

**From:** [Ian and Rosalie Eustace](#)  
**To:** [Health and Community Services Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 September 2013 11:01:17 AM

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I have read with concern amendments proposed for the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013. Increases in use and commercial development are not compatible with nature conservation and will undermine the conservation of plants and animals in National Parks. This can be seen whenever development is near or in bushland areas – eg I just did the Great Walk at Cooloola and the increase in invasive weed species was very noticeable around areas where the trail was near a resort development and where there was high usage by recreational traffic along the beach near Tewantin. I have worked in Local Govt (Redlands Shire ) as an environmental manager and wherever development went ahead in bushland areas the population of koalas declined even though measures were put in place to protect them. I also observed increases in weeds and loss of species from reserves over time where they were adjacent to development.

Cutting out red tape also sends up a red flag. Red Tape was put in place to ensure the protection of fauna a flora. It's removal will allow that protection to be whittled away and ineffective.

We are already losing a lot of endangered species. National Parks were put aside to protect our flora and fauna, not for recreational use. The aim is not to get as many people in there as possible and make money out of National Parks. THE AIM IS TO CONSERVE NATURE.  
Commercial development and higher usage is not compatible with nature conservation!  
We have elected you as Government to look after these Reserves not contribute to species loss.

These amendments would be the beginning of a slippery slope to degradation. Eg Imagine a resort is constructed with eco cabins. Land is cleared and immediately there is an impact zone around that area. In time it is realised that there is a fire hazard so large buffer zones are cleared to protect the Eco cabins thereby increasing the impact on the bush. A network of tracks is cleared so that people can easily access the bush and view wildlife. Increasing the impact zones. More and more people move into larger and larger areas, so that human shy fauna is pushed further and further away. Bird and animal feeding starts to make it more attractive to tourists. Aggressive birds are favoured and less aggressive birds start to disappear. Bit by bit the nature conservation values disappear. I'm sure you will assert this will not happen as you will put in safeguards to protect the wildlife – but you will have cut red tape and made it easier for park users to unintentionally exploit and degrade the park !

I would like to recommend that we maintain low impact recreation as is our current usage, but charge a user pays system so that money can be put into National Parks to manage them properly. This seems to work well in Tasmania and some other states. People won't like it initially but they will soon get used to it and realise the value of National Parks and what they were really created for.

Yours sincerely

Rosalie Eustace