

HUMAN IMPACT ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Mt Spec National Park – McClelland's Lookout Picnic Area

Background

In this activity, you will be looking at the natural, built and social environment of McClelland's Lookout picnic area and its associated areas. You will be assessing the extent to which McClelland's Lookout has maintained its value as National Park and so reflects an area of minimal impact. The value of a National Park is captured in the following definition:

National Parks are relatively large areas set aside for their features of predominantly unspoilt natural landscape, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education, and inspiration and protected from all interference other than the essential management practices so that their natural attributes are preserved. (Fourth Ministerial Conference on National Parks, 1970)

In point form, the values of a National Park can be summarised:

- National Parks provide an escape from a world which is becoming increasingly urbanised – a chance to experience the outdoors
- National Parks provide places where quiet recreational activities can be pursued.
- National Parks provide places where flora and fauna are preserved and the natural landscape is left undisturbed.
- National Parks provide places where educational activities can be undertaken.
- National Parks provide places for scientific research and discovery.
- National Parks provide places for environmental appreciation and a sense of wilderness.

Task Instructions

1. At McClelland's Lookout picnic area and carpark, a number of man-made features now exist. Record your observations of these features of the built environment, making notes on the extent to which these enhance or detract from the values of National Parks as stated above.
2. Comment on the visual impact of these features.
3. Comment on the environmental impact of these features. Some suggested Impact Assessment Criteria are listed to assist you.

You will be looking at the following features. Work in pairs/ small groups and spread out around the whole picnic area to avoid congestion near any one feature.

- Gas barbecues
- Picnic tables
- Shelter shed
- Toilets
- Carpark and roadways
- Walking Tracks
- Lookouts
- Interpretive signage providing information for visitors
- Any additional features of the built environment not already listed

McCLELLAND'S LOOKOUT IMPACT ASSESSMENT									
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria		
Gas BBQs	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Number • Materials • Size • Design • Colour 		
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes					
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria		
Picnic Tables	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Number • Materials • Size • Design • Colour 		
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes					
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria		
Shelter Shed	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Number • Materials • Size • Design • Colour 		
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes					

McCLELLAND'S LOOKOUT IMPACT ASSESSMENT									
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria		
Toilets	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Number • Materials • Size • Design • Colour 		
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes					
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria		
Carpark/roadway	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Drainage • Materials • Size/ area • Capacity/ parking spots • Safety 		
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes					
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria		
Walking Tracks	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Access • Width • Materials • Angle/ slope • Length/ Distance • Damage Control Devices 		
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes					

McCLELLAND'S LOOKOUT IMPACT ASSESSMENT										
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria			
Lookouts	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Numbers • Visibility • Materials • Size • Design 			
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes						
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria			
Interpretive information for visitors	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Format (written or pictorial) • Detail/ depth • Clarity • Relevance • Availability 			
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes						
Facility	Visual Appeal			Environmental Impact			Impact Assessment Criteria			
Any additional features?	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			
	Evidence/ Reasoning Notes			Evidence/ Reasoning Notes						