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To the Chairperson of the HCSC

I am a private citizen who has become aware of the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013* only in the last twenty-four hours.

There are some aspects of this Bill to which I strongly object, in that they clearly weaken the current integrity of our National Parks. Given the small percentage of land occupied by National Parks in this State, any undermining of their key objective to protect and conserve must be vigorously opposed.

- Allowing commercial exploitation and/ or entry of such activities as grazing, biking and four-wheel driving will threaten the physical environment as well as downgrade the prime purpose of parks. The purpose of Parks is to conserve nature and its biodiversity. There are activities open to the public which pose little or no threat to this purpose. More intrusive, potentially damaging activities can be given other locations.
- The reduction in the consultation process for Management Plans denies the valuable input of a range of views and expertise, and risks decision-making which may be biased or based on limited knowledge.
- Retention of the two categories, Scientific and Recovery, should also be retained in order to preserve the two main streams of management. To conflate them risks losing the specific focus which can be afforded different target areas.

The vast undeclared land area in Queensland should surely be adequate to meet any economic/commercial demands without encroaching on our declared National Parks. Indeed with Australia's woeful record for species extinction, we should be doing more to protect and manage natural habitats. Finally, we owe it to ourselves and to future generations to uphold a high level of protection and conservation in our existing National Parks, as well as expanding the areas declared. Short-sighted commercialisation, and any devaluing of the widely-held 'definition' of National Parks, will almost certainly come at long-term cost – both social and economic.

I humbly ask that you consider my submission in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Sakrzewski