

08 July 2003

ABN No: 30 841 387 271



**NSW  
NATIONAL  
PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

Ms Dianne Trussell  
Po Box 642  
BYRON BAY NSW 2481

Our reference: L01642  
Your reference:

Dear Ms Trussell

**Tyagarah Nature Reserve and the adjoining area of Cape Byron Marine Park.**

I refer to your letter dated 26 May 2003 and the National Parks and Wildlife Service's (NPWS) initial response of 10 June 2003 regarding the above.

I appreciate your concern regarding visitor impacts on these conservation areas and have provided the following information that corresponds to the sequence of issues you have raised in your letter:

**Road Management**

The NPWS are only responsible for maintaining that part of Grays Lane that is within the reserve ie. the part of the road leading from the park user fee station to the beach car park. This road has not been widened but is subject to regular grading and re-sheeting. These essential works are to maintain the integrity of the road and reduce environmental impacts associated with a deteriorating road surface.

You will need to contact Byron Shire Council regarding your concerns over any widening of Grays Lane from the Pacific Highway to the reserve entry.

Your suggestion of speed reduction measures on that part of the road within the reserve is being investigated.

**Car Parking**

The small sealed car park was provided in lieu of closing of the old loop road adjoining this area. The old loop road provided approximately 200m of on-road parking which had a higher potential parking capacity than the current sealed car park.

The car park was provided to cater for existing levels of use and has reduced long-term maintenance costs and environmental damage associated with car parking. The provision of a single, highly visible car park has also reduced undesirable activities such as illegal camping and the lighting of fires.

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Weed control is currently underway around the old loop road in preparation for the revegetation of this area with over 2000 native plantings.

#### Toilet & other visitor facilities

The composting toilet has also been provided to cater for existing levels of use and to replace the old pit toilet that did not meet environmental standards. Given many visitors spend hours at the beach, this toilet reduces human waste problems that would arise if no toilet was provided. The only other facilities provided are picnic tables adjoining the car park. An interpretive sign is soon to be installed at the car park beach entry to inform visitors of the reserve's natural and cultural values and how to protect them.

#### Dog walking on the beach

Tyagarah Beach itself is not within Tyagarah Nature Reserve and the NPWS currently have no control over dogs on the beach. However, the potential impacts of dogs on native fauna at Tyagarah Beach has been raised by the NPWS with Byron Shire Council who are responsible for managing dog exercise areas.

The future use of Tyagarah Beach for dog walking is to be addressed as part of the process concerning the preparation of a zoning plan for Cape Byron Marine Park which includes this beach. With respect to the management of companion animals in marine parks, it is the policy of the NSW Marine Parks Authority that the management of coastal areas of marine parks should reflect the management arrangements of adjacent land management agencies.

#### Motorised craft in the shallows

Management of motorised watercraft is undertaken by officers of NSW Waterways in accordance with the provisions of legislation administered by that authority. This legislation includes the following restrictions on the operation of vessels in the vicinity of swimmers:

- Vessels travelling at speeds of less than 10 knots cannot approach closer than 30 metres to swimmers.
- Vessels travelling at speeds greater than 10 knots cannot approach closer than 60 metres to swimmers.

Further information concerning the operation of motorised watercraft can be obtained from the Waterways information line on 131256.

#### Vehicles on the beach

Whilst the use of trail bikes and four-wheel drives on Tyagarah Beach is currently managed by Byron Shire Council, this issue will also be addressed as part of the zoning plan currently being prepared for the Cape Byron Marine Park.

As with the management of companion animals in the marine park, it is the policy of the NSW Marine Parks Authority that the management of coastal areas of marine parks should reflect the management arrangements of adjacent land management agencies.

### Rubbish Collection

The NPWS currently remove rubbish from around the car park and ti-tree lakes on a regular basis as part of routine maintenance. It is NPWS policy to encourage people to take their rubbish home with them. Your suggestion of signage in this regard is being investigated.

### Littering

Littering in the marine park, which includes the beach up to the mean high water mark, is an offence and is covered by regulation 145 (1) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and carries a maximum fine of \$1,000. Marine park rangers have undertaken training and will be appointed inspectors under this legislation in the near future.

### Sexual Harassment

The NPWS have increased patrols and installed signs with police contact details in an attempt to address any sexual harassment. The NPWS have also asked the police to regularly patrol the reserve.

### Inappropriate Advertisement

The NPWS are aware of similar advertising for other areas of NPWS estate. Unfortunately, attempts by the NPWS to discourage this type of advertising through contact with relevant publishers has provided little benefit in addressing this issue.

### Reserve Classification

The gazettal of Tyagarah Nature Reserve under this classification is recognition of its natural and cultural importance. The primary intent of management is for the conservation of wildlife. This is reflected by providing for the majority of visitor use within an area of only a few hectares that includes the access road and car park, leaving an area of over 700 hectares to be managed for conservation purposes.

### Further Development

There is no further development currently proposed for the reserve with the exception of the installation of the interpretive sign referred to above and the replacement of other facilities as necessary.

### NPWS signage

There is already regulatory signage at the reserve entrance and along the access road advising visitors of regulations including penalties for having a dog in the reserve. There are a number of NPWS patrols per week to enforce this and other regulations.

### Marine Park signage

The provision of marine park regulatory signage will occur upon adoption of the zoning plan for the marine park and may include signage regarding the use of vehicles on the beach. Currently, vehicle use on Tyagarah beach is managed by Byron Shire Council, as advised previously in this letter.

I appreciate your concern and interest in protecting Tyagarah Nature Reserve and Cape Byron Marine Park. Should you have any enquiries regarding matters relating to: the nature reserve, please contact NPWS Rangers David Edwards or Norman Graham on 6680 977; or the marine park, please contact Marine Parks Authority Ranger Ian Kerr on 6685 8505.

Yours sincerely



David Murray  
AREA MANAGER - RICHMOND RIVER AREA  
For the  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Andrew Page  
MANAGER - CAPE BYRON MARINE PARK  
NSW MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY