

Question on Notice

No. 178

Asked on Tuesday, 18 February 2020

MS F SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the estimated 240,000 visitors per year to Mt Coolum National Park, the strong public support for toilets at this site due to the negative impact on the environment and public comfort by not having toilets nearby, and the fact toilets were excluded from the updated Management Plan released in November 2019—

Will the Minister listen to the majority of people and act to rectify this omission and will the Minister release the Mount Coolum National Park Visitor Strategy mentioned in the Plan?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Mount Coolum National Park is a recorded “Significant Aboriginal Area” under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, reflecting the importance of the National Park to Traditional Owners.

The Department Environment and Science (the department) and the Kabi Kabi First Nations peoples worked in partnership to develop the Mount Coolum National Park Management Plan.

During the development of the plan, Kabi Kabi First Nation peoples expressed their wishes that no new facilities be built in the National Park. This position has been captured in the Management Plan and accompanying Visitor Strategy.

The department stands ready to work cooperatively with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council regarding options for facilities in areas adjacent to the National Park.

As the elected representative for this area, I encourage the Member to include the views and aspirations of Traditional Owner groups in her representations about local issues.

The Mount Coolum Management Plan and Visitor Strategy are publicly available on the department’s website at <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/managing/plans-strategies/>.