

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 65

asked on Wednesday, 15 February 2017

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**MR G ELMES** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's plans for a long overdue review of the Mount Coolum National Park plan—

Will the Minister advise (a) what plans are in place to consult with the local community on how best to manage our much-loved iconic attraction and (b) what specific visitor counts have been conducted by the department on the Mount Coolum summit trail?

### ANSWER:

(a) The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is developing a new management plan (the draft plan) for Mount Coolum National Park, under a Values Based Park Management Framework.

The draft plan and an accompanying visitor strategy are expected to be released for public consultation in May 2017. This means that the local community will be able to have a say on the contents of the draft plan including: Mount Coolum National Park's 'key values' such as the summit Montane Heath Community and recreation and tourism opportunities provided along the Summit Track; threats to those values; and how to manage those values, threats and other priorities including visitor access, pests and fire.

The public will also be given the opportunity to make submissions on the draft plan, before it is finalised and approved by the Minister.

There will also be targeted consultation with Traditional Owners and key stakeholder groups.

(b) QPWS collects visitor data through pedestrian counters installed along the Mount Coolum Summit Trail which provides an estimate of general visitation numbers rather than definitive numbers.

The estimated number of visitors to the Mount Coolum Summit Trail are provided below:

Year	Estimated No. of Visitors
2012	60,000
2013	77,000
2014	198,000*
2015	184,000

\* increase attributed to increasing awareness of trail (particularly fitness groups) following completion of summit trail works.

The figures for 2016 are not provided due to counter device failure. However, a new visitor data counter on the Mount Coolum Summit Route was installed in February 2017.