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Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
Assessment and Approvals Northern Marine  
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24/04/19

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Re: MACKAY TOURISM PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT BEACH ACCESS FOR GUIDED WALLABY SUNRISE TOURS AT CAPE HILLSBOROUGH BEACH**

We wish to make the following comments on the application by Mackay Tourism to be granted exclusive access to 2000 square metres of beach at Cape Hillsborough, for a period of approximately 90 minutes each day, in order to allow the Cape Hillsborough Nature Tourist Park to conduct wallaby viewing tours for paying clients.

**Who we are**

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) is a peak organisation for the region and is part of a network of statewide conservation councils. Established in 1974, NQCC is a not-for-profit incorporated association with a broad mandate to protect the “land, waters and atmosphere of the region” and since then has worked continuously on a number of environmental issues of significance to North Queensland and beyond. NQCC covers an area along the coast from Bowen in the South, North to Cardwell and inland to Mt Isa, through to the border of Northern Territory. We are the voice for the environment and represent over 1500 members and supporters.

Our organisation stands by the firm position that it is unacceptable to allow a private concern to be granted exclusive use of a public beach, or section of beach, *within a marine park*, for a fee-paying event. Moreover, it will set an undesirable precedent likely to encourage private enterprise elsewhere to push for the exclusive right to run other fee-paying wildlife viewing events in our protected areas.

As justification, the applicants have cited the need to control the large numbers of visitors coming to the beach and to maintain the well-being of the wallabies and the safety and

quality of experience for the visitors. This is not an acceptable argument as feeding the wildlife in itself is an unacceptable activity. This activity will have impact on natural activities of this species that is likely to have flow-on impact to other parts of the ecological system. It also gives members of the public the false idea that feeding wildlife anywhere, let alone in protected areas, is an acceptable practice and endorsed by the QPWS. This is a very alarming precedent.

We ask that the feeding of wallabies not be allowed as it is contrary to the QPWS policy that should remain to protect our wildlife. It undermines the cardinal rule of visitation to parks and interactions between people and wildlife.

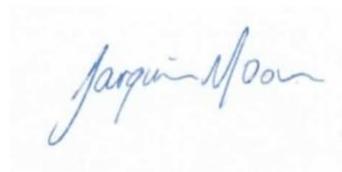
Instead, NQCC supports meaningful experiences where people gain a better understanding and appreciation for wildlife in a way that in not harming the ecosystem. NQCC would only support that this activity be managed only by QPWS to better manage visitor numbers and ensure the well-being of wallabies, the safety of viewers (especially children) and a positive experience for all, is to have the event *managed, ticketed and run by QPWS*. This is the Service responsible for both wildlife management and human visitation to protected areas.

We thank you for giving me the opportunity to make these comments and **we ask that this application not be approved.**

I hope you will take these concerns on board and re-consider QPWS approval for the Tourist Park, or any other enterprise, to incorporate wildlife feeding into their tours.

Please contact our organisation if you would like any further information by emailing [campaigns@nqcc.org.au](mailto:campaigns@nqcc.org.au) or calling 0428 987 535.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tarquin Moon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tarquin Moon  
Campaigns Manager