

29 July 2019

Dear Bob

I spent the summers of 1972/3 and 1973/74 collecting vegetation data in the West Coast Range (see attached article-last para apposite to below). Here are my thoughts on the walk proposal.

The Tyndall Range has one of the few remaining large areas of alpine vegetation that shows no signs of burning since the glaciers disappeared from Tasmania over 11,000 years ago. The subalpine rainforests are rich in fire-sensitive pines and deciduous beech, which extend as shrubs into the alpine area. The alpine vegetation is rich in Tasmanian endemic species that are confined to the west coast. It is also highly sensitive to trampling. The work of Whinam and Chilcott in similar vegetation indicates that 100 pairs of feet a year are enough to break through the vegetation surface and initiate peat loss. It is highly undesirable to establish a walking track through this environment without complete separation from the vegetation.



The scenic grandeur of the Mt Huntley cirque wall is best appreciated from below or the opposite ridge (see photo), rather than above, especially since the naturalness of the view from the top of the Tyndall Range is marred by mines and hydro-electric impoundments. The best wilderness views and experience would be provided by a track that traversed the Lake Spicer Plateau and involved the lake country to the north of Mt Sedgwick, before descending from Lake Margaret.

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