

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)
Subject: Submissions to the Nature Conservation and other legislation Bill No 2 2013
Date: Tuesday, 10 September 2013 1:20:11 AM

Health and Community Services Committee,

I am writing to express my view on the proposed legislative changes the the Nature Conservation Act and related legislation.

The proposed change to the object of the act puts in jeopardy the very purpose of the legislation. Rather than adding to it, it could be likened to making an exception. It appears to add the clause “unless it is inconvenient, or less profitable”. We would certainly not entertain this, if it was about human safety, crime or animal cruelty. Currently it does not exclude these, if it does not jeopardise the ‘conservation of nature’. These areas are representative, struggling or extra-ordinarily special ecosystems and places for the enjoyment of all, forever. If thorough research and planning shows they will not degrade the state’s assets it can occur – no change needed.

I think it is essential that most conservation areas be open to visitors so that they can be enjoyed, studied and explored. However the actions of a few can not remove the rights of the majority as the natural values belong to us all. Commercial operators have had every opportunity to secure the use of nearby areas for their operations and still visit the conservation area. This income is welcomed by the landholders and towns near the parks, rather than taken by the state. These people who have negotiated and built their commercial advantage, only to have it eroded by allowing new operators to take prime position and destroy some of the values their customers seek.

Please maintain a need for documenting the history, values, risks and monitoring of the conservation areas. Our state and its natural areas are extensive and managers must be able to be held to account for the results. It is essential that guidance is given to the staff charged with maintaining and managing these areas. Proper benchmarking and monitoring the management regime is required, as poor decisions in this area can just as easily jeopardise the natural values and state and neighbour assets, as outside interests e.g. poor fire management, feral and weed control. These natural resources belong to the people of Queensland and are maintained with out taxes, their management and use need to be accountable.
“If you can’t measure it, you can manage it”

Thank you for your consideration,

Olivia Whybird
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