



Media Release

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Reduced Parks and Wildlife Service budget a disgrace - State Government cannot afford the Bay of Fires National Park

After announcing a reduced budget for the Parks and Wildlife Service, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust believes the State Government now cannot afford to progress with the Bay of Fires national park.

“The existing reserves in the Bay of Fires area need a substantial injection of funding to bring them up to the standard required of a national park,” said TCT Acting Director Peter McGlone. “Basic visitor services are totally inadequate for the number and type of people that a national park would attract”.

“We urge the Premier David Bartlett to put the Bay of Fires national park proposal indefinitely on hold until the financial environment improves and Parks and Wildlife Service’s funding is substantially increased.”

The TCT has written to the Premier stating it will only support a national park in the Bay of Fires area conditional on the State Government involving the Aboriginal community from the outset and addressing their needs where possible (including land transfers) and only if substantial additional resources are provided for improving management of the area.

“Unless the State Government addresses the land management and Aboriginal concerns first they will be creating a national park solely to take advantage of the benefit the name change will bring for promoting the area as a tourist attraction.”

“The reduction in the budget for the Parks and Wildlife Service is nothing short of a disgrace and the government should at least commit to maintaining the numbers of rangers, fire-fighters and other land management staff and make cuts elsewhere.”

Further information:

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