



Media Release

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Premier should call-off Bay of Fires National Park Proposal

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust calls on the Premier David Bartlett and other supporters of the Bay of Fires national park proposal to go back to drawing board and start negotiations with the Aboriginal community.

“The Premier and other supporters are pushing ahead the Bay of Fires national park but appear to have taken for granted that the Aboriginal community will support it,” said TCT Acting Director Peter McGlone.

“Recent comments from Aboriginal groups show they may not support a national park and the belligerent approach being taken by the Premier is causing conflict that may kill-off the park’s chances.”

“It is quite patronising for people to assume that Aboriginal concerns can be assessed and incorporated into the management of a national park when no one has asked them if they want a national park.”

“The only way forward is for the Premier to abandon his commitment to a national park at all costs and sit down with the Aboriginal community and ask them if they want a national park and, if so, under what conditions.”

The TCT supports a Bay of Fires national park but only if the Aboriginal community are involved from the outset, their needs are addressed where possible and if substantial additional resources are provided for improving management of the area.

“The TCT welcomes considerable involvement of the Aboriginal community in management of the Bay of Fires area and believes that the government should offer financial support to assist with their participation in managing a future national park.”

“It would be nice to think the government could negotiate a deal where all parties get what they want and collaborate in the management of the Bay of Fires.”

“There are many threats to the natural and cultural values of the Bay of Fires including uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, poorly planned camping areas, fires, weeds, dogs and tourism developments.”

“Prior to it being declared a national park the government must work out which traditional practices will be banned and which will be allowed. With other national parks these decisions were not made before their declaration and have never been satisfactorily dealt with.”

Further information:

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