

From: Geoff Mosley / Liz Nettleton
Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2008 1:39 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into the Namadgi National Park Draft Plan of Management

Ms Nicola Derigo
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
Legislative Assembly of the ACT

Dear Ms Derigo

Re Inquiry into Namadgi National Park Draft Plan of Management

My Background

I have been involved with the area which is now included in the Namadgi National Park since the early 1960s when the Canberra Bushwalking Club (of which I was President and Secretary) began to lobby the Department of the Interior for a national park. The ACT National Parks Association submitted its first park proposal in June, 1963 so that the efforts of this body go back 44 years not the 24 years stated in your summary 1b. This needs correcting.

Chapter 3 k) Government Response

The ACT Government's response to the suggestions concerning noting the World Heritage potential is very disappointing.

It is very important in terms of management policy to include a full and positive statement on the World Heritage values since this is the most important aspect of the context in which appropriate standards of management are determined for Namadgi.

I attach a note concerning the milestones in the development of the concept including reference to the many studies which have affirmed the values. The main facts pertinent to Namadgi are as follows:

- 1) There has been bi-partisan political support in NSW, Victoria and the ACT for the inclusion of Namadgi in the World Heritage nomination for many years;
- 2) Official studies including that by Robert Boden on the ACT have confirmed the values;
- 3) The Expert Panel on World Heritage appointed as part of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment which preceded the Regional Forests Agreement also confirmed these values;

4) At the NGO Level the World Heritage nomination has attracted the greatest number of World Heritage nomination supporters in Australian history; and

4) Progress was blocked only by two factors: a) the focus on the Greater Blue Mts World Heritage nomination between 1996 and late 2000; and b) the recalcitrance of the Howard Government towards imaginative new World Heritage nominations between 2000 and 2007. This Government introduced the additional stage of national heritage listing. However, inclusion on the National Heritage List was not mandatory as claimed in the response.

All of the constituent parts of the World Heritage nomination have now been nominated for the National Heritage List.

With the election of the Rudd ALP Government the way is cleared for agreement on World Heritage Listing by the four Governments concerned.

It is strongly recommended that the wording with regard to World Heritage be far more positive. John Howard's days in power are over.

Regards

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9/4/08