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**CEO,
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an amateur radio operator (amateur radio call sign – VK5PAS)/ I am also the International Chairperson for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, which is an international amateur radio program, the purpose of which is to:

‘draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna, and to encourage the development of radio skills, especially in portable operations’.

The WWFF program encourages amateur radio operators to operate portable from designated parks and/or protected nature areas around the world, and in turn generate attention for these areas, whilst providing the amateur radio community an interesting and rewarding activity.

What is amateur radio? Amateur radio is a multifaceted hobby which involves the radio transmission communication between radio amateurs by voice, digital techniques, morse code, pictures and video signals. The hobby is shared by around three million people throughout the world.

I have enclosed a brochure entitled 'Calling CQ' which explains the hobby of amateur radio. Further information on the hobby of amateur radio can be found at:

<http://www.wia.org.au/discover/introduction/about/>

I have further enclosed a brochure which explains the WWFF program. Further information on WWFF can be found at:

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com>

The WWFF program in Australia has been running for about 4 years, with hundreds of parks all across Australia having been activated by amateur radio operators.

During a typical park activation, an amateur radio operator will leave a very small footprint and there will be no impact on the environment whatsoever. Equipment used is generally a small transceiver, a power source, and a small antenna. Power used is normally around 50 watts, about the same amount of power used to power a light globe. I have attached some photographs of a typical amateur radio park activation.



All amateur radio operators involved in the program have a great love of the environment and often report having taken other people's rubbish home with them in an effort to keep the park tidy. All WWFF participants are cognisant of safety issues, e.g. tripping hazards, etc. To date, with thousands of activations having been undertaken across Australia, there have been no reported incidents.

Whilst activating parks, amateur radio operators often engage in conversation with passersby, explaining the hobby of amateur radio. Many amateur operators have blog sites and record their activities, providing international exposure for the hobby of amateur radio and the parks they operate from within. An example of such a blog can be found at:

<https://vk5pas.org/>

In September 2016 the Belair National Park, Australia's second oldest National Park, celebrated its 125th birthday. Myself and other amateurs were invited by the Department of Environment Water & Natural Resources to take part in the celebrations, and set up a

portable amateur radio station. Below are some photographs of that event. Park activating is a terrific way of exposing our hobby and at the same time promoting the parks.



Amateurs visiting parks would be happy to provide to your department with any required information, e.g. condition of the park, damage observed, etc. Please let me know if we can assist in any way. Recently there was significant damage caused to a new track in the Onkaparinga River National Park in South Australia. We would be more than happy to report any suspicious behavior to your office and/or the Police should we observe it.

Although most interaction with park rangers has been positive over the years, I have been advised of some incidents where that has not been the case. I have been assured by those concerned that they were abiding by all laws and not behaving irresponsibly, nor performing any activity to the detriment of the environment, nor placing people's safety in jeopardy.

As such I thought I would bring this activity to the attention of your Department, in the hope that the word can be spread to rangers about this activity.

I provide this information for your attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Simmonds.