

Amendments to Tasman National Park and Reserves Management Plan – draft Management Plan 2008

The TNPA Perspective

Summary

- The changes being made to the Management Plan are primarily to facilitate the development of the government's proposed Three Capes Walk in the Tasman National Park. This walk cannot be developed under the present (2001) management plan.
- The TNPA is opposed to the management plan amendments because –
 1. The Three Capes Walk is not yet a finalised proposal – until the environmental impact assessment and additional business case elements are resolved and outstanding elements such as the nature of the boat transport and infrastructure are determined it is not possible to finalise the development, hence the amendments ask for open ended approval in a number of areas which is not appropriate for a national park management plan.
 2. The TNPA believes that the scale of the proposed development is such that it is not in keeping with the conservation objectives of national parks, hence the development is not appropriate (note - in spite of claims that it is modelled on the Overland Track, the proposed infrastructure is much greater).
 3. The TNPA is concerned that there are significant environmental risks, particularly in relation to the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
 4. The TNPA does not believe that the proposal is of economic benefit to Tasmania or the Tasman Peninsula as the proposal requires an unrecovered government (taxpayer) outlay of at least 12.5-15.5 million dollars, is cost neutral at best operationally, and is likely to result in limited additional local flow-on income – while the proposed cost to undertake the walk (significantly more than the Overland Track) is likely to deter many middle and lower income walkers, particularly as the commercial boat travel sections, as yet to be determined, will need to be included in the cost.
- The TNPA's view is that for environmental, economic, social equity and logistic reasons the amendments to facilitate the Three Capes Walk proposal *in its current form* should not be accepted. We argue that the walk should be scaled back to a Two Capes Walk which will avoid phytophthora high risk areas, eliminate sections dependent on commercial boat operations, provide tent platforms, but no huts at the designated camping areas and will be significantly lower cost to establish.
- The TNPA urges all concerned people to make a submission against the current amendments that facilitate the development of the Three Capes Walk (explanation items 1 & 2 in the 2008 draft plan) and to call for a major review of the Three Capes Walk proposal based on sound economic and environmental analysis.
- The deadline for public comment is the 11th March 2008.
- Submissions need to be made to the Director, Parks & Wildlife Service, GPO Box 1751, Hobart, Tas, 7001.
- Further information is provide below (we hope to update this in the following weeks) and on the PWS website – www.parks.tas.gov.au
- Specific queries to the TNPA in relation to this matter should be addressed to the TNPA President, Anne McConnell, or the TNPA Program Manager Janet Henderson – admin@tnpa.asn.au or 0427 854 684.

Act now to protect the conservation values of the Tasman National Park.
