

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION inc.

Media Release

Date - 4 December 2003

Event - Delivery of 'Not For Sale' postcards to Jim Bacon

Time - 12.30

Action - Mock auction of Tasmania's national parks

Place - Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart

Today the Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc (TNPA) will be delivering approximately 1000 'Not For Sale' postcards to the Premier (the first delivery, postcards still coming in) that call on him to stop commercial tourism developments in national parks.

This is an undeniable and overwhelming message to the Premier that Tasmanians, Interstate and International visitors do not want to see the integrity of our magnificent national parks destroyed by commercial tourism developments.

Typical of the 'additional comments' are:

" We chose this part of Aus. for our visit from the U.K. because of its reputation as one of the last undamaged areas."

"National parks are an escape from 'developments' ",

"This is a huge mistake. Keep Tasmania special".

The TNPA believes the Premier has no right or no mandate to sell off Tasmania's national parks and with no one apart from developers themselves wanting to exploit our national parks the TNPA is calling for a **total and immediate moratorium** on any further development inside our national parks.

"Commercial tourism developments inside our national parks defeats the purpose of having national parks in the first place, will disenfranchise the people of Tasmania from their own national parks and public land and destroy the very attraction that draws tourists here in the first place, it is simply ludicrous" said Greg Wood spokesperson for the TNPA.

“ This government has been let of the hook to a certain extent with Doherty’s pulling out of developing Pumphouse Point, but Lake St Clair still remains a **disaster area waiting to happen** with massive plans, by the current concessionaire, at Lake St Clair to develop Cynthia Bay in an area already struggling to cope with the dramatic rise in visitor numbers we’ve already experienced recently and with the new ferry yet to come on line.”

“If this Government ignores what is already happening at Cradle Mountain at the other end of the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park where overwhelming visitor numbers have already forced a total change in visitor access infrastructure then it is guilty of either **gross ignorance or gross incompetence**, neither of which are acceptable. This Government cannot bury its head in the sand and pretend it isn’t happening.”

“An overall plan for the Southern end of the National Park must be developed and central to this plan must be that all further commercial tourism development takes place at nearby Derwent Bridge leaving the National Park to be enjoyed by all people. **The way it should be.**” Mr Wood went on to say.

The TNPA believes that nothing short of a complete and unequivocal moratorium on commercial tourism developments inside our national parks is acceptable until a full **comprehensive and public consultation process** takes place to determine what the people of Tasmania want for **their national parks**.

Tasmania’s national parks are not for sale.

For further information

Call Greg Wood, Spokesperson for the TNPA on 0408 127 809