

HERITAGE HELD HOSTAGE BY HOLLYWOOD

WILDERNESS AND NATIONAL PARKS THREATENED BY FILMING APPROVAL BILL

The recent Land and Environment Court decision found the 'Special Licence' issued for the filming of 'Stealth' was unlawful. In response, the Carr Government has introduced the Filming Approval Bill 2004 to facilitate commercial filming in National Parks and Wilderness Areas.

This Bill will weaken protection for National Parks and Wilderness areas despite government claims to the contrary.

**The Filming Approval Bill WILL OVERRIDE
*The National Parks and Wildlife Act, The Wilderness Act, and The Marine Parks Act.***

Under this Bill:

- the Minister for the Environment will have total discretionary power in granting approvals and can delegate this power to any member of staff;
- filming approval can be issued by the Minister regardless of environmental impact;
- the Minister does not have to abide by the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, Wilderness Act or Threatened Species Act when granting approval;
- the public can be excluded from filming locations in National Parks during filming;
- there are no community rights of appeal.

Films such as *The Edge*, *The Man from Snowy River*, *Rabbit-Proof Fence* and *Lantana* were filmed in National Parks without this Bill. The Bill is unnecessary because existing legislation provides the film industry with the access to National Parks that it needs whilst also providing environmental protection.

**The Filming Approval Bill has been
hurriedly drafted
without public consultation.**

National Parks and Wilderness areas belong to the people of NSW.
Any decision to allow their use by commercial interests must be carefully considered and include a full public consultation process.

Before 29 May when Parliament resumes

Send a letter or just the message:

“Withdraw the Filming Approval Bill”

to **ALL 92 NSW parliamentarians** by addressing your email:

NSW.Parliamentarians@haytech.com.au

and

contact Bob Debus, Minister for the Environment

107-109 Macquarie Rd Springwood 2777

Phone: (02) 4751 3298

(you can phone after hours and just leave your name, address and message)

Fax: (02) 4751 1245

Email: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au

