

Health and Community Services , Brisbane

(Ruby) Cynthia Rosenfield

[REDACTED]

Maryborough 4650

E: [REDACTED]

Strong Concerns regarding proposed amendments to the Nature Conservation and other legislation Bill no2 2013

In the last 200 years the building of this nation did not prioritise the preservation of the great and diverse natural heritage that existed, and still exists, in small pockets of this country. It was certainly noticed and recorded by early settlers such as the botanist Sir Joseph Banks and later described by many naturalists, poets and artists since then.

The remaining natural heritage of Queensland is so precious, and such a drawcard for local, Interstate and international visitors that governments must act in goodwill to preserve it in perpetuity; the propose amendments show a blatant disregard for this principle. Only 4.8% of the huge state of Queensland is national park: it must be preserved and actively managed to keep it weed and feral pest free.

The Australian Government under the EPBC Act lists a total of 446 species of Australian fauna as now extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or conservation dependent.

Therefore it seem very short sighted and certainly not in the long term interest of this state or this country to propose radical amendments to the Nature Conservation Act of 1992 as detailed in the Nature Conservation and other legislation Bill no2 2013, starting with changing the purpose of the act by broadening the use of protected areas to include social, cultural and commercial activities within these area, that is, greater and indiscriminate public access to these areas. This proposed broader definition is in direct conflict with nature preservation and the results of this move would be evident.

Then in clause 25 The Object of the Act, you propose omitting the words 'the Conservation of Nature' and stating instead 'the management of protected areas having regard to any management statements for the areas' this sounds disingenuous and as if conservation may or may not happen and probably wouldn't, especially when a management statement falls well short of a management plan. Referring here only to 'protected areas' does not contain any provision for the protection of wildlife outside of protected areas. Just such a situation has been occurring on the Fraser Coast with a newly elected Council enthusiastically removing both riparian and foreshore vegetation almost since day 1. When wildlife habitat is removed, the wildlife dies, shorelines and riverbanks also become more vulnerable to disappearing when subjected to storms, cyclones and floods.

The proposed abolition of 8 classes of protected areas reveals an alarming ignorance and disregard for the significance and complexity of the different levels and features of these protected areas. These areas have been carefully described by the best and most expert scientific minds. All 8 classes must be retained and described in the act regardless of whether or not they have been declared World Heritage Management or International Agreement Areas: the care taken in conserving these areas only increases their value.

I also object to redefining conservation parks and resource reserves as regional parks, a redefinition which is clearly designed to downgrade the special significance of these areas and indicate that these areas can be opened up indiscriminately for various recreational purposes.

In particular it is critical to retain the national park (scientific) and national park (recovery) classes and not absorbed into the national park class. You would know that in the national park (recovery) class that strong manipulation of these environments is implemented in order to ensure the continued existence of endangered animals and that this targeted manipulation of the environment is not appropriate or necessary in most national parks.

Proposed replacement of management plans with management statements which do not require public consultation indicates little impetus to produce rigorous and meaningful management strategies which would be purposefully enacted. It is so important to canvass public opinion: individuals and groups with a keen interest and special skills will often contribute much of great value.

The contemporary Australian artist Salvatore Zofrea recently submitted a magnificent painting to the Art Gallery of N.S.W. for the Wynne prize in which he was a finalist. It is entitled 'Morning Light.' You should see this painting!!

In his description, he says, 'Depicting the morning light is part of my new series of work. Here I express the awakening of light on wildflowers in the Australian bushland. I want to share my consciousness and reverence for the wonder of creation and enable others to enjoy and celebrate the beauty of God: to view all this as if for the first time through the eyes of a child is my aim.'

I hope people will realise the importance of seeing and respecting the great wonder we have around us and not let it be destroyed through our collective blindness, ignorance, complacency and greed.'

Any redefinitions and/or activities that are contrary to the cardinal principle of national parks must be located outside of national parks; there are theme parks, parks, gardens, ovals, showgrounds, shooting ranges, national horse trails, etc. all over Queensland for the enjoyment of Queenslanders and private land gets bought and sold all the time. Please ensure that activities such as grazing must only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, for limited periods and in limited locations.

Yours sincerely,

Ruby Rosenfield

