"Dismay" At Land Plan

Sit - Members of the Adelaide Bushwalkers are dismayed at the proposals of the Government to lease 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 little reserved land and it is of considerable scenic value.

In a few years the increase in grazing pressure on the State will appreciate the value of research and reseeding. A few acres of virgin bushland is not too far for Adelaide.

W. E. MOUGSTER
Conservation Secretary, Adelaide Bushwalkers.

In S.E. - Sir - In your editorial (11/12/69) you express the disappointment of Victorian Government's Little De- ser Plan which is made com- parisons to "cautious steps" of the SA Govern- ment. This is particularly the case of the lighter rainfall area between Bordertown and Pinnaaro (the Tiger Country).

In fact, there is a re- markable parallel between the two proposals.

The area to be developed are both of 50,000 acres (to be subdivided into 450 acres and 12 in Victoria). In SA, an area of 75,000 acres has been reserved for pastoral purposes.

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

The farmers are said to be subdividing their pastures to sell and the Government is said to be subdividing their land in an area which is described as "ceasing." and no such statement as given.

Perhaps the most difficult problem in the Little Desert is the "Tiger Country." The farmers are not for conservationists in Victoria are less so. So much of SA's farmland is unlikely to be sold, but the area is one which is suitable for pasture.

R. H. HINDSEY
Adviser, Athelstone.

NATIONAL PARK IN "TIGER COUNTRY"

About a tenth of the "tiger country" between Bord- ertown and Pinnaaro would be much more than that which would be needed for national parks said a Member (Mr. Brokman) in the Assembly yesterday.

He told the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Corcoran) that it was proposed to reserve 50,000 acres of "tiger country" near Bordertown as a national park.

This would be divided into 10 allotments with the same conditions depending on the nature of the ground.

"This is certainly not country which would be of- fered for sale with insufficient finance," Mr. Brokman 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 far development and 15,000 for a na- tional park.

This would leave an area of about 375,000 acres and the Minister stated he would be ready to survey the area of which this would become a national park.

Telegrams Swap On S.E. Plan

An organisation claiming it has reached a part- type conflict was looming in SA over State Govern- ment's plans to reserve 50,000 acres of "tiger country" near Bordertown-South-East seemed to be looking for conflict after a meeting of the Minister of Lands (Mr. Brokman) suggested at the weekend.

Mr. Brokman's sugges- tions were contained in a telegram to a response to a proposal to reserve an area of natural en- vironment committee of the State Forest, Parks, and Planning Association.

In the Assembly last week, Mr. Brokman said the "tiger country" near Bordertown and Pinnaaro was to be developed and much more would become national park.

The committee's secre- tary (Mr. Strahl) in a telegram to Mel- bourne said the Minister at the week-end indicated the development prospects for natural environment areas were even worse than for the Little Desert area.

The telegram urged Mr. Brokman to consider the proposal to allow clearing of the area by independent experts.

Mr. Strahl sought the return of the organisation's analysis of agricultural and economic conditions of the proposed South-East development.

He added: "We hope all concerned can be spared the conflict that is raging here in SA. Can you answer urgently please?"

The telegram said the land for allotment was one-quarter of the natural environment area. Settlement was not cer- tain and depended on economic conditions and consider- ations of agriculture. Government officials were to be available for discus- sion.

"This waa eaned to your organisation recently along with undertaking for still larger area of re- serve and Mr. Brokman's telegraph to the secretary." Mr. Strahl's telegram said.

Reserves And Development

Sir - The Minister of Lands (Mr. Brokman) forecasts 50,000 acres of "tiger country" near Bordertown as a national park. This land is not far from Crown land (45,500 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 rare species of wild life or trees or plants will not be eradicated or disappear altogether with these developments?

In the case of the Tiger Country, it is encouraging to hear that 25,000 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 speci- mens from the 25,000 acres will not be useful.

An area being consid- ered for a reserve in the north-west is only con- taining the area proposed for development and again, will apparently be of little use to lower agricultural values.

Much of our unique nat- ural heritage has already been lost forever because land has been developed on a vast and ruthless scale. Must this continue?

R. S. GOULD-HUNST
Roorda Avenue, Box Hill.

'Tiger' Land As Park

The Minister of Lands (Mr. Brokman) forecasts that 50,000 acres of "tiger country" near Bordertown would be retained as a na- tional park.

Replying in the Assembly (11/12/69), Mr. Brokman said the proposal initially to offer 10,000 acres of the area for the Lord Mayor's 4th Loan raised objections from conservationists.

He said there was nearly 150,000 acres of Crown land on the area and said the Government did not intend to develop anything less than 45,000 acres.

In preparing the blocks great care had been taken to survey the area laid down by Parliament.

He said his objections in spite of wool price diffi- culties were on the basis that in the right hands, this area would be an economic proposi- tion.

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

If they cannot satisfy us, the land will be sold or economically feasible then we will of course sell it.

Mr. Brokman said that as the area was within the Tiger Country would become national park - more or less - the area contemplated for development.

There would be any amount of national parks adjacent to conservation areas.

The Government development proposed would do no damage to farming but would consider development and this was better than at present within the State.

CAUTION OVER LAND

The Minister of Lands (Mr. Brokman) said yes- terday that there was no cer- tainty that there would be any settlement on land which had been surveyed into blocks between Bordertown and Pinnaaro in the upper South-East.

Development of the area could not be considered satis- factory proposals no develop- ment was envisaged by the Government.

Mr. Brokman's state- ments followed what he described as a strong request for development of the land from a local concern.

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