

From: [Jennifer Peat](#)
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)
Subject: Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act
Date: Friday, 13 September 2013 2:48:36 PM

Jennifer Peat

Tamborine Mountain Q 4272

Dear Sirs,

I submit that the Nature Conservation Act should not be amended to “*Broaden the object of the NCA* to provide for recreation and commercial uses in protected areas, while continuing to retain a focus on nature conservation.”

Recreation and commercial uses do not recognise that disturbance to the natural environment such as the presence of many people and infrastructure such as buildings and waste products has an effect on the flora and fauna of an area. In areas such as Tamborine Mountain where the National Parks are small and popular with residents and visitors some of the degrading effects such as erosion of tracks and infiltration of weeds can be seen but what cannot be assessed is the diminution in the presence of native fauna. The effects are compounded by increasing population pressures adjacent to the boundaries so that fauna have no buffer area.

The introduction of recreational facilities and activities into previously almost untouched areas will increase the network of tracks and the interactions of people with animals. Where those animals are frightened by those interactions, be it just the presence of people, their safe living spaces will be reduced. This is not in keeping with the intent of National Parks to be protected areas for the benefit of preserving the natural heritage.

It would be inequitable to allow selected companies to profit from being allowed to use the resources of National Parks for their economic benefit when the National Parks are a resource to be protected for all people. Let tourism operators and those who would cause significant damage to the status of National Parks through their recreational activities find the means to participate in their chosen activities elsewhere. Once damaged or altered the “naturalness” of National Parks cannot be fully restored.

I would suggest that the long-term economic benefits of National Parks remaining areas of protection, attracting visitors to nearby facilities, outweigh short-term profits of developments and activities which destroy the essential values of National Parks. Please reconsider this amendment and scrap it.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Peat