

**TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

“Protecting the quality of living on Tamborine Mountain”

The Secretary.
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Reference Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

1st March 2006

Dear Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into Australia’s national parks, other conservation reserves and marine protected areas.

This submission of the Tamborine Mountain Progress Association Inc. refers specifically to the National Parks Sections on, and in the immediate vicinity of, the Tamborine Mountain plateau in South-East Queensland and known collectively as Tamborine National Park. Tamborine Mountain is a major tourist destination; the Park Sections are relatively small in area and, it is probably fair to say, few National Park areas would attract a higher visitation rate per hectare than those on Tamborine Mountain. For these reasons and in other circumstances as outlined below, the servicing of public visitation could be expected to be major, if not the major, aspect of management.

Comment under the headings as prescribed is:

- (a) No comment.
- (b) The resources available are grossly inadequate to meet the objectives of management. This is evidenced by facilities being out of use for lengthy periods awaiting maintenance / reconstruction; the deliberate damage to plants along walking tracks; the not unusual occurrence of swimming in places where this is signed as forbidden; the presence of litter and the low level of a visible presence of any Officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.
- (c) There are many threats to achieving the objects on management including:
 - Feral animals and domestic pets;
 - Invasion as weeds of plants spreading from domestic gardens, including smothering of vegetation in some areas by Blue Morning Glory – *Ipomoea indica*; and
 - The adverse effect on water quality and quantity caused by human habitation and the withdrawal of ground water for irrigation and household purposes upstream.

It is acknowledged that what can be achieved to ameliorate the adverse effects of some of these threats may be limited.

There are in existence Planning provisions which aim to protect the National Parks from some of the adverse effects which would otherwise result from urban and commercial use of land abutting and near the National Parks. There is scope for significant strengthening of these provisions.

- (d) No comment
- (e) The standard of management is seen to have deteriorated significantly in recent years. A few years ago there was a staff of four based on Tamborine Mountain, including a resident Officer-in-Charge. Currently, all day-labour work is done by staff based elsewhere and travelling daily to Tamborine Mountain from time to time. This change has been associated with a marked deterioration in the standard of management and any efficiencies resulting from the change are not apparent to this Association.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Deat

Honorary Secretary

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