Wilderness, Tourism and National Parks

The North

Field Report: regional futures for wilderness & protected areas

6th National Wilderness Conference
Sydney
The Conservative Hegemony

The rise of conservative, anti-conservation politics is a serious threat to existing reserves and remaining wild areas.

- The Liberal-National Party landslide victory in Queensland
- The Country Liberal Party in the Northern Territory
- The Liberal Party Government in WA (with National Party support)
- The prospect of a federal Coalition Government
- The Labor push back in certain places...
The Big Threats to Nature in the North

The North faces an extraordinary array of environmental threats:
• The biggest mining and energy boom in history, with a major focus in Australia
• The legitimate concerns of the Indigenous community about their economic future
• Diffuse threats – grazing, fire, weeds, ferals...
• Climate Change impacts
• The scaling back of Government support and capacity
• The so-called “Northern Food-bowl”

What role can protected areas and tourism play in this context?
CAPE YORK PENINSULA

WORLD HERITAGE PROTECTION FOR WORLD-CLASS COUNTRY
Tourism: a part of the solution?

- World Heritage provides the foundation for a conservation economy on Cape York Peninsula
- Establishment of a World Heritage Centre and tourism hubs
- Overhaul pastoral lease conditions
- World Heritage Area management
- Carbon Farming Initiative & Indigenous Carbon farming Fund
- Development of the 'Dreaming Track'
- Investment in the Indigenous Conservation Estate
- Improved health & education services in communities
- Biomedical, bio prospecting & pharmaceutical enterprises
Mining threats

www.wilderness.org.au