

Summary of Issues Arising from the TWWHA Management Plan Public Forums

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area Management Plan Project Team conducted a series of public forums across Tasmania in November and December 2013. The forums were held in the following locations:

Queenstown	18 November
Launceston	20 November
Sheffield	22 November
Deloraine	25 November
Southport	26 November
Huonville	28 November
Maydena	3 December
Hobart	4 December
Ouse	5 December

The aim of the forums was to

- Provide information to the community on the management plan process;
- Provide an opportunity for the members of the community to raise any issues relating to management of the TWWHA in general; and
- Provide an opportunity for members of the community to discuss management issues within the recent TWWHA extension.

The issues are summarised below in broad themes. Issues raised that were specific in nature have been noted and will be considered but may not be detailed here. Some issues were raised that are outside of the management plan process and have not been included here although these issues have been conveyed to the relevant agencies where appropriate.

Fire Management

- Maintenance of the existing road network for the purposes of fire management, particularly within the additional areas added to the TWWHA following the minor boundary extension in 2013.
- Increased fire management effort to counter an increase in scrub encroachment and fuel loads in areas previously more open.
- Concerns regarding fire management along TWWHA boundaries with private land.

- Increased ecological burn effort, including in remote areas.
- Return of grazing to reduce fuel loads and prevent scrub encroachment in open grasslands.

Continuation of Existing Recreational Use

The minor boundary extension includes many areas where a variety of recreational uses have been undertaken. The existing road network, previously largely managed by Forestry Tasmania, provides access to a range of those recreational opportunities.

- Continued maintenance of roads and bridges that provide access to key recreational areas. Many are currently in poor repair.
- Continuation of a range of recreational activities that have been previously enjoyed within the area now included in the TWWHA through the 2013 minor boundary extension.
- Allow for existing walking and four-wheel drive tracks to continue to be maintained.
- Removal of locked gates previously held by Forestry Tasmania.
- Additional facilities in the minor boundary extension should be provided.

Community Partnerships

- Introduce District Community Consultative Committees to provide input to local reserve management.
- Facilitate and encourage community involvement in management.
- Provide for partnerships with groups who have a particular interest in maintaining a track or hut etc. In particular recognise the ongoing role that community and family groups have had in the management of individual tracks. This involvement should be recognised and not be hindered by onerous administrative oversight.

Boundary Issues

The new TWWHA boundary following the 2013 minor boundary extension has a significantly greater proportion abutting private land. In some cases private land is within the TWWHA.

- Develop a 'Good Neighbour' policy with private landowners.
- Consideration of a management buffer zone adjacent to private land to allow for the management of boundary issues more easily, for example fire management.
- Fire suppression and fuel reduction along the boundary. In particular issues regarding landowner and Parks and Wildlife Service liability for cross boundary impacts.
- Provision of fencing and control of native browsers.

- Access to properties through the TWWHA.

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation of remote roads previously used for production forestry.
- Coupes within the TWWHA should be rehabilitated for natural values rather than through the standard regeneration regime employed in production forests.
- Rehabilitation of degraded areas within the minor boundary extension should be a priority.

Other Issues

- Ensure management of Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour is made explicit in the management plan.
- Education and interpretation within the TWWHA is tired and needs to be revitalised and provided with greater resourcing. Communication of TWWHA values to visitors is often poor, including that provided by tourist operators and staff.
- Lyell Highway traverse of the TWWHA requires a strategic interpretation and marketing approach with increased opportunity for a diversity of experiences. Parks fees should not apply for day use areas accessed from the Lyell Highway.
- Concern was often expressed regarding resourcing for the management of a larger area of TWWHA and for the previous area. Issues raised in this respect include provision of facilities, maintenance of roads and bridges, fire management, control of feral cats, illegal wood removal, community facilitation capacity, staff levels in regional Parks and Wildlife offices and prevention of rubbish dumping.
- In many forums it was noted that there has been an increase in the feral cat population within areas of the TWWHA.
- Specialty timbers extraction should be specifically addressed and allowed for in the plan.
- Retention of access for the apiary industry and allowance for future expansion.

The TWWHA Management Plan Project Team wishes to thank all those who attended the public forums.

TWWHA Management Plan Project Team

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