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Mr. Scott Gadd,
Director of National Parks & Wildlife,
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TREVALLYN NATURE RECREATION AREA DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN
2006.
COMMENTS BY LAUNCESTON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

Comments are numbered according to the section numbers in the draft Plan.

1.1 Surrounding Tenure

Regarding private land to the north of Lake Trevallyn Road directly opposite the Protection II Zone, development of buildings would threaten the integrity of the Area. This private land should be purchased by government for inclusion within the Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area. Although the Plan mentions close liaison with local government to ensure that future subdivision does not adversely affect the Area.

PWS should vigorously explore purchasing with the State & Federal Government and the local Municipal Councils.

1.2 Regional Context

Consultation Process

The plan notes at 1.2 that the Northern Region Natural Resource Management Strategy sets priorities for funding of NRM projects in the region, and that it is important to keep the Committee informed of any significant management proposals.

Even though the LEC is a member of NRM North, we would like the courtesy of also being informed of any significant management proposals, and we would like to be part of a consultation/liaison process.

The Plan acknowledges the close involvement that the LEC has had with the Area. The LEC has conducted a number of research projects regarding the Area. We are prepared to continue that research, especially concerning invertebrates.

3.3 Landscape Values and Adjacent Owners

Housing developments on the southern side of Lake Trevallyn opposite Aquatic Point present a severe loss of public visual amenity.

There needs to be greater awareness and consideration of the Area in local government planning.

We consider the prescriptions in Section 4.6 to be very important and should be emphasized.

3.4 Water Quality

The Plan omits the potential impacts on surface and groundwater from untreated sewage discharges from toilets in the Area.

Existing toilets should be maintained to the highest standards and monitored regularly for impacts on the reserves' values. New toilet services should specify strict guidelines for their design and usage and new leases should preclude toilets or allow only those designs that will have no impact.

3.6 Fauna

It is known that people remove sticks for firewood from the Area (pers. comm. Brian O'Byrne 21st Sept 2006). Signage should make clear that such actions are illegal in a State Reserve and have an adverse impact on reptiles and invertebrates. The large sign at the intersection of Reatta Road and Duck Reach Road specifies that flora and fauna are protected.

The sign should specify that the removal and disturbance of any material is prohibited.

The Area contains a number of horse jumps constructed of local stones. Ideally they would not be there, however they are so long established that they are probably habitat for a number of creatures and removal of the structures could cause more environmental damage. If a decision is made to dismantle the jumps then great care should be taken in removing and depositing the rocks in a suitable place.

Interpretive signage should warn people not to disturb, turn over or remove any rocks, logs or vegetation.

4.1 Fire Management and Flora and Fauna

Prescriptions 3.5.1 and 3.6.1 refer to fire management in riparian and aquatic habitats along the South Esk River. The LEC considers that fire management is a complex and controversial issue and the use of fire for ecological reasons must be done with great caution.

Sarah Lloyd (Birds in TSR, 2002) considers fire as an inappropriate management tool in the Reserve, which could eliminate components of the ecosystem that are important for many bird species.

The use of fire inside the Protection II Zone should only be used if it is critical for the survival of certain flora species that rely on fire for survival or to protect habitat for threatened fauna species.

We accept that fuel reduction burning or slashing, where appropriate, will be necessary to provide a buffer along the boundary of the Protection II Zone to protect it from wildfire which would most likely emanate from vehicular roads, Visitor Service Zones, adjoining private land and residential areas to the north. The protection of property from fire should always include the protection of biodiversity values.

Fire should not be used in any circumstance anywhere near mossy boulder habitat which is ideal habitat for rare & endangered species.

4.4 Weed Management

There is a need for the gradual removal of weeds and exotic trees in mossy boulder areas in order to not unduly disturb this habitat.

The LEC should be involved in weed management.

5.1 South Esk River Water Flows

Hydro Tasmania is concerned about the effects of flow regimes on riparian and aquatic habitats and threatened species. Hydro Tasmania provided substantial funding to the LEC to investigate the impact of flood scouring on mossy boulder areas.

Close liaison between DPIW and Hydro Tasmania regarding prescriptions 3.5.2 and 3.6.2 is essential to ensure the results of research are exchanged between these authorities.

6.3 Interpretation, Education and Signs

The Plan acknowledges the role LEC has played in interpretation and education of the values of the Area. The LEC may be interested in conducting another Biodiversity Festival.

The LEC should be involved in developing and implementing an integrated sign system.

Interpretation signs should specifically include:

- (a) The importance of not rolling rocks or logs or disturbing ground cover;
- (b) The need to protect rare and threatened invertebrate species in the Area, some of which may not exist anywhere else on Earth; and
- (c) Alerting walkers of the effect they would have on adjacent mossy boulder areas if they leave the path.

6.8 Walking

The LEC supports the Track Strategy. We also support the idea of a 'South Esk River Walk' between First Basin and Aquatic Point. This proposal would result in large numbers of walkers using the track. Of special concern to the LEC is a section of track between Trevallyn Dam picnic area and Aquatic Point which traverses a significant area of mossy boulder habitat. A specimen of *Migas plomleyi* was collected from this site close to the track (Leighton 2001).

We think it is imperative that this section of the proposed South Esk River Walk should be assessed for the feasibility of constructing a new track further up the slope through dry woodland, well away from the sensitive area of prime habitat for rare and threatened invertebrates.

The existing track is not suitable for elderly walkers or families with small children nor indeed the large numbers of people envisaged.

The existing track should be retained because removal of the large rock steps would cause too much disturbance. Actions should be taken to discourage people from using this section of the track.

No mention of spiders should be made because it will incite some children to turn over rocks expecting to find them.

6.15 Rock Climbing

Prescription 6.15.4 should include the prohibition of climbing and abseiling in mossy boulder habitats or where climbers have to traverse such habitat to access climbing routes.

Monitoring of these areas for damage is important.

We consider that all mossy boulder habitat and mossy vertical rock should be closed to all recreational activities. However suitable areas should be set aside for these activities.

7.1 Community Participation and Support

The LEC has continual interest in the Area and we welcome the opportunity to be involved in its management.

7.2 Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

There are future research areas that the LEC may wish to pursue as a follow on from past projects in the Area, which could include the following:

- (a) Baseline data on the micro- climatic variables of mossy boulder habitat;
- (b) Define distribution & requirements of flora and fauna species and communities as mentioned in prescriptions 3.5.4 and 3.6.4;
- (c) Establish baseline data to assess the combined impacts of marsupial browsing & fire on floral biodiversity as mentioned in prescription 3.5.6; and
- (d) Identifying (capturing and taxonomically describing) the male *M. plomleyi*.

Appendix 7 Implementation Priorities

The priority rankings for actions relating to horse riding should be adjusted. Action 6.12.8 should be implemented prior to actions 6.12.5 and 6.12.7.

Action 6.12.8 should be changed to high priority.

Action 3.5.1 should include Hydro Tasmania in the responsibility.

