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# Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland - Capricorn Branch Inc.

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19 December 2012

Sub # 68.

Health and Community Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street Brisbane QLD 4000  
via email to: [hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

**RECEIVED**  
20 DEC 2012  
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES COMMITTEE

### **Comment on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Bill 2012**

Thank you for your invitation to submit the following brief general comment on the above Bill.

We appreciate that the amendments are worded so as to emphasise the primacy of nature conservation as the main purpose of National Parks and that any ecotourism facilities to be established in National Parks would need to be ecologically sustainable.

However we have serious reservations about the whole idea of allowing commercial operators to establish tourism facilities within National Parks. Even the initial establishment of small operations with minimal environmental impact would set a precedent which could make it easier for larger and larger operations to gain subsequent approval. This could well lead to a scenario where over time, our National Parks could suffer "the death of a thousand cuts" through significant fragmentation of their geographical integrity and substantial reduction in their capacity to act as refuges for native wildlife as a result of both habitat fragmentation and the cumulative impact of so much intrusive human activity that their ecosystem health is severely compromised.

If this Bill is enacted there will need to be an effective set of assessment criteria and compilation of sound and relevant scientific and field based data to ensure informed, decisions are made within the spirit of the legislation, and sound operational policy to ensure compliance and ongoing monitoring to minimise any compromising of environmental values in the impacted park areas.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce Zimmer  
Hon Secretary of Capricorn Branch WPSQ