

Tourism Industry Reference Panel
Via Email: tourismrecovery@dtis.qld.gov.au
Monday, June 28, 2021

LEAN Response to the Tourism Industry Discussion Paper

Dear Reference Panel Members,

LEAN Queensland appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Tourism Industry Discussion Paper. We note that Queensland's Natural Environment is its number one asset and has the potential to generate the greatest long term value for the state. It is an asset that must be protected, enhanced and rehabilitated for current and future prosperity.

In view of Australia signing up to the High Ambition Coalition to reverse the biodiversity destruction by protecting 30% of our land and oceans by 2030, it is critical that the best and most "at risk" biodiverse sites are identified and prioritised for protection along with any corridors and parts of the upstream ecosystems that provide support.

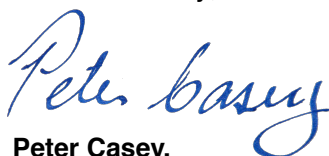
The critical natural or heritage attributes that qualify locations to be deemed as National Parks or reserves must be the primary concern and their protection or enhancement must be adequately funded in their own right as well as their value to the Tourism Industry.

Large events can overload and over crowd places, but the support of smaller events that complement each can provide ongoing employment for many smaller operators over a period of weeks without stressing the infrastructure or the National Parks. The Australian Festival of Chamber Music is an example.

Ecotourism relies on the parks being maintained and managed so damage does not occur either directly or cumulatively over time, so accommodation and other hard infrastructure should be outside the park boundaries. The need for infrastructure, that is not sensitive to the parks natural or cultural attributes, must not be built in National Parks. The acquisition of land adjacent to National Parks should be considered for accommodation or Adventure Tourism purposes and could become reserves with the appropriate management. State Forests are also places that could be reserved for low impact adventure tourism.

National Parks belong to all Queenslanders and should remain accessible and not degraded or handed over for private development for commercial gain. Support for the recovery and expansion of the Tourism Industry is supported as long as it does not compromise the natural or heritage attributes of the National Parks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Casey".

Peter Casey,
Secretary LEAN QLD
[Queensland LEAN](http://Queensland.LEAN)