



MEDIA ALERT

EMBARGOED:

Until 13 March, 2019, 10:30 am

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A message to Parliament ‘Stop Selling off Queensland’s National Parks’

North Queensland’s environment group launches Postcard Campaign

The North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) is launching the ***#saveournationalparks postcard campaign*** in Brisbane outside Parliament House. The postcard will be distributed to businesses across Brisbane to raise awareness about the Queensland Government’s plan to open up National Parks to commercial development, including Hinchinbrook Island National Park, 160 kilometres north-east of Townsville.

The Queensland Government is opening up National Parks to 60-year leases for the construction of buildings and roads, the clearing of land and other harmful disturbances. 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.

Tarquin Moon, the NQCC Campaigns Manager is available for media comments.

The postcard campaign launch:

Wednesday 13th March

10:30 am

Queensland Parliament House

Alice Street, Brisbane

Media Visuals:

Supporters for the ***#saveournationalparks*** will be gathering outside Parliament House with NQCC Campaigns Manager and a giant version of the postcard being launched at this event.

Background Information

In October last year, the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development (DITID) Kate Jones in partnership with Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch released an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process on Hinchinbrook Island NP (Thorsborne Trail), Whitsunday Island NP (Whitsunday Island Trail) and Great Sandy NP (Cooloolo Great Walk). Two of these locations (the Whitsundays and Hinchinbrook Is NP) are also within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The EOI gives proponents opportunity to develop and operate eco-accommodation and tour guidance within the boundaries of these 3 NPs. The Government is prepared to provide the successful proponent with state-owned NP land for accommodation; exclusive ground leases for a term of up to 60 years (30 years plus one up to 30 years) to operate accommodation; assistance during the approval process; a “one-government” approach to comply with other government requirements; and a contribution of up to \$5 million for eco-accommodation built along the Whitsunday Island Trail.

[Minister Kate Jones' media comments about Queensland modelling commercialisation within National Parks of the Tasmanian experience](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-27/queensland-national-parks-could-be-leased-for-eco-tourism/10423998)
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-27/queensland-national-parks-could-be-leased-for-eco-tourism/10423998>

[Tourism Queensland chair faced perceived conflict of interest in national park tender](#)

About NQCC

North Queensland Conservation Council is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, campaigning as the peak non-government environmental organisation in our region since 1974. We protect the environment through advocacy and education, promote the values of the natural environment, and engage with policy and planning processes to advocate ecologically sustainable development. Our region covers the coast from Cardwell in the north, south to Bowen and west to the Northern Territory.