



CLARENCE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

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Attn Janelle Saffin
Member for Page

Dear Janelle

This is an appeal on behalf of members of the Clarence Environment Centre in Grafton, asking that you convey our concerns to the Federal Environment Minister about the way the NSW and other Coalition State Governments, are mismanaging our national parks, and biodiversity generally.

Across the country, our national parks, land-based and marine, are being opened up to exploitation and highly inappropriate activities such as hunting. Commercial and recreational fishing in NSW is being allowed back into areas that had previously been protected against these activities, while logging, cattle grazing is now allowed in national parks in some states. Recreational hunting, and supposed 'grazing trials' are already under way in NSW, with logging now also being contemplated.

In NSW, the upper house balance of power is in the hands of the Shooters and Fishers Party, whose web site advocates for mining to also be allowed in national parks, and the O'Farrell Government has already shown that it is prepared to trade environmental protection for political expediency.

Currently, under the guise of 'cutting green tape', big business and State Governments are lobbying the Federal Government to hand over their power to veto damaging development to the States.

In short, State Governments are causing serious, and possibly irreversible damage to the places Australians love, our reefs, rainforests, bushland and beaches. Our national parks are refuges for the last remaining populations of Australia's unique ecosystems and the flora, fauna, and marine life that depend on them.

We believe it is imperative that our nationally protected matters of significance are fully protected, and that our national parks are made truly NATIONAL, and managed to ensure their values are not diminished, but are protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.

Therefore, we urge you to lobby Minister Burke and your other Federal colleagues on our behalf, to introduce legislation that will truly protect our national parks from those that would exploit and destroy them.

Yours sincerely

John Edwards
Honorary Secretary.