

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
Assessment and Approvals Northern Marine  
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2 May 2019

**Re: PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT ACCESS FOR GUIDED TOURS OF THE WALLABIES AT SUNRISE  
AT CAPE HILLSBOROUGH BEACH**

To Whom it may Concern

I write on behalf of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ) to object to the proposal to amend the present commercial activity agreement authorising the Sunrise with the Wallabies Experience by Mackay Tourism Ltd.

I should point out that this is an abbreviated submission in order to meet the 2 May deadline. I will, however, be writing to the Minister with a number of very specific questions about this application and why it was allowed to proceed to the point it has.

In brief, the reasons for objecting are as follows:

- It is considered totally inappropriate to give a private operator, and the operator's paying clients, exclusive access to a natural resource, in this instance agile wallabies and grey kangaroos.
- It is also considered totally inappropriate to allow those clients, or any other visitors, to feed the animals referred to above, regardless of whether the food is considered nutritious or otherwise.

Advice from the applicant refers to visitor numbers increasing from 2,000 to 23,000 over a two year period, and that "interaction between humans and animals has dramatically increased".

There can be little doubt that the increased interaction has arisen because of the feeding regime that appears to be condoned by QPWS. In this context, the proponent's website

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makes the strange statement that “The Wallabies are fed to manage the interaction between animals and humans”. This is a weird statement, as the feeding actually creates the interactions that the proponent purports to be concerned about on behalf of the wallabies. Far be it for me to suggest that the concern may possibly relate to the fact that a lot of people who are not fee-paying clients of the proponent are interacting with the macropods. Exclusive use of an area by the proponent would certainly rectify that circumstance.

It is hard to comprehend how and why QPWS can condone such feeding, particularly as it is presently in the process of dramatically increasing penalties for feeding dingoes on Fraser Island, as well as educating visitors about the dangers of feeding wild animals.

There are many recorded instances of people being injured, and even killed, by kangaroos. The agile wallaby is a large wallaby and could also inflict damage on a person, particularly a child.

I will also be asking the Minister to explain how QPWS would contemplate providing exclusive use of an area without using the restricted access provisions of section 119 in light of the advice provided by the Service that “The application does not relate to the declaration of a ‘Restricted Access Area’ under section 119 of the *Marine Park Regulation 2017*”. To the best of my knowledge, a commercial activity agreement cannot, of itself, restrict public access to part of a marine park or national park. Neither can it provide penalty provisions for anyone not complying with access constraints. It is difficult to understand how the proposal could be achieved without a restricted access declaration.

Without knowing the provisions of the existing commercial activity agreement, it is impossible to comment on it. Perhaps it also needs to be reconsidered if it overtly or covertly condones a feeding regime for the macropods by the agreement holder.

In any event, please record this objection to the proposed section 71 amendment to the existing commercial activity agreement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Ogilvie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, horizontal flourish line.

Peter Ogilvie  
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2 May 2019