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Sub # 75

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19 December 2012

Health and Community Services Committee  
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Dear Committee

I would like to voice my support for the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc.'s (QMDC) submission on the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012*.

The Upper Dawson Wildlife Preservation Society (the Society) is similarly concerned by the issues raised in QMDC's submission.

Opportunities for new ecotourism activities in Queensland must be considered after a full investigation into the current capacity of national parks to maintain their natural integrity and biodiversity and wildlife value should more infrastructure and higher human impact be permitted in them.

The Society urges the Committee to take seriously the need to protect these areas against ongoing human impact caused by exploitation or occupation. Like QMDC, we are not convinced that the Bill has considered all possible impacts and their long term impact so that the balance between human enjoyment and connectedness to nature, and the conservation of Queensland's protected area estate is successfully reached.

The Society supports the recommendation that a full scientific investigation including an analysis on environmental risks and their management is required to ensure a balance can be maintained.

The risks associated with an expanding CSG industry and associated or incidental infrastructure such as pipelines, transmission lines and communication networks are a major concern for the Society especially the increased risk of fire in State forests. In our opinion, the Bill does not provide adequate assurance to rural communities that it has taken into consideration all costs, environmental and economic related to the proposed petroleum activities and other infrastructure development in State Forests.

The Society urges the Committee to pay serious heed to the likely impacts (site specific and cumulative, short term and long term) this Bill will allow if new developments are permitted in protected areas internationally and nationally recognized for their conservation, wildlife and biodiversity values. The Society also urges the Committee to carefully assess the increased risk of fire and other hazards that are likely to occur should State Forests house pipelines and other infrastructure.

Yours sincerely



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The Upper Dawson Wildlife Preservation Society

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