



Townsville Metal Detecting Club Inc.

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Action Plan for Tourism Recovery - Discussion paper submission

Let us introduce ourselves Townsville Metal Detecting Club is the oldest continuous detecting club in Queensland, the club was formed in 1984 and currently has a membership of approximately 140 Members. Due to the numerous field trips and other activities, we have members from all over Queensland as well as other states.

Our Member Range in the age of 50 plus years with many retirees, all having a common interest of Metal Detecting for gold, our field trips are taken place on private cattle stations of North Queensland.

Without these private cattle stations allowing the Club Members onto their property's the club would be non-existent. Queensland Government provides areas of General Permission areas or Designated Fossicking lands to detect, with some of the areas being in Central Queensland, Northern Queensland has only ONE area designated as a goldfield for all North Queensland.

Townsville Metal Detecting Club proposes that the Queensland government recommend Metal Detecting to be permitted in National Parks, Conservation Parks, Wildlife Reserves, State Forest, and State Timber Reserves.

With the recent time of uncertainty of the economic growth to our state, tourism is one industry that will suffer unless we change our ways, traveling to overseas destinations will possibly be a long time before this happens, by increasing and diversifying the range of tourism destinations within Queensland we can open more land for people's recreational activities this will also increase businesses across small rural towns and promote Growth for their communities.

Within our three million hectares of Queensland State reserve assets and with reform between levels of government and change of restructuring departments we can allow these resources opened for public use providing increased, economic, social, and environmental returns to the people of Queensland.

In 2019, it was estimated that 11,200 recreational prospectors in Queensland undertook approximately 391.6 days of prospecting activity across 252.3 trips.

The majority of activity 86 percent was undertaken by Queensland residents and the remaining 14 percent of activity undertaken by 1,900 interstate visitors.

Across all prospecting trips and days, approximately 53.9 million dollars was spent by recreational prospectors in Queensland.

As a club of 37 years, we hope you consider our submission on behalf of our members.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Queensland issue.

Yours sincerely

Ian Weeks
President
TMDC