

**From:** [Jeanette Lockey](#)  
**To:** [Health and Community Services Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Nature Conservation Act Amendments  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 September 2013 9:51:32 PM

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Dear Sirs,

### Nature Conservation Act Amendments

It is with deep concern the Tamborine Mountain Progress Association Inc. views the proposed amendments to the above Act.

Tamborine Mountain National Park comprises of six parks, with Witches Falls National Park being the first gazetted park in Queensland in 1908.

From published reports dating back to the 1890's, visitors have been arriving because of the area's flora and fauna - representing approximately 80% of that found in the Gold Coast region.

It is the most visited day destination in South East Queensland. We receive an estimated 1.3 million visitors each year.

A survey of four hundred people conducted by this Association over one weekend at the two viewing points on the Western Escarpment found that 94% of the visitors stated that the main attraction for coming to Tamborine Mountain was its natural environment. 12.5% were unaccompanied visitors from overseas.. This suggested visitors to the Gold Coast and Brisbane hired cars for their holidays in the region..

National Parks are valued places where people can peacefully enjoy nature at its purest and best. **Remove the totality of the natural setting and you lose the core value of a National Park.**

Built structures, horse riding, mountain bike riding etc. do not belong in National Parks. 95% of the rest of the State is more than enough for countless other such activities.

Opening the stable door at the new section 35(1) is a retrograde step, not only for park users, estimated at 51 million in Queensland over the past year, but for the tourism industry itself.

Clearly, National Parks are highly valued by a very large number of people. This stream of local and overseas visitors make up a self generating massive P R machine which money cannot buy.

A handful of eco-tourism operators might make a profit for themselves and attract a limited number of visitors and users, but by damaging the attractiveness of a pure wilderness area, the result will actually be the loss of one major component of the overall tourism drawcard.

It is the goose and the golden egg scenario.

Whilst it may appear that the Act changes would boost the economy, this Association suggests the opposite will result and strongly objects to the proposed changes to the Nature Conservation Act.

Jeanette Lockey,  
President,  
Tamborine Mountain Progress Association