

LCC SW, District 2 – comment on draft recommendations

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

SUBMISSION ON

MT NAPIER, MT ECCLES STATE PARKS PROPOSAL, LCC SW-2

The proposal to reserve both areas is supported. However, we feel that together the Mt Napier and Mt Eccles units should have been combined to form a Volcanics National Park. The outstanding natural features more than compensate for lack of more than one land type. Other points of interest could be included in the "Park" at a later date - e.g. Tower Hill - albeit they remain under present management.

The education area at Mt Napier forest seems to be rather large. If it is needed at all then perhaps the area around Menzel's Pit (near the south end of proposed area) would be adequate. In our experience schools would prefer to use other areas for excursions.

Report should emphasise the need for protective burning around the perimeter of the area, rather than in the centre. Burning in this area is very damaging and this particular form of Manna gum is very prone to fire death. An adequate network of fire-access trails (boundary and central) must be introduced in order to control the spread of fires, which have all been man-made in recent years.

At Lake Condah some rather infertile freehold land presently separates part of the Park from the Lake. This land ought to be acquired as a matter of urgency. Cattle from this property graze all over the Lake and Crown land in the stones. The freehold land concerned is an outlying paddock, not an integral part of a nearby farm.

Access to the Lake now necessarily traverses the intervening freehold land.

Provision should be made for re-flooding the Lake to its former extent, as occurred when aboriginals used the area. The significance of the eel traps - weirs now are hard to see - reflooding would solve that problem.

Grazing at Mt Napier and Mt Eccles should be terminated as soon as possible - preferably within 5 years.