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[www.friendsofcradlevalley.org](http://www.friendsofcradlevalley.org)

17 June 2010

The Manager  
Tasmania & Antarctica Regional Office  
Bureau of Meteorology  
111 Macquarie Street (5th Floor)  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Manager,

**Re: REQUEST FOR CRADLE VALLEY TO BE INCLUDED IN WEATHER REPORTS  
AND WEATHER FORECASTS**

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Cradle Valley community advocacy group to ask if you would please provide additional regular information in your daily weather reports and forecasts that are broadcast on the ABC northern regional radio and TV.

These additional broadcasts would be helpful to tourists, local residents, service, freight and tour bus drivers, National Park rangers, staff at the accommodation establishments at Cradle Mountain Village and the many mine workers who use the Cradle Mountain Tourist Road and the West Coast Link Road in the North-West Highlands and travel either early in the morning or late at night.

As you are probably aware, Cradle Mountain is Tasmania's premier tourist destination, attracting over 250,000 visitors annually. The many tourist accommodation houses in the Cradle Mountain Village have over 1,000 beds which are serviced by staff many of whom commute daily from Ulverstone, Wilmot, Devonport, Latrobe and Sheffield. The Village is the most popular Gateway to the Cradle Mountain Lake St. Clair National Park, the Western Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and is also the start of the internationally celebrated Overland Track 5 day Walk.

As the weather conditions on the North-West Highlands around Cradle Valley are often quite different to those on the Central Plateau at Liawenee or at Mount Reid (the nearest weather stations that are regularly referred to by the ABC), the information that is currently being provided by the Bureau of Meteorology to the public is not always relevant for the Cradle Valley precincts, and may actually be meaningless or misleading to visitors. For instance, the fishing communities around Great Lake (Liawenee) may be experiencing a clear day while Middlesex and Cradle Valley are enveloped in fog, rain, snow and icy road

conditions which lends one to suspect we should not be generalising too much across the whole region by relying on the reports from Mt Reid and Liawenee.

Reduced visibility due to fogs or low cloud are especially hazardous for bushwalkers in the vicinity of Cradle Mountain who can become disoriented (and sometimes lost) in it, as well as a danger to motorists on the Cradle Mountain Tourist Road and the West Coast Link Road with windy roads, snow and ice. Given the relatively high incident of traffic accidents on the roads leading to the Cradle Valley, there needs to be a concerted effort by all Government and non-Government agencies to help reduce road hazards.

Also during snow periods, which can happen during summer as well as winter, it would be very helpful to tourists, National Park Rangers, accommodation house staff and local residents if you included some 'snow reports' that are relevant to Cradle Valley - not just leaving it up to the local news bulletins when a member of the public happens to phone in about road closures due ice or heavy impassible snow falls. I expect that many tourists would appreciate knowing about the snow conditions at Cradle Valley prior to leaving the more temperate urban areas.

We trust that you will consider some additional regular reporting on the weather conditions at Cradle Valley, which has a population (albeit transient) greater than Fingal or Cressy, which we note are frequently mentioned in the ABC's weather reports.

Your positive response to this request will be awaited with much interest by our members as well as the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Wilson  
Hon. Secretary  
Friends of Cradle Valley

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CC. ABC (Northern Tasmania) Launceston and Brendon McMahon, Bureau of  
Meteorology (Northern Tasmania) Launceston