

Did you know that the “Have Your Say” section of the DEWNR site has a discussion paper and draft amendment bill for the NPWL ACT dated December 2012 **that downgrades Lake Eyre National Park to a “Nature Reserve”?**

ANSWER

It came as a surprise to us particularly given that we are supposed to have been recognised as stakeholders in Lake Eyre National Park. We were never informed, and from our enquiries very few people knew about these changes. It is not unexpected though as the South Australian Government has apparently been pushing its mining agenda with respect to this Park without proper public consultation for ten years. You should have found it in the bottom drawer of the filing cabinet in the basement by now!

Lake Eyre National Park is to be reclassified as a “Nature Reserve”. Read the new definitions:

National park
The primary reasons to constitute land as a national park are— (a) to conserve species and ecosystems of national significance; and (b) to conserve landforms and geological and other natural features of an outstanding nature; and (c) to conserve features of cultural heritage significance of an outstanding nature; and (d) to provide opportunities for public recreation and enjoyment , and public appreciation and understanding of the natural environment that are compatible with conservation.
Nature reserve
The primary reasons to constitute land as a nature reserve are— (a) to conserve largely undisturbed or representative ecosystems, landforms and geological and other natural features; and (b) to conserve species and habitats, while allowing for the exercise of mining rights.

The important points have been highlighted. The main problem the Government has with the LEYC is that a National Park is a recreation area. Problem now solved. The deal with BHP (and probably other mining interests) and the Arabunna is solved in the final line of the Nature Reserve definition.

Furthermore this Draft Amendment also includes a number of measures designed to make it easier for the Government to keep you out of a Park despite it being part of the Public Estate. It's on the DENWR “Have Your Say” site – read it.