

11.1.9.

Submission regarding the proposed amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992

Mr Peter Dowling MP, Chair,
Health and Community Services Committee,
Parliament House,
Brisbane 4000

Dear Mr Dowling,

Below please find my submission regarding proposed amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992

Yours Faithfully,

Gayle Johnson

(Dr) Gayle Johnson

[REDACTED]
Crows Nest.
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SUBMISSION

The proposed amendments are unacceptable. I do not support the authorization of private leases for ecotourism facilities within National Parks. I believe that the need to keep such facilities profitable would inevitably result in increased pressures on natural systems within the National Parks in which the facilities are situated. It is well documented that disturbances within relatively pristine areas lead to introduction of weeds and increased incidence of feral animals, including rats and cane toads.

Protected areas worldwide have been set aside to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services such as the protection of water quality and amelioration of the adverse effects of climate change. Countries worldwide including Australia have recognized the need to expand the protected area to 17% of total land area. Australia, including Queensland, has not yet reached that target. It would be unacceptable and indeed embarrassing for us to reduce the level of protection already in existence.

There are many small businesses providing accommodation in the vicinity of National Parks. These small businesses would be unfairly disadvantaged by the granting of leases for accommodation within National Parks.

According to Professor Ralph Buckley, the best way to boost park-based tourism is by maintaining trails, lookouts, toilet facilities and signage within the park, using public funds, in conjunction with the establishment of private accommodation on nearby private land. I am fully in agreement with these suggestions.