

**From:** [Colin Chapman](#)  
**To:** [Health and Community Services Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Gladstone Electorate Office](#)  
**Subject:** Submission Re Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 September 2013 2:12:59 PM

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Health & Community Services Committee,  
Parliament House  
Brisbane Qld  
email: hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au


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

Dear Committee Secretary ,

I write to you expressing my concerns at the changes that are proposed by way of this bill. While I think that the Policy Objectives and reasons for them are commendable, I hold firm to the principle that National Parks are for the preservation and conservation of our fauna and flora and that there should be necessary legislation in place to ensure their protection.

While I agree that there is too much red tape, I am of the opinion that there should be more green tape to ensure the preservation of our National Parks for my children and grand children. I am in agreement that our National Parks should be more accessible to people but hold fast to that adage that we only take photos and only leave footprints.

1. I object to changing the Object of the Act from "conservation of nature" to "social, cultural and commercial use of protected areas". To make this change means that there will no longer be any areas set aside for the preservation of nature.
2. I express my concern as to why Wilderness Areas, World Heritage Management Areas and International Agreement Areas will be abolished. Is this the reduction in red tape? If so, how will the Qld Government be held accountable for the preservation and management of these areas?
3. I also express my concern about the introduction of a new class known as Regional Parks as this seems to more of a recreational park without the status of conserving nature. It would appear that the standards have been lowered.
4. I am also very concerned about abolishing the requirement to prepare management plans for all protected areas. While it has been costly and not much progress made on doing Management Plans for existing parks, I believe that Management Statements are ineffective unless supported by detailed management plans. It's rather like the government having a vision but no plan in which to implement that vision.
5. I believe that Government should engage the community more and be part of the planning process in the early stages of the decision making process and not after the event. This may not streamline the process but it enables legislation to be made that has the approval of the community. I therefore am concerned that there will be less consultation should this Bill pass in its existing form.
6. I also have a concern about giving more powers to the Minister. It allows for purely political and unchallengeable decisions about land use and access. If you must delegate power, give it to the Director General under policy guidelines.

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