



TO Senate National Parks, Conservation Areas And Marine Protected Areas Enquiry.



Prepared on Behalf of 4WD Tasmania by Kevin Reeve.

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Personally I have been involved with 4WD Tasmania (Formally TRVA) since 1982 as a club delegate and more recently as State Treasurer and delegate at National level. During the 24 years I have been involved with recreational use of 4WDs in Conservation Areas and visited many National Parks throughout Australia.

Experiences with the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area.

The Management Plan for the APCA was implemented in 2001 and sub committees formed to deal with various activities and interests in the area were formed.

1. The 5 year old plan has not been finally adopted because of disagreement and delays caused by environmentalists and Tasmania's various Aboriginal groups.
2. Camping Fees collected to be used in the area had been used with no record of where they were used being available.
3. The Parks office is usually manned only during office hours not on weekends when people are out and about. Due to staff shortages or under funding whichever takes your fancy.
4. Fires caused by lightning strikes in the area required breaks to be cleared to gain access. Instead of organising shack owners and other interest groups to consolidate the break, it has been rehabilitated ready for the next fire. Money can be found when it can be used to close of an area.
5. Working Bees held from time to time are keeping the area in a state that is safe for users but more money is needed to overcome problem areas that are beyond the capabilities of volunteers.

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National Parks.

The Cradle Mt-Lake St Clare National Park is what parks are about it is a special place and access is controlled in a sensible way that funds itself. On the other hand Savage River National Park is in an area practically cut off from access by anyone, bridges have been removed from the Arthur River and the other main direction from which entry could be made is by a private road. The purpose of declaring a park in such a place where even an EPIRB can't be found to satisfy someone's whim is beyond me.

World Heritage Area.

The Mt Mc Call Road in Tasmania's Southwest is an example of what is achievable when groups work together. The road was to be closed but with sensible management it is accessible, by key to anyone and is used by 4WDs, canoeists on the Franklin River, bushwalkers and mountain bike riders. Rescues of canoeists have also been carried out with more safety than a helicopter could provide in the terrain.

Sensitive Areas.

Currently there is a Management Plan being developed for the Southport Lagoon Area. The Premier of Tasmania stated on a television news item that the area would be rehabilitated next. So much for public consultation! The area does need a plan and would not be in the state it is if 4WD Tas had been allowed to proceed with track consolidation 4 years ago when it had a grant to use in the area.

Summary and Recommendations.

The need for National Parks, Conservation Reserves and Marine Protected Areas throughout Australia is obvious. The needs of users of the land and water seem not to matter at all. Land managers have their hands tied by BUDGET restraints to such an extent that closing people out is the only way they have to control their charter.

Guidelines for the establishment of reserves need to include a solid plan for future management and the requirements of the public, not just the Greenies. Consultation processes must be publicised and long enough to allow for groups to prepare submissions.

Volunteers are willing to help but need a simple insurance cover to protect them from hardship if they are injured. Trained people can be recruited to do most manual work to install and maintain tracks and facilities if they get something in return. Access is a good incentive.

FINALLY MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS A FAIR GO.

Kevin Reeve.