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MANAGING THE SCENIC RIM

A SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



THE SCENIC RIM ASSOCIATION
1982

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P R E F A C E

In February 1981 the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service called for public comments on the future management of the Scenic Rim, to assist the Service in the preparation of a Management Plan for the Scenic Rim National Park system.

The Scenic Rim Association in its 1977 proposal for the creation of a Scenic Rim National Park system put forward many management suggestions. To systematise these into a cohesive document, and to incorporate more recent information and suggestions, the Association has prepared this present report.

The Scenic Rim National Park system will be one of the most difficult areas in the State for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage effectively. Not only is it, in places, very narrow and fragmented, but there are many artificial boundaries, unrelated to topography or to access requirements. Covering mainly only the most critical core areas along the Rim Crest, it leaves sizeable areas of the Rim's mountain terrain in the hands of other Authorities and private landowners. Undesirable activities in these surrounding lands could well threaten the viability of the Park system.

It is emphasized that the management planning of the National Park areas alone is inadequate to preserve all of the values of the Scenic Rim. Good management can only be effected with the co-operation of those controlling the surrounding lands. To achieve this the National Parks and Wildlife Service will have to devote an almost equal amount of time to liaison with other land holders as to the management of its own lands.

As this is a submission to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, it concentrates on management of the existing Park system. However, the recommendations made are from the view point of management of the Rim as an entity.

S Y N O P S I S

1. The main values of the mountain country of the Scenic Rim are:-
 - Conservational (Scenery, biological, watershed protection, educational and scientific).
 - Wilderness recreational (Primitive bushwalking).
 - Family and Tourist recreational (Picnicing, camping, walking on graded tracks, scenic driving).
 - Psychological.
 - As a timber resource.
2. The main problems for management of the Park system are likely to be:-
 - The narrow widths, fragmented and artificial boundaries and unsuitable access arrangements for parts of the Parks.
 - Demands for incompatible uses.
 - Impact of visitors.
 - Funding.
3. The recommended management strategies are:-
 - Preserving the conservational values of the Rim by setting aside sizeable zones in a relatively untouched condition, and by investigating the adequacy of the existing Park boundaries for biological and scenery conservation.

iii.

- Preserving sizeable areas for wilderness recreation by keeping constructed facilities concentrated in certain areas, and by avoiding over use and degradation by proper management, and if necessary, usage restrictions.
- Managing the Scenic Rim walking route basically as an unformed, ungraded, un-signposted foot pad, and undertaking maintenance, construction or marking only where likely erosion or vegetation destruction requires some attention.
- Construction of additional recreational facilities such as picnic areas, camp grounds, and graded walking track systems in certain areas to cater for the mushrooming demand for such facilities in Southeast Queensland. The most significant such development is proposed in the Emu Creek-Teviot Gap area.
- Management of adjoining State Forests in sympathy with the National Park system, and for recreational development (camp grounds etc.) complimentary to that in the National Parks.
- Liaison between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other authorities for the sympathetic management of other surrounding lands, possibly involving creation of an Advisory Committee similar to that recently established for the Central Highlands.

4. To implement these strategies it is recommended that:-

- The Park system be zoned, as presently provided for by

iv.

the Forestry Act, into Primitive Areas, (for conservation and wilderness recreation), Primitive and Recreation Areas (for more intensely used sections, such as graded walking track systems) and for Recreation (for actual picnic sites and camp grounds). The details of these zonings are discussed in the Submission.

- Several project groups be set up in the National Parks and Wildlife Service (not necessarily simultaneously) to investigate:-

- (i) The adequacy of the conservational coverage of the existing Park system, and its boundaries.
- (ii) To reconnoitre the Scenic Rim walking route to ascertain any degradation, and to investigate possible solutions.
- (iii) To assess the recommendations for construction of recreational facilities to arrive at priorities, and to assess whether access routes and Park boundaries are adequate for these facilities.
- (iv) To promote sympathetic management of surrounding land.
- (v) To co-ordinate community interest in caring for the Rim.

5. Detailed recommendations for individual segments of the Rim are given in Part II.

P A R T I

GENERAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

THE SCENIC RIM - THE AREA

The Scenic Rim is the crescent of spectacular mountain ranges, peaks and gorges sweeping in a grand arc for almost three hundred kilometres on the southern and western sides of the greater Moreton region. Beginning near Laidley in the west, the Rim runs south through the Little Liverpool, Mistake and Great Dividing Ranges, then turns eastwards along the McPherson Range and New South Wales border until reaching Point Danger on the coast. Within the Rim is the highest and most spectacular mountain scenery in all of southern Queensland, including not only the lofty peaks of the Main Range - the highest mountain system in southern Queensland - but also the spectacular Barney/Ballow region and the gorges, waterfalls and rainforests of Lamington.

No one has precisely defined the limits of the Scenic Rim, and indeed this is difficult to do because of the orientation of the topography. In the narrowest sense, the Rim is merely the very crest of the Little Liverpool, Great Dividing and McPherson Ranges. More generally, however, it is taken to mean the belt of mountainous country, ridges and valleys, that straddles the crest of those Ranges.

In this way, it encompasses the following -

- The Little Liverpool Range, south of Laidley.
- The Plateau of the Mistake Mountains, ridges and valleys running at least 10 km. to the north and northwest of Mount Mistake.
- The eastern escarpment of the Great Dividing Range from Mount Castle to Wilson's Peak.
- The belt of mountainous ridges and valleys extending west from the crest of this Range for a distance of 5 to 10 km. to where the valleys broaden considerably.
- The upper headwaters of Burnett Creek.
- The Mount Ballcw - Mount Barney - Mount Maroon - Mount Ernest mass.
- The narrow section of the McPherson Range from Mount Lindesay to Richmond Gap and the adjacent Mount Chinghee ridge.

- Lamington Plateau, including the Lamington National Park and the uppermost parts of adjacent valleys and ridges.
- The uppermost Numinbah Valley.
- The Springbrook Plateau.
- The uppermost Currumbin Creek valley, and the crest of the McPherson Range leading to Coolangatta via Tomewin.

Attempts At Protection

In the nineteenth century use of the Scenic Rim was mainly limited to foresters seeking out cedar and other timbers. However, at the end of that century appreciation developed of the Rim's recreation and conservation values with the declaration of a National Park at Cunningham's Gap, and a twenty year campaign by Robert Collins, Surveyor Maguire and Romeo Lahey eventually led to the establishment of Lamington National Park in 1915. Campaigns by the National Parks Association of Queensland, together with a burst of enthusiasm by the State Government of the time, saw further National Parks at Cunningham's Gap and Springbrook in the late 1930's, as well as extensive graded track construction in all these Parks.

In 1941 the late Arthur Groom presented his Scenic Rim proposal to the Government. He envisaged a continuous chain of parks around the McPherson and Great Dividing Ranges, served by a walking trail and possibly also Guest Houses and Lodges. However, while additional parks were declared at Mounts Barney and Lindesay in 1947, the overall concept was not adopted. Despite continuation of the campaign by the National Parks Association, some of the most spectacular regions, including the Main Range segment between Spicer's Gap and Wilson's Peak, remained unprotected until the 1970's.

In the 1970's there was a revival of interest in completing the Scenic Rim reservations on the part of Bushwalking Clubs, private individuals and officers of the Forestry Department. Two major governmental reports by the Co-ordinator General's Department and Queensland Museum also recommended expansion of the National Park system. As a result of this renewed interest, the Scenic Rim Association was formed in 1976, to further

the Scenic Rim campaign and co-ordinate the efforts of all those interested in the future of the Scenic Rim.

The Association prepared a Proposal on the future land use of the Rim, whose approach was for a balanced multi-use of the Rim, taking into account its recreation, conservation, forestry and tourist values. However, although it recommended multi-use of the Rim, it stressed that multi-use should not be interpreted as meaning that all areas should be used for all possible purposes. Rather, it recommended a system of zoning for different types of land uses. Fundamental to the proposal was the establishment of a protected National Park zone along the entire crest, with expansion of this National Park strip in selected areas of high recreational and scenic value. It recommended that forestry activities should be undertaken only in areas away from the crest of the Rim, and that such forestry areas could act as buffers for the National Park zone.

Present Situation

The bulk of the Scenic Rim Association's proposal which were presented to the Government in 1977, were accepted in principle after considerable lobbying and negotiations. Further negotiations and liaison has occurred since that time, and it was mainly as a consequence of these efforts, that the additional National Park areas of the Rim have been established.

Despite the pleasing commitment of the Government in recent years to a Scenic Rim National Park system, it must be remembered that the resulting Park covers only the most important areas of the ranges, and in many places boundaries are compromises with other competing uses. The system is certainly narrower and more fragmented than many, including the late Arthur Groom, would have wished. Much of the area of the Scenic Rim still remains as State Forest or under private ownership.

Whether the present National Park area is sufficient to preserve the values of the Scenic Rim and whether the full potential of the Rim will be realised, now depends largely on management policies, both for the National Park zone and for the surrounding lands.

For comparison the following table shows the extent of parks on the Rim before and after 1977 -

Areas of Scenic Rim National and Environmental Parks (Hectares)

<u>Park</u>	<u>Pre - 1977</u>	<u>Jan.1981</u>
<u>Mt. Beau Brummel EP</u>	-	156
<u>Mt. Mistake N.P.</u>	1360	5560
<u>Great Dividing Range N.P.'s.</u>		
(Cunningham's Gap)))
(Spicer's Peak - Mt.Roberts))	4022) 10500
(Mt.Roberts))) (About)
(Wilson's Peak)))
<u>Mt. Barney area N.P.'s</u>		
(Mt.Barney)))
(Mt. May - Maroon)))
(Mt. Lindesay)	6964) 11400
(Palen Creek))) (About)
(Mt.Clunie)))
<u>Pine End EP</u>	-	145 (About)
<u>Mt. Chingee N.P.</u>	450	544 (About)
<u>Lamington N.P.</u>	19791	20000 (About)
(Including Buchanan's Fort and Turtle Rock)		
<u>Natural Bridge N.P.</u>	212	212
<u>Springbrook N.P.</u>	1917	1936 (About)
(Including Mt.Cougal)		
<u>Tomewin EP</u>	-	3
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>34716</u>	<u>50456</u>

VALUES OF THE RIM

In the preparation of any management plan, the values, qualities and uses of the area must be clearly identified, so that management policy will be able to protect them and avoid conflict between competing uses. The following are considered the main values of the mountains of the Rim.

CONSERVATION VALUES

Scenery.

The mountain scenery of the Rim with its steep escarpments, craggy peaks and shady rainforest gorges and waterfalls is one of the most memorable features of the Queensland - New South Wales border region. It has captured the imagination of innumerable thousands of residents of the Moreton region, visitors from southern States to the Gold Coast, and overseas tourists. Such an aesthetic appreciation is difficult to quantify, but few would deny that the Rim would be a far less attractive place if extensive forest clearing, dense settlement or poorly controlled tourist development were to occur in the mountains.

Biological.

The Rim has major values for biological conservation, being one of the few large areas of natural vegetation remaining in the Moreton region. Such large areas are vital to provide reservoirs for wildlife populations, which are not guaranteed in the long term by the scattering of other small National Parks, Crown Reserves and forest on private land elsewhere in the region, which will come under increasing pressure of urbanisation. Although few lowland habitat types are represented on the Rim, a diverse range of mountain habitats, and accompanying fauna, are represented, ranging from tall rainforest, dryer rainforest, wet and dry eucalypt forest through to montane heaths. This diversity of habitats is one of the greatest values of the Rim for biological conservation.

The Rim also encompasses the most important habitat remaining in southern Queensland for rainforest birds, including the only occurrences in Queensland of some species (eastern bristle bird, rufous scrub bird, Albert lyrebird - the latter extending to Tamborine Mountain). Five species of mammals are also restricted to the Scenic Rim - New South Wales

border areas. The antarctic beech trees and the soft tree ferns Dicksonia Antarctica are also restricted to the Scenic Rim in southern Queensland, relying on cool high altitude conditions.

Watershed Protection

The forested ranges of the Rim play an important role in the protection of the quality of water resources in rivers and creeks downstream. Clearing of upper catchments of streams is well documented as causing erosion, landsliding, clogging of stream beds, increased flooding, and soil salting problems. The forests of the eastern part of the Rim are the most valuable in this respect, covering a significant part of the upper catchments of streams, and protecting the water supply to the Gold Coast, and irrigation water in the streams draining the northern and western sides of the Lamington Plateau. The forests on the western side of the Main Range are also valuable. Unfortunately at the northern end of the Rim, extensive clearing of the steep upper catchments of Lockyer Creek has resulted in some of the worst erosion, landsliding, siltation and soil salting known in Queensland.

Other Scientific Values

Interesting geological features are present in places on the Rim, which although not unique, are of value for education and tourism. These include the Natural Bridge at Numinbah, unusual caves at Turtle Rock, good exposures of pyroclastic rocks, including perlitic glass, near Binna Burra, and the erosion remnants of a trachyte lava flow at the Steamers in the Emu Creek valley.

RECREATIONAL VALUES

Anyone who has visited one of the more popular National Parks in southern Queensland within the last few years must be aware of the increasing attraction these areas are having for the general public. Such interest can be partly attributed to greater leisure time, mobility, disillusionment with crowded beachside resorts, and the high cost of accommodation for a family. Equally important, however, is the appeal of their relatively untouched environment as a contrast to our rapidly urbanising country.

Several different types of recreation are involved, and it is

important to distinguish between them so as to avoid conflict between different groups of visitors. These types are grouped here as follows -

Wilderness or Primitive Bushwalking

The Scenic Rim is probably the most important area for bushwalking in southern Queensland, and its scenery, types of bushwalking offered, and its wilderness values, probably also make it one of the most valuable in Australia. To those interested in such bushwalking, it is important to maintain, as much as possible, the untouched wilderness nature of sizeable areas so that some scenic locations will be accessible only by meeting the challenges of navigation, endurance and self reliance. For a rapidly urbanising population it is important that these challenges remain available to succeeding generations of young people. Construction of a comprehensive network of graded tracks along all major walking routes would largely destroy any such value.

Car camping, Guest House Holidays

Families and older people appreciate the values of this style of recreation, which has vastly increased in popularity in recent years. It requires development of sizeable campsites, ranger facilities, guest houses, and in particular a graded track network of reasonable length. Such campsites need not be in pristine surroundings but there needs to be some semblance of a bush setting, as well as some items of interest to construct tracks to, so that campers will feel there is a point to their visit. The Rim already has some of these developments, but other scenic areas of the Rim have value for additional sites which could be used to take pressure off other National Parks in the region (e.g. Girraween, Bunya Mountains).

Day Picnicing, Scenic Driving

The scenery of the Rim also has value as a destination for those visitors who have less time available or are less mobile. It is already marketed as an attraction to tourists on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane by several local authorities. Such visitors require a network of well maintained picnic sites, possibly with short walking tracks to an item of interest, and information signboards. Some such picnic sites need only be situated along access roads away from the Rim, although a certain

proportion do need to be amongst the mountains so as to provide a sense of destination and solitude away from busy roads.

Off Road Vehicles, Horse Riding

Just as walkers require untouched areas to provide a challenge, many urbanised dwellers feel a need to test their driving or riding skills in rough bush country. Unfortunately, however, such uses tend to interfere with other recreational uses and conservation values. They are considered inappropriate for the essentially narrow and steep Scenic Rim National Parks. Other parts of the Rim do have a potential for this type of recreation, but strict supervision is necessary.

TOURIST VALUE

The monetary value from tourists involved in scenic driving, camping and guest house holidays (as described above) is considerable, benefitting both local communities and the wider Queensland economy. An associated benefit of tourism is the employment of local people as evidenced by the mountain resorts of Binna Burra and O'Reilly's. Most of the money spent in recreational tourism remains in the local district, involving services and commodities supplied by existing local businesses. National Park tourism is moreover a renewable resource, as, if the Parks are properly managed, it continues to be available for future generations.

PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE

The Value of Wilderness

As our urban areas become more congested and the stresses of crowded living increase, more and more people feel a desire to 'Get back to nature', either by farming or by visiting areas in their natural or wilderness condition. Wilderness has the power to soothe, to calm, to restore and recreate. It can make individuals question their values, their perspectives and their way of life. Just knowing that untouched wilderness is there, close handy, can be a sustaining and comforting thought, even though they may not be able to visit it for the time being.

The existence of relatively untouched wilderness segments of the Rim, so close to large urban centres, is an extremely valuable asset for future generations.

TIMBER VALUES

The timber resources of the mountains of the Rim have been extremely valuable for the region, giving the impetus to original settlement of many areas. However, most of the accessible eucalypt forests outside the National Parks have now been cut over at least once, and future yields, even on a well managed sustained yield basis, will be much less than in the past. Most of the productive accessible rainforests outside the Lamington National Park have also been cut over, some very heavily in recent years. As regeneration in these forests is very slow, future resources are likely to be limited to occasional logs of speciality timbers. Experiments with selective enrichment of cut over rainforest and hoop pine plantations on the high altitude ranges have not proved successful.

GRAZING VALUES

The steep rugged country of the core of the Rim has little pastoral value, and even if cleared, would be capable of only limited rough grazing beef cattle. Landsliding and weed maintenance of many cleared slopes would be considerable problems.

RESIDENTIAL VALUE

The scenic environs of the Rim are having increasing attraction for those interested in retirement settlement, hobby or subsistence farming, and 'cottage' occupations. This type of settlement, if poorly controlled, could seriously impinge on some of the other values of the Rim. With increasing urbanisation of the whole region, it could, in fact, be the most important problem affecting the Rim in the future.

PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS FOR MANAGEMENT

Four major problems are likely to frustrate management attempts to preserve the values of the Scenic Rim. -

- Fragmented nature and artificial boundaries and unsuitable access for parts of the National Park system.
- Demands for use of the Rim which are incompatible.
- Environmental damage caused by even the most sympathetic visitors.
- Lack of adequate funding for managing authorities chiefly the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

FRAGMENTED PARKS AND ARTIFICIAL BOUNDARIES

The Scenic Rim National Park system will be one of the most difficult in the State to manage. Not only is it in places very narrow and extends over a great variety of terrain, but its boundaries also reflect compromises with other land uses, and the history of closer settlement of surrounding lands. Many of the boundaries take no account of natural topographic units, natural or constructed access routes, or sight lines from scenic vantage points.

It was the purpose of the Association's 1977 submission to provide the foundation of a land use plan for the Scenic Rim that would bring about the preservation of the values of the Rim. Naturally this submission centred on those problems which required urgent attention at the time, this specifically being the protection of areas of high scenic and recreational value. To achieve this aim the Association proposed the conversion of certain core areas, especially the Rim crest to National Park status.

The Association did not disguise the fact that there were also many areas of scenic, biological and recreational value that it did not recommend for conversion to National Park status. While it is desirable to protect these lands, it was recognised that it was not feasible for

the National Parks and Wildlife Service to purchase extensive lands in the buffer regions of the Scenic Rim which were being used for forestry or grazing purposes.

Nevertheless these extensive areas of both forestry and private lands with substantial forest cover contribute greatly to the landscape and biological values of the Rim. If such lands were extensively cleared or ill-managed, it could seriously affect the scenic attractions and conservation value of the Parks. Some of the most notable private lands are on the Little Liverpool Range, and on the west of the Main Range in the Hell Hole, Swan and Emu Creek valleys, whilst significant forestry areas include the Mistake Mountains, western ridges of the Main Range, and forests near Burnett, Cronan and Palen Creeks. If the National Parks and Wildlife Service is to preserve the values of the Scenic Rim, it will have to plan towards co-operation with other authorities to preserve at least a substantial part of the forest cover of these lands. Accordingly the lack of control over these lands must be considered a serious constraint on protecting the values of the Parks.

The Scenic Rim Association does not recommend the large scale conversion of such lands to national park, which it realises would be totally beyond the resources of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. However, it does recommend that the Service continue with efforts to purchase these lands listed in the Association's 1977 submission which are still unprotected, as well as investigating any other areas that may be vital to protect the existing National Parks.

Other means of maintaining the forest cover of lands adjacent to the Scenic Rim include direct liaison with landowners, negotiations with Shire Councils regarding zonings, and possible rate rebates for forested private lands, and liaison with the Forestry Department regarding pine forests or over-intensive logging.

There are also serious access problems inherent in the present boundaries, which are inhibiting fullest use of the Parks. Overcoming of these access problems will be one of the main challenges of managing the Rim.

DEMANDS FOR INCOMPATIBLE USES

The rapid development and urbanisation of the Moreton region has led to the mountains and forests of the Scenic Rim being affected by a variety of competing uses. Of these, the most significant are forestry operations, nature orientated recreational pursuits, scenery and wilderness protection, wildlife and flora conservation, and vehicle orientated recreation (e.g. off road vehicles).

Many of these are quite incompatible e.g. forestry and vehicle borne recreational activities are totally incompatible with most nature orientated recreation forms, and are at least partially incompatible with the conservation of the flora, fauna and landscape. For these reasons the Association proposed in 1977 that there should be two land use zones within the Scenic Rim, i.e., a National Park zone to cater for nature orientated recreation, and for flora, fauna and landscape conservation, and a forestry zone to allow for forestry operations and vehicle orientated recreation.

However, even within the National Park zone there are incompatible uses, the most significant conflict being between the need to provide camp grounds and graded tracks on the one hand, and wilderness or primitive forms of bushwalking and undisturbed wildlife habitat on the other. Therefore, further zoning is required to divide the National Park areas into regions catering for competing recreation forms with two basic zones required. Those providing for campgrounds and walking tracks need not be large, as relatively large concentrations of visitors can be tolerated in these areas. However, those catering for wildlife habitat and wilderness walking needs to be extensive, as the quality of this type of recreation is degraded by large crowds of people or constructed facilities. Recommendations for such zoning are discussed later in this submission.

VISITOR IMPACT

It is well known that many of the most popular National Parks in the world are suffering from over-visitation and several National Parks on the Scenic Rim are already in this category or soon will be so.

Not only has the population of the rapidly urbanising Moreton Region increased considerably, and is continuing to do so, but there has been a

dramatic change in recreational patterns. Far fewer people now wish or can afford the traditional beach-side holiday because of sophistication of the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. With increased time available and a new found interest in environmental matters, the population is turning more and more towards inland camping holidays.

There is now considerable pressure on popular National Park camping areas such as Binna Burra and O'Reilly's, and on day visitor centres such as Springbrook, Natural Bridge and Binna Burra. Camping facilities are grossly inadequate for demand at peak times, and will become degraded if not managed properly. In addition considerable visitor pressure is occurring in the primitive areas of the Parks, with damage evident in some areas such as southern Lamington and Mount Barney, including erosion, trampling, blazing of trees, litter and fecal pollution.

EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Poorly designed or sited commercial activities related to National Parks, such as, guesthouses, motels, cafes, caravan parks etc., can have significant impact on the scenery and aesthetic value of the Parks, and can lead to concentrations of visitors in unsuitable parts of the Parks. Fortunately there have been few problems of this type to date on the Scenic Rim.

FUNDING

The Service's inadequate funding situation must be recognised as a major obstruction to the implementation of effective management in the National Parks on the Scenic Rim. In our 1977 submission we noted that funding of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service lagged far behind that of other States, and this situation has not changed. The change in recreational patterns of the population and demands on National Parks has obviously not been fully appreciated in political circles.

As it is quite evident that the task of managing the Rim is totally beyond the present financial resources of the Service, The Scenic Rim Association strongly urges the Government to reassess its funding priorities and allocate more funds to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Only in this manner can the management of National Parks of the Scenic Rim

develop beyond the "Picnic tables and rubbish tins" stage, and only in this manner will it be possible to ensure the protection of our National Parks.

To assist in the provision of needed facilities the Scenic Rim Association considers that the introduction of modest camping fees for developed campsites is warranted. However, the Association would not support a general entrance fee to National Parks, as this would provoke an antagonistic response from the public and a repetition of the claim that the public was being 'locked out' of National Park lands.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The Association's 1977 submission incorporated a number of management suggestions. Indeed the acquisition and management parts of the submission are difficult to separate, since in essence they are complementary factors in the overall land use planning of the Rim. However, five main principles lay behind the management suggestions in the 1977 text, and these also form the basis of this current submission -

1. The preservation of the conservational values of the Rim. (Scenic, biological, educational, watershed protection, scientific and related values).
2. The preservation of the primitive or wilderness nature of large parts of the Rim, in order to cater for wilderness type recreation and appreciation.
3. The recognition and management of a Scenic Rim walking route of a standard appropriate for wilderness bushwalking.
4. Development of certain new picnic sites, camp grounds and walking track systems, to provide additional facilities for nature oriented recreation, which are rapidly becoming inadequate in southeast Queensland.
5. Development of other picnic and camp grounds and related tourist facilities, in regions in the vicinity of, but not necessarily on the Scenic Rim, to cater for day trippers, recreational campers and others wishing an outdoor experience, but who do not necessarily require pristine surroundings.
6. The permitting of horse riding and off-road vehicle recreation in some areas peripheral to the National Park system, provided that proper supervision is maintained and the National Park values are not affected.
7. Liaison with other authorities to ensure the complementary, sympathetic management of areas surrounding the National Park system.

MANAGEMENT FOR CONSERVATION VALUES

The greatest step in the conservation management of the Scenic Rim has been the establishment of the National Park system, through which fauna and flora habitats can be preserved. This was one of the fundamental reasons behind the 1977 submission.

However, this submission was prepared mainly by non-technical people, and it is highly desirable that the resulting Park system be reviewed at some stage by professionals trained in biology and conservation. Four steps are immediately evident as being necessary if the conservation purpose behind the Scenic Rim National Park system is to be achieved -

- (i) Designation of sizeable areas to be left as close as possible to their natural condition.
- (ii) The investigation of the habitats of the National Park system so that those ecosystems of greatest conservational value can be identified, and if necessary, avoided when future more intensive recreational developments are being sited. This is especially necessary in new National Park areas, the biological nature of which may not be adequately known by National Parks officers.
- (iii) The investigation of habitats of surrounding peripheral areas, to determine if the full range of habits on the Rim is protected in the National Park zone. If not, steps should be initiated to add these other habitats to the Park system.
- (iv) The consolidation of Park boundaries where these are fragmented or topographically inappropriate for the protection of habitats or the preservation of scenic values, such as sight lines from popular look out points.

The blocks of private land suggested for addition to the Park system in the 1977 submission were recommended basically for these reasons.

However, further investigation is needed by National Parks and Wildlife Service staff to determine if these blocks are the most appropriate and whether others may be more suitable or might be required in addition.

Some thought is also needed for the preservation of any corridors of natural vegetation which may presently be linking small isolated National and Environmental Parks. In the eastern regions of the Rim in particular there is considerable scope for retaining bush corridors in this manner, and these would be invaluable in preserving migration routes and maintaining the ecological integrity of the wildlife communities.

MANAGEMENT FOR PRIMITIVE OR WILDERNESS AREAS

The Association has recommended the establishment of four major primitive areas on the Scenic Rim, together with several minor locations of such zoning. The major proposals are the Mistake Mountains, between Spicer's Gap and Mount Steamer, the Barney/Ballow/Maroon region, and southern Lamington. (Described in more detail in Part II). These are necessary in order to cater for wilderness recreation in south-east Queensland, and to retain a wilderness atmosphere over the length of the Scenic Rim walking route. Such areas are also important for maintaining large areas of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitats.

Management of these areas should be aimed at retaining as much of their pristine qualities as possible. Thus roads, graded walking track systems, picnic or campgrounds or other constructed facilities are seen as inappropriate.

Huts.

The Association does not favour the establishment of huts on the Rim. While such constructions were a feature of the original Scenic Rim proposal in the 1940's great changes have occurred in the intervening years which have rendered huts both unnecessary and undesirable. The dramatic increase in usage of the Scenic Rim over recent years has demonstrated that huts are not required to enable enjoyment of the Rim, and experience with huts in the Mount Barney and Lamington National Parks has shown that their environs rapidly

become polluted and degraded. Some bushwalkers also claim that the huts themselves are an affront to the wilderness. It is significant in this regard that the Scenic Rim climate is relatively mild even by Australian standards, so that huts would be of safety value on only very rare occasions. In addition great improvements in bushwalking equipment during the last decade has made primitive camping far more comfortable and safer than in previous years.

The Association would have little objection to the removal of those huts remaining on the Scenic Rim near Mount Gipps and at Rat-a-tat.

Usage Restrictions

There is a significant danger of environmental and aesthetic degradation being caused by overuse of the primitive sections of the Rim. Already this has occurred in Lamington National Park, and in the saddle and East Peak area of Mount Barney. In these places there is considerable trampling damage, erosion, litter and fecal pollution, and a few sites are a disgusting mess. Some of this damage has been caused by vandalism and abuse, although much is simply the result of usage pressure.

Methods by which such damage can be controlled include better visitor education, careful planning of facilities, rotation of campsites and restrictions on the use of wood fires. Suggestions for such controls are given in Part II of this submission, particularly in the section on the Lamington area.

However, it should also be acknowledged that eventually some form of limitation of numbers of people allowed into the Parks may become necessary, as has been the case in the United States.

Limitations can be arranged in various ways - e.g., using a Permit system for bushwalkers with a limited number of Permits issued for a given area at one time; limits on the number of campsites available in each camping area; reservation or ballot systems when demand exceeds supply; limitations on the size of adjacent accommodation facilities etc.

Such limitations may not be politically attractive as they give an elitist image to the Parks, and they should be delayed as long as possible for use only when no other options are available. With these provisos,

the Scenic Rim Association will support the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the introduction of such restrictions.

At this stage there is a range of opinion in the Association as to whether restrictions are yet necessary, even in the problem areas. However, we feel it is essential for the Service to begin thinking about the situation and to assess the maximum numbers the likely problem areas will be able to sustain.

MANAGEMENT OF A SCENIC RIM WALKING ROUTE

The Scenic Rim Walking Track was a major component of the Association's 1977 submission. The proposal is similar in concept to those walking tracks in southern States, New Zealand and in the northern Hemisphere, which facilitate wilderness walking trips of up to several weeks. The scenery available for such a route is certainly spectacular, and includes the finest mountain landscapes in southern Queensland. Full details of the route and its attractions are contained in our 1977 submission.

The track could be walked either in segments or its entirety. To preserve as much of the wilderness atmosphere as possible, it was proposed that the track be essentially an ungraded, unconstructed, unmarked route, although some track construction and marking may be required in some areas if degradation becomes a problem in the future. Warning signs where the route leaves graded track sections may be advisable in the near future. Many management suggestions relating to the track, such as the need for construction and marking in some cases, are discussed in various parts of this submission.

It should be mentioned that since 1977, there has been confusion that the Association is promoting some type of constructed and sign-posted track around the Rim. This has never been the case, as perusal of Section 10 of our 1977 proposal will show. However, there is a considerable range of opinion in the Association on this matter from those who would like to see some form of constructed, sign-posted track, to those who wish to see no publicity at all given to the concept of a Rim route, for fear of overuse of the crest.

However, the consensus would still seem to be as put forward in 1977.

To re-iterate, this envisages -

- Recognition of a Scenic Rim Walking Route
- This to be an unconstructed, ungraded un-signposted route which would develop only to a foot-pad standard by the passing of walkers (a recognisable foot-pad is already present on most segments).
- Marking, maintenance or construction of the route (to the minimal standard necessary) be undertaken in the future only in those areas where degradation is likely to occur because of erosion, or destruction of vegetation on a proliferation of parallel routes. Junctions in the route be marked only if a serious navigation hazard exists. Such construction or marking be postponed as long as possible by management and supervision, and marking be retained only so long as it takes the route to become obvious.
- Signposting of the points where the wilderness route leaves graded track systems with warnings that wilderness walkers should be suitably prepared and experienced.
- Any publicity on the Rim route should stress the need for experience in those attempting it, and the suggestion that this be gained in Bushwalking Clubs. Active promotion of the Rim route, either by the Service or commercial interests, should be discouraged.

It is recommended that in the near future the National Parks and Wildlife Service undertake a reconnaissance of the present standard of the Rim route, to ascertain any points where degradation is occurring. Discussion should be set up with Bushwalking Clubs to ascertain whether track marking is necessary in these areas, and what type of marking would be the least obstrusive.

Investigation of any access problems to the Rim route across private lands is also required.

MANAGEMENT FOR OTHER RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In line with the need for further facilities for non-wilderness, nature oriented recreation in south-east Queensland, the Association proposes a considerable expansion of facilities on the Rim. The details of the proposed developments are in Part Two of the submission, but they can be summarised as follows -

- Upgrading of camp grounds at Cunningham's Gap, Binna Burra, and Springbrook
- Several small picnic and camping grounds, together with some associated short graded tracks, established at various locations on the fringes of the National Parks.
- A major recreational complex in the Emu Creek/ Teviot Gap region, incorporating an extensive graded track network, camping and picnic grounds and possibly accommodation centres.

To allow such new facilities to be constructed and maintained, the Association would support the introduction of modest camping fees at National Parks and Wildlife Service developed camp sites.

It should be noted that purchase of some blocks of private land adjacent to the Parks is considered necessary to allow some of these developments to proceed, or to allow access to them.

In addition, in order to take pressure off National Park areas, it is recommended that people desiring an outdoor experience, but who don't require pristine surroundings, be catered for as much as possible through picnic and camping areas established away from the National Park lands. Such facilities could be provided along the whole length of the Scenic Rim, and indeed many are currently in existence. The picnic and camping grounds would need to be provided by both the Shire Councils and the Forestry Department. Such facilities would play a valuable management role for the Scenic Rim, even when established many kilometres from the Scenic Rim crest.

The Scenic Rim Association has suggested many sites where further

facilities of this nature can be provided. Full details of these proposals are in Part Two of this submission. It is worth noting that since 1977 several have been established by Shire Councils and two by the Forestry Department.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service should liaise with Shire Councils and the Forestry Department on the development of such sites and the type of facilities appropriate for them.

MANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Because the Scenic Rim National Parks are often narrow with restricted access points, the Scenic Rim Association would prefer that all commercial development occur on surrounding lands, controlled by conditions of the relevant Shire Council which would ensure the developments were in sympathy with the adjacent National Park.

However, if commercial developments are to occur within the National Parks, the Association considers it essential that the National Parks and Wildlife Service have full control over the siting and subsequent policy of any lease or concession arrangements. If the land is excised from the National Park under provisions of the Forestry Act, it is still essential the Service formulate and police any subsequent lease, instead of the Lands Department as at present.

Commercial activities should be limited to those essential for Park visitors and such activities should reflect the same standards and qualities as the Park.

MANAGEMENT OF SURROUNDING LANDS

State Forests

Our recommendations regarding the management of State Forests have been the subject of extensive negotiations between the Association and the Forestry Department, and were also dealt with in our 1977 submission. Consequently, there is little need to repeat the details of such recommendations here. In synopsis it is envisaged that the State Forests would serve a dual purpose, not only providing a necessary timber resource, but also acting as a buffer zone for the National Parks. As such timber getting operations should be designed to be as sympathetic as possible to

the aesthetic values of the area. While this need not affect normal selective logging operations in eucalypt forests, it precludes heavy logging in rainforest areas, clearfelling and pine plantations, especially in areas of high significance to the recreational use of the crest. In recent years the intensity of logging in rainforest areas has increased considerably, in some cases almost to the extent of liquidation logging, and has attracted considerable criticism, even from the Institute of Foresters.

State Forests can provide for types of recreation which do not require pristine surroundings, e.g., car-side camping and scenic driving could be catered for in most State Forests. In some areas, however, such as the Mount Superbus region, vehicle orientated activities, especially those involving four wheel drives and trail bikes, would compete with other recreation forms. These sensitive areas need to be identified.

Two aspects regarding the long term management of State Forests are mentioned. One relates to the management planning of State Forests, for it is our suggestion that State Forests should be governed by public management planning documents similar in concept to those being introduced for National Parks. This would facilitate the long term planning of our timber resources as well as recreational development in State Forests, and would increase the public's confidence in forest management Authorities. At present such public confidence is low, largely because of the uncertain nature of future forestry operations.

A further aspect in relation to long term forest management is the need for much more plantation establishment in areas away from the Scenic Rim, so that pressure can be taken off the remaining forests on the Rim before competition for the last remaining resources tempts Authorities to allow over cutting. We suggest that a special Government incentive scheme be formulated to encourage the establishment of private forest plantations, especially in rural areas where farming and grazing is proving only marginally economical.

It is recommended the National Parks and Wildlife Service approach the Forestry Department to co-operate with a joint management plan for the State Forests and National Parks on the Rim.

Private Lands

The National Parks and Wildlife Service can have little control over the activities undertaken on private lands, so that it is impossible to ensure that the management of such areas will be sympathetic to adjoining National Parks. However, it is suggested that the Service should make strenuous efforts to inform landowners of the values and aims of the National Park system and to encourage them to assist by retaining forest cover on their own lands. Such liaison is urgently needed, as at present there is much local unfounded rumour and innuendo as to what is intended for the Park system.

Other suggested means of encouraging retention of forest cover on private lands is for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to administer a rates rebate scheme for forested areas, i.e., it could contribute to the rates of lands of critical importance in proportion to the forest cover of such lands, or for Shire Councils to consider tree-clearing bye laws for certain areas. A good deal of investigation would be required to discover if such schemes were viable; however, if feasible, they may provide a means of preserving forest cover on private lands which would be considerably cheaper than acquisition. The National Parks and Wildlife Service should also liaise with Shire Councils regarding any sensitive areas surrounding the Parks where certain developments, such as commercial activities or housing subdivisions, would interfere with the values of the Parks.

INTERPRETATION

Because of their proximity to large centres of population, the Scenic Rim National Parks offer many opportunities for interpretation and this should be given a high priority in the management plan.

Interpretive programmes concentrating on natural history and ecology should be offered mainly in areas where visitors stay overnight or longer.

A majority of Scenic Rim Park visitors, however, are on day trips, perhaps many even unaware that they are in a National Park. For this reason, a prime opportunity occurs for interpretive programmes to concentrate on National Park ethics - the need for National Parks, how they can be used and cared for, benefits they offer, etc. We see this type of

interpretation as being of the utmost importance in overcoming the opposition to and ignorance about National Parks. Programmes on the National Park ethics should be offered in areas where large numbers of visitors make brief visits, such as Natural Bridge, Springbrook and Cunningham's Gap. The National Park Service presence in such places should be quite strong. Visitor centres and other interpretive facilities should have a very high priority.

Similar facilities are urgently required in other heavily visited parks such as Lamington (near each of the two main entrances) where the interpretive programme could place more accent on natural history and ecology.

The visitor centres need not be elaborate structures. In fact, small, unobtrusive, simply designed constructions, providing a base from which interpretive staff can work, would be suitable for most areas.

All visitor centres, toilet blocks and other public buildings, including accommodation, should include standard provisions for those in wheelchairs and the visually handicapped.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES

To implement the suggested strategies, the Association recommends the following -

1. To protect the conservation and wilderness recreation values of the present National Park system, and to allow development of additional visitor facilities within the Parks without conflict with these values, it is recommended that the Park system be zoned as presently provided by the Forestry Act, into Primitive Areas, Primitive and Recreation Areas and Recreation Areas.

Details of this suggested zoning are given in Part II of this submission, but in summary -

Primitive Areas are suggested for most of the Mistake Mountains, the Main Range from Spicer's Peak to the crest of Mount Steamer, but not including the Steamer Range, the bulk of Barney, Ballow, Maroon and Clunie regions, most of the southern region of Lamington, the existing Mount Cougal National Park, together with most of the thin strips of National Park land (such as that between Collins and Richmond Gap). These areas should be managed to provide for wilderness recreation and nature conservation.

Primitive and Recreation Areas are suggested for most of the Cunningham's Gap National Park, that section of the Main Range between Mount Steamer and Teviot Gap and including the Steamer Range, selected small areas on the outskirts of National Parks in the Barney/Maroon/Lindesay region, Lamington National Park north of the top of the northern cliff of Black Canyon, Natural Arch and Springbrook National Parks and the proposed new addition to the Mount Cougal National Park at the head of Currumbin Creek.

These should be managed to provide for both outdoor recreation and nature conservation, and include recreational developments such as graded tracks systems.

Selected small areas throughout the Scenic Rim should be zoned as Recreation Areas to provide for camping and picnic facilities. We visualise the most important additional recreational development being in the Emu Creek region. Details of the other small areas suggested for this category are given in Part II of this submission

2. To investigate the adequacy of the protection offered to conservation values of the Rim by the present Park system, it is suggested that a project group be formed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to study with other scientists the coverage of habitat and flora types, and the suitability of the present Park boundaries for protection of scenic qualities such as sight lines from vantage points.
3. To guard against over use in the primitive wilderness areas such as the southern end of Lamington, and to manage the Scenic Rim Walking Route to the standard suggested, a project group be formed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to reconnoitre these areas, to determine where degradation is likely, to investigate possible solutions, and to liaise with Bushwalking Clubs and others regarding these solutions. This group should also investigate any access problems to Park boundaries that walkers may have.
4. To implement the urgently needed further development of facilities on the Rim, a Project group be formed by National Parks and Wildlife Service to assess the suggestions in this submission for the location and style of additional facilities, such as campgrounds and walking track systems, so as to determine priorities. This group should examine boundaries of the existing Park system as to their adequacy for access to, and the siting of, the additional facilities and consider the need for re-deployment of the Park staff.
5. To promote sympathetic management of surrounding forestry and private lands a project group be established by National Parks and Wildlife Service to actively liaise with the Forestry

Department, Shire Councils, private owners and New South Wales Government Authorities and to investigate new methods of protection of valuable lands outside of the National Parks, such as Town Plan zoning, rates subsidies etc. Such a group could be expanded into a semi formal Advisory Committee representing various interest groups, as has been done for the Central Highlands Sandstone region.

6. To co-ordinate community interest in the management of the Rim, a project group be established by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to organise Honorary Protector and voluntary work party activities on a regular basis. The Association feels that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is not taking sufficient advantage of the great environmental awareness and enthusiasm for National Parks that is present in the community, which can be of great benefit in such times of financial stringency.

P A R T II

DETAILED MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

L A I D L E Y T O C U N N I N G H A M ' S G A PTHE AREA

The Scenic Rim north of Cunningham's Gap is centred on a knot of three mountain systems - the Little Liverpool, Mistake and Great Dividing Ranges. It is the northern most segment of the Scenic Rim, and one of the most complex from the viewpoint of topographic, landuse and landscape characteristics. Consequently it is potentially the most difficult segment of Scenic Rim to preserve and manage.

All three mountain ranges differ considerably in respect of landuse, landscape and recreational potential. The Little Liverpool Range, for example, is virtually entirely private grazing lands, while the Mistake and Great Dividing Ranges are a mosaic of State Forest and National Park. The vegetation of the former area also differs, being eucalypt woodland with a grass and grasstree understory, while the latter two ranges are largely covered in rainforest. The areas most intensively used by bushwalkers are the Little Liverpool and Great Dividing Ranges, and the southern parts of the Mistake Mountains which are readily accessible from Goomburra Valley.

The recreational attractions of this segment are largely located in these latter three areas. North of Cunningham's Gap the crest of the Divide offers magnificent vistas eastwards from the lip of the Ramparts, the name given to its almost vertical eastern escarpment. The Little Liverpool Range, with its open woodland and grasstrees, is an attractive bushwalking landscape, providing relatively easy walking except in its southern extremity. Here, around Kangaroo Mountain, Mt.Castle and Laidley Falls, the terrain becomes rugged and precipitous, and attractions include its spectacular bluffs and the unusual rock arch known as the Hole-in-the-Wall. The walk from Cunningham's Gap to Mt.Castle is a popular segment of the Scenic Rim route. In the southern Mistake Mountains notable features include Blackfellow's Falls, the cliff-ringed Amphitheatre, and Point Pure.

A significant aspect of the management of this area is the shape and location of the National Parks, for many areas of high recreational value are located on Forestry or private lands. Therefore, while this submission is concentrated on the management of National Park areas, we have included comments on preserving the various values of some surrounding lands.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Two National Park regions are present in this segment - in the Mistake Mountains, and along the Great Divide north from Cunningham's Gap. The latter area is partly serviced by a graded track climbing up from the Gap, while the former area is undeveloped. Camping and picnic facilities are present in the National Park area at Cunningham's Gap.

In its 1977 submission the Association envisaged no major recreational developments for this segment. However, since then the Forestry Department has provided camping facilities in Goomburra Valley (a development suggested in our 1977 submission), upgraded the road from here up to and along the Mistake Mountains crest, and installed a track leading from this road to Sylvester's Lookout. These developments have improved the recreation value of the State Forest region, and increased the accessibility of the National Parks in the southern Mistake Mountains.

Accordingly the Association now envisages a six fold management strategy for this northern segment of the Rim.

(i) The Northern Mistake Mountains:

This area offers scope for creation of a wilderness recreation area of significant dimensions, and as such it is suggested that it be zoned Primitive Area. It is one of four major areas on the Rim which have been suggested by the Association as being highly suitable for wilderness-orientated management. Although not heavily used by bushwalkers at present, it is considered that usage will increase as forest regeneration thins out much of the undergrowth which has established after past logging operations.

(ii) The National Park north of Bare Rock is suggested for zoning as Primitive Area, to provide an area of some wilderness appeal for walkers travelling the Scenic Rim crest.

(iii) The Great Dividing Range and the Park to the south of Bare Rock is recommended for zoning as

Primitive and Recreation Area. The graded track and camping facilities present in the Mt. Cordeaux region, the suitability of the region east of Mt. Cordeaux for further camping facilities, and the ready access, gives this region a great recreational value.

- (iv) In the area of the Mistake Mountains extending south from Point Pure, it may be possible to provide a graded track system co-ordinating with the Forestry Department development at Goomburra. Features of interest could include the Amphitheatre, Point Pure and Blackfellow's Falls, which would provide excellent attraction for day-trippers. Accordingly this area could be zoned Primitive and Recreation Area. However, these facilities would be dependent on the maintenance of access using Forestry Department roads, and some investigation would be required regarding whether Forestry and National Park developments could be co-ordinated. If it was decided that such a project was not feasible, the area could be included with Primitive zoning to the north.
- (v) It is recommended that the forestry area situated between the Mistake Mountains and Cunningham's Gap National Parks continue to cater for family and camping recreation.
- (vi) At present no particular plans can be made for the Little Liverpool Range, as this area is still private land. However, the Association reiterates the views promoted in its 1977 submission, that at least the southern part of this Range should be protected by National Park status. In particular it is important that some form of official access be provided on the Mount Castle - Kangaroo Mountain area, so that walkers can traverse the convenient week-end hike of Mt. Castle to Cunningham's Gap without trespassing on private land. It is understood negotiations for

purchase of some land in this area are currently proceeding.

DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES

The Association has no large scale proposals for this region. However, the following are suggested -

- (i) Cunningham's Gap Region: Establishment of a new sizeable camp ground is proposed to the east of Cunningham's Gap to supercede the existing small site beside the highway and petrol station, where excessive traffic noise markedly detracts from the pleasant natural atmosphere of the Gap. Because of this site, the Cunningham's Gap Park has not been able to contribute fully to catering for the increasing demand for family camping areas, and the considerable investment in the walking track system has not been fully utilized. The new camp ground could be serviced by a graded track linking to the track up Mount Cordeaux. An interpretive centre could be established in association with such facilities. As facilities are already present, however, the old campsite could be retained for a trial period to determine whether there would still be a demand for camping on the western side of the Park.
- (ii) Mistake Mountains: In 1977 this area was not considered suitable for recreational development due to difficulty of access. However, the increasing usage of Goomburra and the road on to the Mistake Mountains has led to an increase in the number of people visiting the southern area of the Mistake Mountains National Park. Due to logging regrowth the undergrowth in places is extremely thick, and it is suggested, to cater for people wishing to see the Blackfellow's Falls/Point Pure area and also to avoid possible safety problems, graded track facilities be

considered. This would require a co-ordinated management approach between National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forestry Department.

SURROUNDING LANDS

The management of private and forestry lands in this region is of critical importance to bushwalkers travelling the Scenic Rim crest, as well as to recreational campers and family groups camping in Goomburra and Laidley Valleys. In particular two areas of concern are evident:

- (i) Little Liverpool Range: The southern section of the Little Liverpool Range is an outstanding landscape and well worth inclusion in the National Park. It was one of the areas most strongly recommended for National Park conversion in the Association's 1977 submission. It is reiterated that some means must be found to protect this region if the recreational value of this unique area is to be preserved for future generations. Inclusion of at least the southern part of the range in the National Park is strongly recommended.
- (ii) State Forest Region: Of major concern in this region is the establishment of pine forests and intensive rainforest logging operations close to the Scenic Rim crest. These operations are of particular concern in those areas where the National Park boundary is close to the crest, or those areas adjacent to main access routes to the Parks. These were a subject of our 1977 submission, as well as the centre of subsequent discussions between the Forestry Department and the Association.

SPICER'S GAP TO WILSON'S PEAK

THE AREA

The southern segment of the Main Range is one of the most spectacular mountain landscapes in Queensland, and many walkers find it the climax of the Scenic Rim route. Its sharp upjutting peaks provide both bushwalking challenge and rugged landscape attractions, and the linear nature of the range, which facilitates views along the whole range incorporating many peaks in a single glance, undoubtedly is responsible for much of its appeal. There are numerous lookouts in this region, so that it is frequently possible to view back over the peaks one has traversed, and over the many notable landmarks of the region. These include the spectacular Lizard Point shelf, the orange bluffs of the Steamer Range, the massive cliffs in sections of the eastern escarpment, and the Hell Hole and Swan Creek areas. The striking form of Mount Castle is forever present in the north, as if representing the immortality and perpetuity of the mountains.

It is this region which the Association considers as being the most suitable for further recreation development on the Rim. The landscape attractions of the area, the rainforests, eucalypt forests and montane heaths, and the spectacular bluffs, cliffs and crags in the Emu Creek/Lizard Point region, offer great scope for graded track and camping ground systems and provide the potential for the region to become one of the notable outdoor recreation areas of south Queensland.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Association envisages that two zones should be established in this region - a Primitive Area zone over the northern part of the segment, and a Primitive and Recreation Area zone encompassing the area in the south.

The Primitive Area in the north is considered necessary to provide scope for wilderness recreation in this segment of the Rim, and to retain the spectacular crest of the range as a significant area free from human impact and development, and as a wilderness walking route. This is considered essential if the Rim is to cater for a range of recreation types. To maintain the visual integrity of this forested escarpment,

purchase of the private blocks 179, part 117, 178, and possibly 173 has been proposed. No vehicle access into this primitive area between Spicer's Gap and Emu Creek should be developed.

The northern boundaries of the Primitive Area would run east-west along the southern boundary of the old Cunningham's Gap Park, while the southern boundary could run along the top of the cliff line between Lizard Point and Mt. Steamer, then north to the saddle to the north of Mt. Steamer and then west to the National Park border.

By this zoning the entire crest to the north of Mt. Steamer, together with Lizard Ridge would be retained in a wilderness state, while Mt. Steamer, the Steamer Range, Lizard Point, Mts. Superbus, Bell and Bangalore and Wilson's Peak, would be zoned Primitive and Recreation area to enable development of a sizeable complex of picnic, camping and graded track facilities.

DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES

The Associations' proposals for this region are considerable and involve establishing a major recreation complex in the southern part of the segment. These proposals were updated in November 1979 in an Addendum to the original 1977 proposals. The Association considers the proposals in the Addendum to be still appropriate and to be of high priority; they are summarized here but the Addendum should also be consulted.

The Steamers/Emu Creek area and The Head area are both highly suitable for recreational development ranging from picnic areas through to campgrounds, lengthy walking track systems and accommodation centres. However, sensible siting of these facilities within the present National Park boundaries is difficult, and acquisition of some private land has been proposed. Urgent action to acquire such land and to install facilities is urged to ease the great pressure being exerted on existing National Parks in the Moreton Region. A smaller recreation centre is suggested for Swan Creek although this is of lower priority.

- (i) The Head/Teviot Gap: Development of facilities in this area should receive priority because of the good access provided by The Head road, already a tourist route.

There is scope for picnic grounds at both the summit and foot of the range, but is considered development at the summit should receive first attention. This is because visitors prefer being "Up in the mountains" where views can be obtained easily, and the lesser heights that walking tracks would have to ascend. The rainforest vegetation is a popular added attraction.

Location of a suitable site for picnic and campgrounds at the summit is somewhat difficult, however. One site originally proposed, north of the side road just inside the National Park near the head of Teviot Falls, has been found to be far too steep. On the south side of the main road, small cleared areas on Portions 4V and 12V (proposed for acquisition for protection of rainforest) are too small, exposed to view from the road, and have a doubtful water supply.

The site suggested in 1979 and still considered practical is the small Portion 67V and the northern part of 19V. Although 67V is a bare grassy paddock, it is largely surrounded by rainforest, and has an assured water supply in Teviot Creek. An accommodation centre could also be practical at this site. Access would be along 0.75km of side road which could be gravelled at little expense. These two blocks of private land have been subsequently proposed for purchase.

From this site there is a variety of attractions to which walking tracks can be constructed, including short walks to the head of the Falls, and longer tracks to Wilson's Peak and Mt. Bell. The track to the latter would have to keep close to the eastern cliff line to avoid heavily logged areas to the west. There may in fact be difficulty here in places in maintaining normal graded track standards without diverging into the unpleasant

tangled undergrowth of the logging areas; however, these segments should be short. Further extensions to the open rocky ridge of Mount Bangalore, and a connection over Mount Roberts to proposed tracks in the Emu Creek area could be considered later.

It is likely that in the long term a second picnic ground and campground will be required at the eastern foot of the range, and planning should be commenced while the opportunity still exists. It has been suggested that Portion 10V should be purchased to provide a sufficient area adjacent to the road for these facilities, as land within the existing National Park is too steep.

Unfortunately the majority of the timber on Portion 10V has recently been poisoned, and the area now presents a most dismal appearance. It is now proposed that this general area be urgently inspected by National Parks and Wildlife Service to determine a suitable area for these future facilities, so that purchase action can be taken if needed before it is too late.

To tie in with these facilities, walking tracks to Kinnanes' Falls and the spectacular cliff of The Verandah could be considered at an early stage to provide an additional attraction to motorists and to supplement the facilities at the summit of the range.

- (ii) Emu Creek: At Emu Creek an access centre on the creek somewhere near the old sawmill site, would seem to be appropriate as sites further upstream in the National Park or State Forest are steep. This centre would include a sizeable campground and possibly an accommodation development. However, retention of the bush setting of this site is not at present guaranteed, being itself freehold land and being surrounded by freehold land. It has consequently been proposed that the relevant private land in this area be purchased for the Park.

Walking tracks could be constructed to (a) the crest of the Steamer Range and along the base of the cliffs, continuing to (b) a lookout on the Stern, the only member of the Steamers whose summit is accessible, (c) return tracks through rainforest on the southern side of the Steamers, (d) a track up the upper reaches of Emu Creek, possibly extending up to a lookout on the western cliffs of Mount Superbus (co-operation with the Forestry Department would be necessary as the latter area is still State Forest), and (e) the possibility of a track under the northern cliffs of Mount Superbus. At a later date a track to the magnificent lookout of Lizard Point and to Mount Roberts, possibly linking with tracks in The Head area, could also be considered.

Although the considerable distance of the dry weather road giving access to the Emu Creek area is a serious constraint on the development of facilities here, the attractions of the area will continue to make it one of the more frequented highlights of the Rim. There is in fact already an urgent need for supervision of usage of the area.

It is consequently proposed that planning for eventual installation of facilities be commenced immediately, by purchase of the needed private land (before actions by landowners limit available options), and by commencing negotiations on upgrading of the road.

In the meantime some supervision of the area should be undertaken, particularly in peak holiday periods.

(Considerable removal of plants occurs in this area).

- (iii) Swan Creek: The Association's 1979 Addendum recommended that further lands be purchased in this region. The purpose of these purchases was to preserve the rugged landscape qualities of this area, as well as facilitate some picnic and camping grounds

in the environs of Hell Hole Gorge. Originally our proposals for this region envisaged that such facilities would be best co-ordinated with Forestry Department development of State Forest 501. However, it is now proposed that they be included in National Park lands, which could extend west from Mount Doubletop through purchase of Hell Hole Valley and Gorge. This would facilitate an attractive walking track system in the Hell Hole Gorge environs, as well as camping and picnic grounds along the banks of Swan Creek downstream from the gorge. However, we propose that a graded track system does not extend to the crest of the Divide in this region.

- (iv) Spicer's Gap: As there are few features of interest in this area to which track systems could be established, no development is proposed and the area is recommended for inclusion in the Primitive Area. Closure of the road through the National Park is recommended, but the old road could then be used as a walking track from the Pioneer Graves to Moss's Well and Governor's Chair. Recent proposals to reconstruct the main highway through Spicer's Gap suggest that no positive plans for this area can be made at this stage.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Several suggestions are made regarding the general management of this region.

- (i) Wilderness Campsites: There are a limited number of good campsites for wilderness walkers along the Rim crest and the most popular (Upper Panorama Point, Lizard Point) are being heavily used. Eventually some limitation of numbers or temporary closure of sites will be necessary to prevent trampling and destruction of vegetation for firewood. Insistence on the use of gas stoves may be necessary. The

condition of these sites should be regularly monitored by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

- (ii) Tree Fern Gully: Situated on the southern slopes of Mount Hurtle, this area is of considerable biological significance. While the particular tree fern species, Dicksonia antarctica, is common in southern Australia, its distribution in Queensland is fairly restricted. While it occurs in the Bunya Mountains and a few other locations, its main Queensland occurrence is in the Scenic Rim, of which the most profuse, unusual and aesthetically notable stand is that at Mount Hurtle. The trunks of the specimens in this location snake along the ground in unusual shapes, which makes this stand especially attractive.

A potential problem exists in the management of this location, as it receives a fairly high visitation due to the attractions of the tree ferns, and the presence of a permanent water point in the gully. There is some concern that increasing visitation may damage the ferns, as the fronds and trunks are not sufficiently robust to withstand hard knocks, and the soil around the trunks could easily become eroded or compacted. Some marking of the track, with warning signs, may eventually be required to protect this area.

- (iii) Vehicles and Roads: Roads are present in several locations in this area, and some management is required regarding their usage. Two roads in particular are suggested for closure, these being that through the National Park section at Spicer's Gap, and the old road up the south-west ridge of Mount Doubletop. The former has some historic significance and closure is recommended to preserve the remaining segments of the old paving, and to prevent rubbishing at

Governor's Chair. It would also conform with general policy of restricting roads in National Parks especially in Primitive Areas. The latter road bites deep into proposed primitive region of the Main Range, and its closure is considered imperative if the wilderness values of this area are to be preserved. It is no longer needed as the original portions in this area have been included in the National Park.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service needs to liaise with the Forestry Department regarding use of the roads at Emu Creek and Mount Superbus by four wheel drive vehicles and trail bikes. Considerable illegal collection of flora has occurred from these areas in recent years. These activities are quite incompatible with other recreational use of the area and need to be stopped. It is suggested that roads be closed where their retention is unnecessary, and that locked gates be installed to control usage of roads which must be retained for logging purposes.

- (iv) Fences: Fences are present in several localities on the Main Range and require removal to restore the pristine atmosphere of the areas. One such fence is near the crest of the Rim, bordering what was previously portion 29V near Mount Doubletop. The old rabbit fence up Mount Superbus should also be removed as it is in a dilapidated condition and serves no practical purpose. Volunteers could assist in such an activity.

SURROUNDING LANDS

The Main Range is perhaps the most critical area on the Rim regarding the management of lands surrounding the National Parks. The scenic values of many National Park areas rely heavily on the forest cover of some surrounding lands, so that some liaison is necessary between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other land owners and Authorities.

The aim of such liaison should be to encourage management of such surrounding areas which is sympathetic to the National Parks (see comments in Part One). The most critical locations are: -

- North and south branches of Emu Creek and western ridges of Mount Superbus (chiefly State Forest).
- Barney Creek (mostly State Forest)
- Swan and Hell Hole Creeks (mainly private lands)

It should also be noted that several parcels of private land suggested for purchase in the Association's 1977 submission (see above) still have not been acquired. Naturally the conversion of these lands to National Park would considerably ease the problems of surrounding lands management for the Service.

BOONAH BORDER GATE TO MOUNT LINDESAY

THE AREA

This segment of the Scenic Rim includes Mount Barney - possibly the best known and most spectacular of south Queensland's mountains - as well as Mounts Clunie, Ballow, Maroon and Ernest. It is probably the most outstanding segment of the Rim from the viewpoint of landscape diversity, and incorporates a vast range of features, from craggy rocky summits to pleasant palm strewn creeks. The dissected nature of the country offers walkers a huge number and variety of bushwalking routes, including easy creek-side ambles and challenging trips up the steepest and most arduous of ridges. It is possibly the most significant segment of the Rim in respect of wilderness value. Furthermore, because of the great range of vegetation types and habitats, it also has important conservation values.

Such values must be preserved by the management of this area. To date this area has been managed as a primitive region, and in essence the Association envisages no great departure from this approach. It is proposed as one of the four main wilderness regions of the Scenic Rim.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The general zoning of this region is recommended as Primitive Area. However, the immediate environs of Yellowpinch could be zoned as Primitive and Recreation Area to provide a short graded track system for the Yellowpinch campgrounds. The boundaries of this zone would require detailed investigation, and no suggestions are made here regarding their exact location. However, it is stressed that the area envisaged is relatively small.

DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES

The National Parks and Wildlife Service needs to liaise with the Beaudesert Shire Council regarding provision of recreation facilities in this segment, as the Council has proposed several sites in the Mount Barney region for camping and picnic grounds. The Association envisages no major development for the National Park lands of this segment, except in the environs of the Yellowpinch Reserve, and possibly near Collins Gap.

At Yellowpinch development will need to be co-ordinated with Council facilities. Eventually facilities at Yellowpinch could include:-

- A second campsite to the south of Yellowpinch ridge, without road access and intended for those wishing for natural surroundings.
- Further camping facilities in the existing Yellowpinch campgrounds.
- A short graded track system linking the two campgrounds and exploring the creek and lower slopes of south-east ridge. This would be facilitated by the purchase of portions 119V and 124V as proposed in our 1977 submission.

Since our 1977 proposals it has become evident that a picnic site might be appropriate just west of Collins Gap to cater for travellers on the Mount Lindesay Highway. However, this is not a high priority as there is little scope for track development.

PROVISION OF ACCESS

To guarantee future access to the southern side of Mount Barney from the Yellowpinch developments, purchase of portion 105V has been suggested. Unfortunately, however, the National Parks and Wildlife Service did not act when the block was offered for purchase in 1977-78 and the owner may no longer be willing to sell. Pedestrian access to the Lower Portals area at the northern side of the Mount Barney Park has been causing problems for many years, the popular route passing over private lands. The National Parks and Wildlife Service needs to negotiate a satisfactory solution to this problem, as this area is the commencement of some of the more spectacular and challenging hiking routes to the summit.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Mount Barney National Park has a number of severe management problems which need to be addressed. These include the erosion on south ridge, local vegetation destruction and erosion in the saddle/East Peak

area, the state of the saddle toilets, and excessive camping in the East Peak/saddle locality.

Possible actions to alleviate these problems include track works on south ridge (although large scale works are not recommended), limitations of overnight camping in the saddle/East Peak area, and removal of the saddle toilets. All the proposals require investigation. It is also recommended that wood fires be banned in the East Peak/saddle area, and possibly also at Mounts Maroon and Ballow, to avoid fire danger in the low eucalypt and heath vegetation, and damaging firewood collection.

As part of the management policy to retain the wilderness atmosphere of the southern Mount Barney area it is again suggested that the road be closed north of Yellowpinch ridge by installation of a locked gate, with keys available to landowners.

MOUNT LINDESAY TO RICHMOND GAPTHE AREA

This segment stretches from the rugged Barney/Ernest area to near Lamington National Park, and in contrast to other regions of the Rim, most of this segment is not notably rugged. With the exception of Mount Lindesay, the crest here does not vary considerably in height, resulting in fairly easy walking. In other respects, also, the character of this segment differs from the rest of the Rim, perhaps the most significant difference is the amount of clearing which has occurred on the Queensland side of the border. This has resulted in it being especially important that all the remaining forests of the region be preserved, to protect both the appeal of this segment, and the integrity of the whole Rim as a continuous natural landscape.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The management strategy for this area is highly dependant on the future of non-national park lands in the segment. Because the forested lands on the Queensland side of the border are very narrow, the Association considers it important that some lands presently contained in road, Rabbit Board and Prison Reserves, be able to be converted to National Park, so that recreational use of the area can be satisfactorily managed. Until these issues are resolved, the detailed management strategy for the segment cannot be established. However, at present, the Association envisages most of the segment being managed as a Primitive Area. A small area at Lindesay Gap could be set aside as Primitive and Recreation Area, this area being accessible by road and a good access point for any track system which might be established on the New South Wales side of the border. The separate Mount Chinghee National Park could also be zoned Primitive and Recreation.

DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES

Two locations for further facilities are suggested in this segment - at Lindesay Gap and Mount Chinghee. Both sites require further investigation regarding the exact nature of facilities which might be

suitable. At this stage it is envisaged that a track system at Mount Chinghee may be able to service the Andrew Drynan Park, while a track system at Lindesay Gap may be able to co-ordinate with future development on the New South Wales side of the Rim. A camping ground might also be feasible at Lindesay Gap if a sufficient graded walking track is established.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Association considers it necessary that private vehicles be prevented from travelling along the road running beside the border fence so as to protect the wilderness character of the crest and the adjacent rainforests of Levers Plateau in New South Wales (agreed to for a National Park by the New South Wales Government). This would also assist the National Parks and Wildlife Service in preventing illegal removal of plants from this area. Such considerations are further reasons for management of the present Rabbit Board lands by National Park Authorities.

LAMINGTON TO THE COASTTHE AREA

The eastern segment of the Scenic Rim is composed of no less than five National Parks - Lamington, Natural Bridge, Warrie, Gwongorella and Mount Cougal. Together these parks cover a vast area of rich rainforest and wet eucalypt vegetation, this segment being the most luxuriant on the Rim. It is the rainforest vegetation, more than any other feature, which distinguishes the landscape of this region. However, its creeks, waterfalls, gorges and rugged topography also contribute to its appeal.

Of particular significance for the management planning of the eastern segment is that the region has been supplied with extensive graded track networks and other recreation facilities. To some extent, therefore, the future management strategy has been established by these past developments.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The management strategy we have recommended for this region is fairly simple, for the zoning strategy has been unofficially in practice for a considerable time. Two regions in this segment - southern Lamington and Mount Cougal National Park - have traditionally been managed as Primitive Areas, and it is suggested that this zoning be officially recognised. The remaining National Parks - Warrie, Gwongorella, Natural Bridge and Northern Lamington - are presently serviced by graded track networks and are suggested for zoning as Primitive and Recreation Area. With the recent purchase of lands in the Upper Currumbin Valley, it is suggested that these and the adjacent eastern part of the Mount Cougal National Park also be zoned Primitive and Recreation to allow the development of day visitor facilities.

DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES

We have not suggested a great deal of further development for this region as it is already extensively supplied with tracks and lodges. However, there does appear to be a shortage of camping facilities in the

area and it is suggested that the following be investigated as possible sites for future camping grounds -

- (i) Springbrook. The longer graded walks in the Parks at Springbrook are not being used to an optimum level by visitors, and it is probable that lack of camping facilities is a partial cause. It is suggested that private lands on the south western border of Warrie National Park be investigated regarding possible camping ground sites.
- (ii) Numinbah Valley. No camping facilities exist in the Numinbah Valley National Park, although some Forestry facilities are available. It is suggested that several sites be investigated for camp ground establishment. Possibly the most suitable site in the long term is in the south of Natural Bridge National Park, where lands close to the border fence have some lantana infestation. Another possible site is near the lower part of Nixon's Creek, although this site may increase usage of Egg and Turtle Rocks with consequent safety and environmental disadvantages.
- (iii) O'Reilly's and Binna Burra. Provision of further camping facilities at O'Reilly's and Binna Burra may be appropriate, as increasing comments are heard that visitors are considerably disappointed with the much promoted Lamington National Park, when they are confronted with small and overcrowded campgrounds.

At Binna Burra in particular there is need to develop the old Rankin property as a National Parks and Wildlife campground to relieve crowding in the small campsite run by the Binna Burra Lodge. This would also allow caravans which are impossible in the present site. Development would need to be integrated, encompassing road access, water supply, effluent disposal, and landscaping, and camping should not be allowed until

this is all possible. Layouts is particularly important and a barren car-park approach should be avoided. While funds may not be available immediately, a start could be made with the landscaping by extensive tree and shrub planting, using volunteers if necessary.

However, the campgrounds at both O'Reilly's and Binna Burra should not be allowed to grow past an optimum size as the numbers of people could increase to such an extent that the National Park experience of visitors is degraded by the sheer numbers of their fellows. Eventually a balloting system for sites in peak times will be required.

- (iv) Upper Currumbin Valley. The recent purchase of land for the National Park system in this easily accessible area now makes it of considerable significance for day recreation for visitors and residents of the Gold Coast.

An attractive creek valley, including a well known swimming hole and semi-rainforest vegetation, suggests a sizeable picnic ground, and a small graded track system would be appropriate.

If it is wished to take a track to a vantage point, it is suggested this be Boyd's Butte, rather than Mount Cougal itself, so as to protect the wilderness character of the Rim crest.

Because of the expected high usage of any facilities constructed here (possibly approaching the levels of Natural Bridge) permanent Ranger supervision would be essential.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Lamington Primitive Areas - Overuse Problems

Overusage is becoming a problem in some parts of this eastern segment, particularly in non-graded track areas. Specific problems include track

erosion, soil compaction, trampling, litter, fecal pollution and vegetation damage caused by both track blazing and firewood collection. No easy solutions exist for these problems but the situation may be eased by some of the following measures:-

- (a) Rehabilitation Works. Low visual impact rehabilitation works to some campsites and tracks may play an important role in preventing further erosion and trampling damage. In many cases natural rehabilitation can be facilitated by temporary structures or works, e.g., the fencing-off of some areas near campsites may allow regeneration of ground vegetation. However, in wilderness areas materials and construction techniques need to be carefully chosen to ensure as natural an effect as possible. The rotational use of campsites (temporarily closing down one campsite and diverting usage to another) may assist rehabilitation works. However, care should be taken that such rotation does not lead to a proliferation of degraded areas; in other words, in some places it may be preferable to have one degraded area instead of several partly-degraded areas. Campsites which require special management attention include those at Rat-a-tat, Point Lookout and the Stinson.

The well known access tracks that have developed in the southwest of the area, such as that past Westray's Grave to the Stinson, and up the valley to the Running Creek Falls, also require preventative works against erosion and vegetation damage. In particular the track to the Stinson crash where it leaves the creek is very badly eroded. Unobtrusive marking of such tracks may soon be necessary to prevent vegetation damage. However, upgrading of the tracks to full graded standard is not recommended, as this would conflict with managing this segment of

more popular routes (e.g. Shipstern, Daves Creek, the Binna Burra/O'Reilly's route and within 5km of Binna Burra and O'Reilly's), and at Natural Arch and Springbrook.

Track Marking

For some years indiscriminate track marking has been a problem in parts of Lamington National Park. This has created both safety problems (in respect of the marking of tracks in the wrong location) and environmental problems (because of the detrimental effects of machete blazing on trees, and the extra trampling damage caused by incorrect marking of trails). It is evident that stronger controls and education of visitors is required to restrict indiscriminate track marking.

In addition a policy is required on the need for track marking in southern Lamington. To date there has been no official track marking works in the area, and the Association favours continuation of this general policy as long as possible. It has been pointed out, however, that the absence of marking on the more popular tracks (e.g., the Stinson and Westray's Grave tracks) is causing some safety and environmental problems. There may be some need for small scale marking operations on some of these tracks, and investigation as to the most suitable unobtrusive method. One suggestion has been for the placing of stones on the ground.

Access Problems

There are some access problems for those wilderness walkers wishing to gain entrance to the southern end of the Lamington National Park via Running Creek, Christmas Creek and Albert River Valleys. Although official legal access is usually available by means of gazetted roads, these are in places unconstructed and trespassing on private land, either by necessity or inadvertantly, often occurs. With increasing use of the Park likely in years to come, some consideration of this situation is necessary to avoid irritation and bad feeling between landowners and visitors. It is recommended that the National Parks and Wildlife Service liaise with the landowners and the Beaudesert Shire Council to determine what access is possible, and how this can be designated.

