

NATIONAL PARK IN "TIGER COUNTRY"

About a tenth of the "tiger country" between Bordertown and Pinnaroo would be developed and much more than that would become national park, the Minister of Lands (Mr. Brookman) said in the Assembly yesterday.

He told the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Corcoran) that it was proposed to offer about 50,000 acres for sale.

This would be divided into 10 allotments with the size and conditions depending on the nature of enquiries.

"This is certainly not country which would be offered to anybody with insufficient finance," Mr. Brookman said.

People interested in conservation had expressed concern about plans to break up the country.

He had told a deputation that 50,000 acres were proposed for development and 75,000 for a national park.

This would leave an area of about 375,000 acres and he expected that in due course a great part of this area would also become national park.

The Advertiser 5/11/69

Telegrams Swap On S.-E. Plan

The Advertiser 10/11/69

An organisation claiming that a Little Desert-type conflict was looming in SA over State Government plans to develop 50,000 acres of "tiger country" in the South-East seemed to be looking for conflict, the Minister of Lands (Mr. Brookman) suggested at the week-end.

Mr. Brookman's suggestion was contained in a telegram in response to a protest by the natural environment committee of the SA Town and Country Planning Association.

In the Assembly last week, Mr. Brookman said that about a tenth of "tiger country" between Bordertown and Pinnaroo was to be developed and much more would become national park.

The committee's secretary (Mr. D. G. Strahle), in a telegram from Melbourne to the Minister at the week-end, said that the development prospects for the area might be even worse than for the Little Desert in Victoria.

The telegram urged Mr. Brookman to call a halt to the proposal to allow checking by independent experts.

Mr. Strahle sought the release of the Minister's analysis of agricultural and economic prospects of the proposed South-East development.

He added: "Hope all concerned can be spared conflict like that raging here in Victoria. Can you answer urgently please."

Mr. Brookman, in his telegram, said the land for allotment was one-tenth of that available in the area.

Settlement was not certain and depended on economics following consideration of applications.

The Minister said he was available for discussions.

"This was explained to your organisation recently along with undertaking for still larger area of national park," Mr. Brookman's telegram said.

"As you should be aware of all this it is hard to reconcile claim that you hope to avoid conflict with your action in widely distributing your telegram."

The Minister ended by asking the organisation to do the courtesy of distributing his telegram to the same people as Mr. Strahle's telegram had

Reserves And Development

Sir—The Minister of Lands has announced that 50,000 acres of Crown Land in the "Tiger Country" near Bordertown, is to be released for pastoral development.

Also, the annual report of the Department of Lands indicates that it proposes to release—again, for grazing purposes—an even larger area of Crown land (43,500 square miles) in the north-west of the State.

Has the Government carried out a thorough survey of the fauna and flora existing in these areas? Can we be assured that no rare species of wild life or tree or plant, will be endangered or will disappear altogether with these developments?

In the case of the Tiger Country, it is encouraging to hear that 75,000 acres is to be declared a reserve; but since this area is of lower agricultural value than that to be developed it is likely that some species exist in the one area but not the other.

An area being considered for a reserve in the north-west is only one-tenth the area proposed for development, and again, will apparently be of lower agricultural grade.

Much of our unique natural heritage has already been lost forever because land has been developed in the past on a vast and ruthless scale. Must this continue?

P. R. S. GOULD-HURST
Baroota avenue, Rostrevor

The Advertiser 5/11/69

The Advertiser 13/11/69

"Dismay" At Land Plan

Sir—Members of the Adelaide Bushwalkers are dismayed at the proposals of the Government to release 40,000 acres of land for clearing and "development" near Bordertown in the "Tiger Country."

This land is the last area of natural bushland left in the southern part of the State which is large enough to provide a habitat for flora and fauna unique to that area.

The land in question is not particularly good agricultural land and it would cost a lot of money to make it suitable for farming at a time when farm produce is so abundant that it is becoming hard to sell in an increasingly competitive market.

A far better use for the land would be to reserve it to be left in its natural state as it is ideally situated in an area where there is too little reserved land and it is of considerable scenic beauty.

In a few years the increased population of the State will appreciate the value of research and recreation of a large area of virgin bushland not too far from Adelaide.

W. E. MOUNSTER,
Conservation Secretary,
Adelaide Bushwalkers.

'Tiger' Land As Park

The Minister of Lands (Mr. Brookman) forecast yesterday that up to 90 p.c. of the "tiger country" of the Upper South-East would be retained as a national park.

Replying in the Assembly to Mr. McAnaney (LCP), Mr. Brookman said it was proposed initially to offer 10 p.c. of the available Government land for development.

Another 70,000 acres would be dedicated as a national park.

The future of the remaining 375,000 acres of "tiger country" was undecided.

The Advertiser
20/11/69

In S.-E.

Sir—In your editorial (11/12/69) on the postponement of the Victorian Government's Little Desert plan you made comparisons to "cautious steps" of the SA Government to develop part of the lighter rainfall area between Bordertown and Pinnaroo (the Tiger Country).

In fact, there is a remarkable parallel between the two proposals.

The areas to be developed are both of 50,000 acres (to be subdivided into 10 blocks in SA and 12 in Victoria). In SA, an area of 75,000 acres is proposed for a national park; in Victoria, more than 80,000 acres.

The agricultural and economic prospects for both are agreed by experts to be very poor, but the Tiger Country may be worse in this respect.

Plans for the SA subdivision appear to be well advanced, and the only tangible indication of "caution" so far given by the Government is that "this is certainly not country which would be offered to anybody with insufficient finance."

Perhaps the main difference between the Little Desert and the Tiger Country is that conservationists in Victoria are less docile. So much of SA has gone to the bulldozer that possibly South Australians have given up the battle.

H. R. HOLLIDAY
Addison avenue,
Athelstone.

CAUTION OVER LAND

The Minister of Lands (Mr. Brookman) said yesterday it was not yet certain that there would be any settlement on land which had been surveyed into blocks in an area between Bordertown and Pinnaroo in the upper South-East.

If prospective settlers could not submit satisfactory proposals no development would take place.

Mr. Brookman's statement follows suggestions that there is a strong need to reserve this type of country from development.

He said there was nearly 1,000 square miles of Crown land in the area and the proposal was to develop something less than one-tenth of it.

In preparing the blocks great care had been taken to follow the programme laid down by Parliament.

Mr. Brookman said: "In spite of wool price difficulties there is no doubt that in the right hands, this type of country could be an economic proposition."

"We are going to talk to people who might be interested to see what sort of proposition they can put forward."

"If they cannot satisfy us that it would be economically feasible then we won't go on with it."

Mr. Brookman said that at least 75,000 acres would become national park—much more than the area contemplated for development.

There would be any amount of national park to satisfy the most ardent conservationist.

The limited development proposed would do no disservice to conservation but would considerably add to investment within the State.

The Advertiser 15/12/69

The Advertiser 15/12/69