

Few Signatures for MP Nick Dametto's Hinchinbrook Island petition

The North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) finds it significant message that MP Nick Dametto's petition supporting development within National Parks closes today with just 243 signatures. By contrast, in February this year a Queensland Parliamentary petition opposing commercial leases within Queensland's National Parks closed with more than 3,300 signatures.

Both petitions were in response to the Queensland Tourism Department's Expression of Interest (EOI) announcement in October last year.

The Department's plan is to offer commercial leases within 3 National Parks: Hinchinbrook Island, Whitsunday Island and Great Sandy.

"Leases within National Parks is a failure of the Queensland Government to preserve National Parks," says Tarquin Moon, NQCC Campaigns Manager.

"It is as plain as day to the public that leasing National Parks is not right and with over 3,300 signatures against the Government's plan," she said.

"The plan to open up National Parks to 60-year leases could see the construction of buildings and roads, the clearing of land and other harmful disturbances that is against the principles of National Parks," she says.

"Leasing of National Parks to big business is the same as selling off public assets."

"NQCC and the growing number of supporters have a message for Premier Palaszczuk that National Parks are not for sale! National Parks are places of intact landscape where biodiversity and natural processes can flourish."

NQCC has been campaigning to protect Hinchinbrook Island National Park from tourism development and took their concerns to Queensland Parliament House in March this year to launch their **#SaveOurNationalParks postcard campaign**. Thousands of postcards have been distributed across Queensland with people across Australia taking an interest in the issue.

[Petition against National Park leases](#)
[Nick Dametto's Petition](#)

For Media Enquiries:
Tarquin Moon, NQCC Campaigns Manager, 0428 987 535