

1986

PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
AMENDMENT BILL 1986

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister
for Arts, Heritage and Environment,
the Hon. Barry Cohen, MP)

OUTLINE

This is a Bill for an Act to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975.

The purpose of the Bill is to provide that no operations for the recovery of minerals can or will take place anywhere in the existing Kakadu National Park.

The amendments essentially:

- (a) prevent exploration and mining on land proclaimed as the Kakadu National Park, including mineral interests which existed prior to the proclamation; and
- (b) provide that no compensation is to be payable by the Commonwealth as a result of the amendments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct cost implications arising from these amendments. Potential economic benefits from the prohibition of mining on existing interests may be foregone.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 - Short Title etc.

Formal. Provides for citation.

Clause 2 - Commencement

This clause provides that the legislation will come into operation on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Existing interests, etc., in parks, reserves and conservation zones

This clause amends section 8B of the Principal Act, which preserves existing mineral interests, to preclude its application to any interest in respect of any minerals within Kakadu National Park. Similarly the clause precludes the application of section 8B to any other interests related to operations for the recovery of minerals in Kakadu National Park. Interests other than those referred to above will remain preserved.

Clause 4 - Mining, works, forestry, etc., in parks, reserves and wilderness zones

This clause amends section 10 of the Principal Act to prohibit the carrying out of operations for the recovery of minerals in Kakadu National Park. The clause will not prevent use, development or re-construction of Jabiru township which was established to service the Ranger Uranium Mine. Operations for the recovery of minerals in a park or reserve other than Kakadu National Park remain unaffected provided that they are carried on with the approval of the Governor-General and in accordance with the plan of management relating to that park or reserve.

Clause 5 - No compensation payable

This clause provides that the Commonwealth is not liable to pay compensation to any person by reason of the enactment of this Bill.