

From: [Wildlife Tourism Australia chair](#)
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)
Cc: [Peter Wood](#)
Subject: proposed legislation changes
Date: Thursday, 12 September 2013 6:59:55 AM

Dears sirs/madams

re: *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No2) 2013* into

While Wildlife Tourism Australia fully supports the use of our natural resources for tourism and recreation, this must be accomplished in an ecologically sustainable manner

There are nowadays many threats to our biodiversity, including our many unique wildlife species, and our national parks play a vital role in this. There are many places people can enjoy adventure activities outside of national parks, but fewer and fewer places offering protection to our wonderful array of wildlife ecosystems and unique species.

The primary concern of national parks must remain the conservation of our biodiversity, and recreational use must be then fitted into this framework.

Ecological communities are very complex, and there are many ways they can be impacted even by poor planned ecotourism and wildlife tourism activities (see for instance <http://www.sustainabletourisonline.com/117/wildlife-tourism/negative-effects-of-wildlife-tourism-on-wildlife-wt-5>)

Once again, we fully support responsible tourism, including a major expansion of wildlife tourism throughout Australia, but this must not be at the expense of our biodiversity, and the proposed changes will weaken the commitment of government, managers and developers to afford adequate protection.

We thus oppose the proposed changes to the legislation

Yours sincerely

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Chair, Wildlife Tourism AustraliaInc.

Promoting the sustainable development of a diverse wildlife tourism industry that supports conservation

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Wildlife Tourism Workshop 2013: <http://wildlifetourism.org.au/blog/workshop-2013/>

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