

## WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

### FNQ/Cairns Branch



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Health and Community Services Committee,  
[hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

#### **RE: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No 2) 2013**

Members of this branch of the Society have reviewed the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No 2) 2013 and have provided the following comments.

We consider the proposed changes to be a retrograde action, downgrading the value of what is an already inadequate Protected Area system.

The Object of the NCA 1992 was the "Conservation of Nature" which was then supported by the Cardinal Principal. While this principal remains in the Bill, when interpreted in light of the proposed changes to the Object of the Act, its value in maintaining appropriate use of the areas is greatly reduced. The original object of the NCA must be retained.

There is an inherent conflict between the claimed purposes of this legislation, i.e. 'providing for recreation and commercial uses in protected areas' and the requirement and public perception that a National Park is an area with significant natural values where protection and management of these values has priority over all other uses.

There is no shortage of opportunities for the provision of recreational activities in natural areas, other than in the Protected Area Estate. Considering the financial problems of many rural industries, landholders could be encouraged to diversify into provision of these services and suitable facilities.

The Queensland Parks are greatly valued by many people who feel, as Queenslanders, considerable ownership of these areas. Opportunity for public input into the use and management of these areas is an essential part of their management and was incorporated into the existing management plan process under the NCA 1992. Management Statements do not provide this input.

Any Park where private infrastructure, grazing or any other significant use is proposed should require the development of a Management Plan assessing the key values of the park and identifying appropriate activities before any approvals are considered.

The inclusion of Conservation Parks and Resource Reserve into Regional Parks is not supported as this devalues the management of these areas for nature conservation.

National Park (Scientific) designation should be retained, as they have a specific role in protecting a specific value or species that may require special management. The ability to achieve this could be lost if simply classed as National Park. Management actions required to protect their specific values are not necessarily consistent with usual park management.

National Park (Recovery) should also be retained as these areas do not have full National Park values but with suitable management and time could become valuable additions to the National Park Estate.

Forest Reserve has been utilised as a holding tenure, for areas designated to be included in National Park but due to various encumbrances such as leases could not be readily transferred. Generally, the value of these areas for nature conservation is far greater than that as forestry, e.g. Toumoulin State Forest which supports a remnant population of the Vulnerable Fluffy Glider.

In an area dependant on tourism with a strong emphasis on natural attractions, any loss of quality or perceived degradation of National Parks is of these is of great concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed Bill

Yours sincerely

Ann Sutherland

(Secretary)