

From: [Daryl Dickson](#)  
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)  
Subject: Submission Nature Conservat on and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2013  
Date: Thursday, 12 September 2013 10:46:36 PM

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Please find below my comments on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013.

I believe strongly that the proposed amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) effectively prevent the Act from achieving its primary Object, that is the conservation of nature

1. The proposed changes will cause the loss of national parks in Queensland as we have known them. If the object of the act is no longer the conservation of nature and becomes the social, cultural and commercial use of protected areas, these areas will no longer be reserves protected for nature but areas of recreation and resources. They will have more in common with municipal parks than places for the protection of biodiversity and wildlife. The changes will turn the Act on its head, and remove from Queensland's legislation areas dedicated to the conservation of nature. As a result of these amendments, there will be no Queensland parks where nature conservation comes first, regardless of what they might be named.

2. Changing the management principles of national parks and removing the cardinal principle will remove any protection in law of these areas. Much of the text appears to give the impression that protection is to be maintained but in law this will not be the outcome.

3. I am shocked to read that the legislation plans to remove some protected area and the loss of tenure declarations such as wilderness area, World Heritage Management Area, and International Agreement Area. Does this mean that our world renowned wilderness areas and reserves of ancient forests that are such important tourism draw card areas will become development sites and subject to mining? - I find this totally unacceptable and shameful.

4. I agree with other submitters that the introduction of a new class, regional park, to encompass conservation parks and resources reserves would be fine if it was something totally separate from our national parks. The concept of an outdoor nature-related recreation park could have been established under a separate Act that would not diminish the protection of national parks. National Parks were established and should be conserved for nature, the natural environment and the future.

5. I disagree totally with the abolition of forest reserve tenure, these areas are important areas selected for addition to national park because of their conservation value.

6. It is essential to maintain special purposes park types - these have been developed to ensure areas requiring special management can be managed in a manner to allow them to have the best possible chance of achieving their purpose. Scientific and recovery aims are not likely to be achieved if they are bundled into generic park management.

7. Management plans are not just necessary but essential for all protected areas.

8. The public consultation processes is an essential part of democratic government and i believe it is essential that the community be consulted and remains fully engaged in the decision making process about national and marine parks.

9. Bypassing the parliament and reserving decision making powers for the Minister is undemocratic and dangerous. It leaves the Minister with a power that should not reside with him solely and will make our national parks vulnerable to poor planning and purely political and unchallengeable decisions about land use and access....not an acceptable option.

Daryl Dickson

September 12th 2013



MUNGARRU LODGE SANCTUARY



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