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## HERITAGE SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET NUMBER 26

### MT SPEC: A RETREAT IN THE MOUNTAINS



In the mid-nineteenth century colonial governments began to enact laws to reserve and protect scenic areas for public pleasure and recreation. National Parks were established as an escape from hectic city life. While they were calming havens from the pressures of day-to-day existence, they were also interesting from a scientific perspective as they preserved segments of the natural environment in a relatively untouched state.



Today much of the natural environment of the Mt Spec-Paluma rainforest is recognised as worthy of preservation and is located within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. However its beauty and climate is such that it has been long-appreciated as a health retreat and tourist destination. In the early decades of the twentieth century a debate was conducted in the newspaper on the possible location of a sanatorium in the area as mountain areas were considered ideal recuperative sites for patients with tuberculosis.



