parks at all. This land has been set aside for conservation with public access available to everyone on an equal basis. Queensland only has 5% of land reserved as National Park (way below the percentages other States) - we should not be effectively reducing it further by allowing private interests to have exclusive access. Furthermore, the primary purpose of National Parks is to protect the environment within the Parks. Tourism benefits from National Parks but its demands should never override this primary purpose. The cardinal principle of National Park management is "the permanent preservation, to the greatest extent possible, of their natural condition". The construction of resort developments on National Park land is totally inconsistent with this principle. Eco-lodges are traditionally sited **adjacent** to NPs but **outside the boundaries** - there is no problem with this, and this practice is how it should continue.

Please take my concerns seriously into consideration.
Thank you very much in advance

Regards

Gabriele Kappes
Biologist