



Gecko Environment Council Assn Inc. ABN 90 689 258 843
Gecko House, 139 Duringan Street, Currumbin QLD 4223



17th March 2022

Committee Secretary
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

I write on behalf of Gecko Environment Council Assn. Inc. (Gecko), a not-for-profit environment association founded in 1989 which has been active for the past 32 years in protecting the environmental values and ecological sustainability of the Gold Coast, Queensland and, when appropriate, nationally. Gecko's Mission is "To actively promote, conserve and restore the natural environment and improve the sustainability of the built environment of the Gold Coast region in partnership with our member groups and the wider community."

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide comments to the above Bill. Our members do not believe bees, a feral species and bee-keeping, a commercial activity, have any place in a National Park and are in conflict with the object of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, that is,

The object of this Act is the conservation of nature while allowing for the involvement of indigenous people in the management of protected areas in which they have an interest under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom.

The apiary industry has had more than enough time over the past 20 years (since the previous extension) to relocate hives to appropriate locations outside of National Park. Gecko strongly objects to any further delays to the removal of this industry from our protected areas due to the impacts on protected species such as

- Greater gliders (*Petauroides volans*) - endangered
- Powerful owls (*Ninox strenua*) - vulnerable
- Glossy black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*) – vulnerable

Gecko has a particular local focus on Nerang National Park and we fully endorse the submission from Friends of Nerang National Park, an organisation we work closely with on matters which impact on the environmental values of the Park. The impacts of bees referred to in this submission undoubtedly occur in other National Parks across Queensland, wherever there is a requirement for native species to utilise tree hollows and to forage on nectar and pollen from native plant species.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Adams".

Rose Adams
Secretary [REDACTED]