

Caboolture 4WD Club Inc
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The Secretary
Senate Inquiry into National Parks
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dears Sirs,

We thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission to your inquiry.

Our main area of concern is regarding the inadequate funding of National Parks in Queensland. To give some anecdotal evidence, our members have recently observed the following:

Unmanned ranger stations and forestry residences at Salvador Rossa, Kenilworth, Amamoor, Beerwah to name a few.

Lack of apparent funding for track clearance programs following storms and bush fires, in Bellthorpe

The lack of access to certain areas for clubs, such as ours, has been identified as an issue in fire management strategies. We are in a position to contribute to track clearing and other management issues, even if on a volunteer basis.

Our membership is comprised of a broad cross section of the community, with varied backgrounds and experience. A regular feature of our trips is observation and description of the local flora and fauna. As such, we are well placed to observe and report upon the ingress of feral animals and weeds to our local Parks.

It is recognised that National Parks contribute to the economy through tourism. This can be achieved in an eco-friendly way. Nevertheless, commercial interests must not override the rights of tax paying citizens to access these culturally valuable areas. A case in point is Fraser Island, where an increasing number of track closures is restricting access to the general public, whilst providing commercial gain to a limited few.

As a member of the Queensland Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, we always seek the appropriate permits to access a restricted area. However, from discussions with rangers, etc, we are aware that they do not have adequate resources to police the area under management to penalise those who do not have permits.

We also endorse the principles of Tread Lightly and personal responsibility for behaviour in National Parks.

We are in favour of further increasing the area under Nation Park or conservation reserves, especially in light of the urban development pressures being faced in areas of Queensland. This will necessitate appropriate increased funding.

We educate our members and visitors in how to be responsible users of these areas, and hold grave concerns over what will happen to these areas if they are permanently “locked up” as seems to be the increasing practice.

Yours Sincerely
Caboolture 4WD Club Inc.