



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Tully & District Branch
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Email: [REDACTED]

12th September 2013

To the Health and Community Services Committee, hsc@parliament.qld.gov.au .

Please find attached our comments on the

Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013

To whom it may concern,

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland has a broad membership across the State and represents a wide spectrum of views on environmental issues, however on the maintenance of our world class National Park Estate there is unanimous agreement.

The proposed amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) effectively prevent the Act from achieving its present Object, that is the conservation of nature. The proposed new Object ensures that activities adversely affecting nature conservation must be allowed.

A separate Act enacted for the purpose of establishing and managing largely natural areas for outdoor recreation would have been acceptable, but only if it were not to interfere with increasing the size of the protected estate and its proper protection.

We strongly object to the loss of National Parks in Queensland through the watering down of the Cardinal Principle which has always guided management decisions. Removing some designations and altering others, as indicated by the second objective, will achieve nothing in the operation of these protected areas and may have a negative impact in the future.

Secondly, we strongly object to the proposed amendments' attack on democratic processes through removing the community consultation process and bypassing even the parliament to increase the unilateral power of the Minister. This may make decisions speedy but certainly not wise nor accountable.

In the interests of good government and public confidence, we urge you not to amend the object of the Act, retain present classes, tenures and declarations of National Parks and mandate Management Plans for approval of activities in National Parks which breach the cardinal principle.

Yours faithfully,

Suzanne Smith ,President Tully and District branch WPSQ