



Australian Government

**STATE PARTY REPORT
ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION
OF THE
TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA
(AUSTRALIA)**

PROPERTY ID 181 quinquies

**IN RESPONSE TO
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION 40 COM 7B.66**

FOR SUBMISSION BY 1 DECEMBER 2017

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (the property) responds to the World Heritage Committee's 2016 decision **40 COM 7B.66** (Appendix 4.1).

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are fully committed to protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. **All of the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee are being implemented through a new management plan for the property and other statutory measures.**

The 2016 Management Plan was completed in December 2016. It includes measures to protect wilderness values as well as additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The management plan requires adoption of a strategic approach to tourism in the property through a Tourism Master Plan. Work is underway and the master plan is due to be completed in 2019. The plan will be developed in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key stakeholders, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission.

In September 2017 the Australian Government committed to provide AUD\$5.1 million per annum to the Tasmanian Government for five years from July 2018. These funds will support management of the property's natural and indigenous cultural heritage, including through the implementation of the management plan.

Recommendations made by the independent reviews of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016 are fully reflected in the management plan. The Tasmanian Government has provided AUD\$4 million over four years to implement key recommendations from these reviews to reduce the risk of fires impacting on the property's values and support broad-scale mitigation activities.

Significant progress on the identification, management and protection of the property's cultural heritage has been made. A synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites was provided to the World Heritage Centre in June 2017 and a detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment of the property is being finalised. In addition an archaeological survey of the 2013 extension is underway. This work is informing the preparation of an improved Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

Significant improvements to the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Tasmania have been achieved. In August 2017 the Tasmanian Parliament passed a new *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. The Act establishes a new statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council that will provide advice on the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage on behalf of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The Tasmanian Government has established a Cultural Management Group within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to provide ongoing support for Aboriginal cultural values management in the property.

A process to identify a dual name for the property is underway. It is proposed that the new name will reflect the property's wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to it.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments continue to provide the resources necessary to support management of the property to ensure its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained.

Australia will continue to work with the World Heritage Centre to provide any additional information required in the lead up to the World Heritage Committee's 42nd session in mid-2018.

RÉSUMÉ

Ce rapport sur l'état de conservation de la Zone de nature sauvage de Tasmanie (le bien) constitue la réponse à la décision du Comité du Patrimoine Mondial **40 COM 7B.66** (Annexe 4.1) de 2016.

Les gouvernements australien et tasmanien sont fermement attachés à la protection de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du bien. **L'ensemble des recommandations de la Mission de suivi réactif de 2015 ainsi que les demandes faites en 2016 par le Comité du patrimoine mondial sont en cours de mise en œuvre dans le cadre d'un nouveau plan de gestion pour le bien et d'autres mesures réglementaires.**

Le Plan de gestion 2016 s'est achevé en décembre 2016. Il comprend une série de mesures destinées à protéger les valeurs de nature sauvage ainsi que de nouveaux critères d'évaluation stricts pour garantir que les projets touristiques commerciaux n'aient pas d'impact négatif sur la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

Le plan de gestion nécessite l'adoption d'une approche stratégique en matière d'activité touristique dans le bien dans le cadre d'un Plan directeur Tourisme. Le travail est en cours et ce Plan directeur devrait être prêt en 2019. Il sera élaboré en consultation avec l'industrie du tourisme, la population aborigène de Tasmanie et les parties prenantes principales, comme l'a recommandé la Mission de suivi réactif de 2015.

En septembre 2017 le gouvernement australien s'est engagé à verser, à partir de juillet 2018 et pour une période de cinq ans, 5,1 millions de dollars australiens par an au gouvernement de Tasmanie. Ces fonds permettront de faciliter la gestion du patrimoine naturel et culturel aborigène du bien, notamment par la mise en œuvre du plan de gestion.

Les recommandations faites par les études indépendantes sur la gestion des incendies de janvier 2016 en Tasmanie ont été entièrement prises en compte dans le plan de gestion. Le gouvernement de Tasmanie a alloué une somme de 4 millions de dollars australiens sur quatre ans pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations principales de ces études en matière de réduction du risque d'impact des incendies sur les valeurs du bien et de soutien des mesures de prévention à grande échelle.

Des progrès significatifs ont été enregistrés en matière d'identification, de gestion et de protection du patrimoine culturel du bien. Un rapport de synthèse de toutes les informations disponibles concernant les sites culturels a été présenté au Centre du patrimoine mondial en juin 2017 et un plan détaillé pour une évaluation culturelle complète du bien est en cours de finalisation. De plus, une étude archéologique de l'extension de 2013 est en cours. Ces travaux serviront à la préparation d'une déclaration rétrospective améliorée de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

Des améliorations significatives de la protection du patrimoine culturel aborigène de Tasmanie ont également été réalisées. En août 2017 le Parlement de Tasmanie a adopté une nouvelle version de la Loi sur le Patrimoine aborigène de 1975. Cette loi crée une nouvelle organisation officielle, l'Aboriginal Heritage Council (*Conseil du Patrimoine aborigène*), qui formulera des avis en matière de protection et de gestion du patrimoine aborigène au nom de la population aborigène de Tasmanie. Le gouvernement de Tasmanie a mis en place au sein de Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania un Groupe de gestion culturelle qui apportera son soutien en matière de gestion des valeurs culturelles aborigènes dans le bien.

Des démarches sont en cours pour trouver une double dénomination au bien. Il est envisagé que le nouveau nom reflète le caractère de nature sauvage du bien, son héritage aborigène et les liens qui le lient à la communauté aborigène de Tasmanie.

Les gouvernements australiens et tasmaniens continuent d'allouer les ressources nécessaires pour soutenir la gestion du bien et garantir ainsi le maintien de sa valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

L'Australie continuera de coopérer avec le Centre du patrimoine mondial et lui fournira toute information supplémentaire qui lui serait demandée à l'approche de la 42^{ème} session du Comité du patrimoine mondial prévue pour la mi-2018.

1. RESPONSE FROM THE STATE PARTY TO DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE¹

1.1 Implementation of the Reactive Monitoring Mission's recommendations

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 3: *Commends the State Party for its commitment to explicitly rule out all forms of commercial logging and mining in the whole of the property, as well as its other commitments made in response to the recommendations of the 2015 joint IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission, and requests the State Party to implement all of the mission's recommendations*

State Party's response

All of the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee are being implemented through commitments in a new management plan for the property and other statutory processes.

The Tasmanian Government released a draft management plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area for public comment on 9 January 2015. The draft management plan provided a framework for the management of the property that, once finalised, would replace the 1999 Management Plan which did not apply to over 176,000 hectares added in 2012 and 2013.

During the ten week public consultation process 7545 submissions were received on the draft management plan. The Tasmanian Director of National Parks and Wildlife reviewed all submissions and proposed modifications to the draft management plan in a report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission in April 2016.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission published its review of the Director's report in July 2016². The Commission found that it adequately addressed and responded to most of the public's concerns. The Commission noted that the most contentious issues raised by the public were changing the name of the "Wilderness Zone" to the "Remote Recreation Zone" as well as providing potential for mining and timber harvesting in the property. Other contentious issues raised in submissions included commercial activities, omission of wilderness attributes, fire management, aircraft use and the description of values.

In recommending the final management plan to the Governor of Tasmania for approval, the Tasmanian Minister for Environment and Parks considered public submissions and campaigns, the Tasmanian Planning Commission's report, the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 decision of the World Heritage Committee.

The 2016 Management Plan³ was approved by the Governor of Tasmania on 29 November 2016 and came into effect on 21 December 2016. The 2016 Management Plan meets the legislative requirements of the Tasmanian and Australian governments and applies to all land in the property reserved under Tasmania's *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (over 97 per cent of the property). A Strategic Management Statement details management arrangements for the remaining area (less than three per cent).

The recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee are implemented through the 2016 Management Plan, the Strategic Management Statement and other statutory measures. Appendix 4.2 of this report provides detail on how each of the mission's recommendations are being implemented.

¹ The 2016 World Heritage Committee decision is at Appendix 4.1

² The Tasmanian Planning Commission's review is at http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/news/news_items/report_on_the_draft_tasmanian_wilderness_wha_management_plan

³ The management plan is published on the Tasmanian Government's website at [http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wilderness-world-heritage-area-\(twwha\)/twwha-management-plan](http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wilderness-world-heritage-area-(twwha)/twwha-management-plan).

The 2016 Management Plan reflects the Tasmanian Government's strong commitment to protecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value, while facilitating opportunities for sensitive and appropriate tourism experiences to present the property. In summary, the 2016 Management Plan:

- prohibits commercial logging, including special species timber harvesting, in the whole of the property
- prohibits mining in the whole of the property
- provides for joint management arrangements with Tasmanian Aboriginal people
- ensures the natural and cultural values of the World Heritage property are protected
- proposes a dual name be determined for the property that will acknowledge the property's Aboriginal heritage
- puts in place a number of measures to improve our understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural heritage
- takes into account the recommendations of independent reviews of the 2016 fires
- ensures that impacts on wilderness values are considered in assessments of all proposed activities in the property
- puts in place additional and strict criteria for new tourism development
- increases the area in the 1999 management plan that was zoned wilderness by over 78,000 hectares. Eighty-two per cent of the property is now zoned wilderness.

1.2. Additional and strict assessment criteria and a Tourism Master Plan

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 4: *Welcomes the State Party's commitment to include additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and notes that a separate Tourism Master Plan will be elaborated in order to refine the balance between legitimate tourism development and conservation of cultural and natural attributes, based on consultation and negotiation with relevant stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community;*

State Party's response

1.2.1 Additional and strict assessment criteria

The 2016 Management Plan includes additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that development proposals, including commercial tourism proposals, do not impact negatively on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area's Outstanding Universal Value.

Sensitive development, including to support commercial tourism, provides important opportunities for public presentation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

All proposed activities on reserved land managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (97 per cent of the Tasmanian Wilderness) are subject to a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA)⁴. The RAA process is the environmental impact assessment system that the Parks and Wildlife Service uses to assess whether activities are environmentally, socially and economically acceptable. The RAA process tests whether proposed activities meet the requirements of legislation, plans and policies; weighs the risks and benefits of a proposed activity; and assists in deciding whether an activity should proceed, proceed with conditions or not proceed. The RAA assesses and documents:

- the activity's compliance with relevant statutes, plans and policies
- the activity's environmental, social and economic impacts
- the actions to be taken to maximise beneficial effects and minimise adverse impacts
- whether a proposal is approved, approved with conditions or not approved
- whether the activity, when completed, achieved its stated objectives.

The RAA process will ensure that activities comply with Tasmania's new *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. It will assess and document all proposed activities' compliance with this legislation.

As well as these considerations, the 2016 Management Plan requires that for activities and proposals within the World Heritage Area, the RAA process include:

- **additional assessment criteria** (section 3.3.1 of the 2016 Management Plan)
- **consideration of impacts on wilderness values** (section 8.2 of the 2016 Management Plan)
- **additional and strict criteria for commercial tourism proposals** (section 6.8 of the 2016 Management Plan).

The additional assessment criteria are:

- identify the World Heritage values likely to be affected by the proposal
- identify how those values might be affected
- consider direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on World Heritage values
- identify how any impacts on World Heritage values will be managed or mitigated

⁴ Routine or general maintenance activities that are often done on a day-to-day basis may not require a Reserve Activity Assessment.

- consider the social and environmental benefits and impacts of the proposal
- consider appropriate monitoring and compliance measures
- consider provision of public consultation based on the scale and nature of the proposal.

Additional and strict criteria apply to all commercial tourism proposals. All proposals must:

- describe how the experience is based on the values and features of the property
- submit a case for why it should be situated within the property and address compatibility with existing services and infrastructure
- describe how it will contribute to the guiding vision and management objectives for the property as articulated in the management plan
- describe how potential impacts on the legitimate enjoyment and experience by others of the property's features and values will be managed
- describe how it will be constructed and/or operate in a manner compatible with the protection and conservation of World Heritage and other values
- incorporate environmentally sustainable operational practices and the use of environmentally 'best practice' goods and technologies
- detail any external costs resulting from the proposal including ongoing monitoring and compliance
- demonstrate economic viability.

Australia's national environmental law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides an overarching high level of protection for the World Heritage values of the whole property. The EPBC Act provides legal protection for World Heritage values by regulating actions occurring within or outside a property that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the values of the property.

The Tasmanian Government is reforming its planning system to provide greater certainty to investors and the community. In response to this the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service is reviewing the Reserve Activity Assessment process. The requirements of the 2016 Management Plan will apply to the property regardless of the outcome of the reform which is due to be completed in mid-2018.

1.2.2 Tourism Master Plan

A Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area will be completed by the end of 2019.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is a popular destination for domestic and international visitors. The property provides a diverse range of experiences that present its Outstanding Universal Value.

To ensure a strategic approach to the presentation of these and other values, the 2016 Management Plan requires that a Tourism Master Plan be developed for the property by the end of 2019 (section 6.1.1 of the 2016 Management Plan). The Tourism Master Plan will provide additional guidance, context and policy direction for tourism in the property within the planning framework provided by the 2016 Management Plan. It will be developed in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key stakeholders. A draft Tourism Master Plan will be released for public comment.

The Tasmanian Government will consult with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and will invite the Council to nominate a representative of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to sit on the Steering Committee for the development of the Tourism Master Plan.

The draft Tourism Master Plan will be based on an analysis of data, including an analysis of current and future visitor expectations and demand. It will consider a diversity of visitor experiences, access, social inclusion, training and accreditation for staff and operators, interpretation, sustainable use, commercial possibilities and opportunities to present and conserve the property's values through strategic partnership arrangements, including with neighbouring communities.

It will include a marketing strategy that integrates promotion of the property's values, including historic heritage, with other Tasmanian tourism strategies. Investments in facilities and experiences will be prioritised.

The Tourism Master Plan will promote protection and presentation of the property's natural and cultural values. It will ensure the interpretation and presentation of the property's Aboriginal cultural values are determined by Aboriginal people and guided by an updated version of the 1995 report *Aboriginal Interpretation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* (section 4.4 of the Management Plan).

1.3 2016 Fires

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 5: *Notes the information provided by the State Party with regard to the recent fires which affected the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that fire research and management are fully reflected in the revision of the draft Management Plan for the property, including through the evaluation of recent experiences with fire response and taking into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016*

State Party's response

1.3.1 Update on the impact of 2016 fires

While a small proportion of areas with important conservation values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area were impacted by the 2016 fires, experts agree that broad-scale rehabilitation is not required. Research is underway to better understand how fire impacts conservation values in the property so that future management responses can mitigate those impacts.^{5,6}

Between January and March 2016, thousands of lightning strikes were recorded in Tasmania resulting in 145 vegetation fires affecting approximately 126,800 hectares across the state, including an estimated 19,800 hectares (approximately 1.3 per cent) of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The biggest impact to the natural values of the World Heritage Area from these fires occurred in the areas of Lake Mackenzie, February Plains and Lake Bill.

The areas impacted included a small proportion of the property's fire-sensitive alpine and subalpine landscapes, including a very small percentage of the total extent of pencil pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*). This species is an iconic example of Gondwanic legacy which contributes to the property's Outstanding Universal Value and is featured in the photos below. The majority of natural areas affected were composed of vegetation types which are adapted to or are resilient to fire and are expected to recover.

The Tasmanian Government has undertaken extensive assessment and monitoring in key areas affected by the fires. This includes the alpine area around Lake Mackenzie and the Mersey Forest area. While some areas remain susceptible to ongoing erosion, high altitude grassland, sedgeland and some cushion plant communities are recovering well. The following photos illustrate recovery of subalpine vegetation near Lake Mackenzie.



Subalpine vegetation near Lake Mackenzie four months after the January 2016 fires



Subalpine vegetation near Lake Mackenzie 13 months after the January 2016 fires

⁵ Natural and Cultural Heritage Division (2016). *Lake Mackenzie Alpine Fire Impacts Workshop, 8 June 2016*. Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment, Hobart, Nature Conservation Report Series 16/2.

⁶ Natural Values Conservation Branch (2017) *Assessment of the ecological impacts of the 2016 Mersey Forest Fire Complex*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Hobart, Nature Conservation Report no 17/5.

1.3.2 Independent reviews, research and management

The 2016 Management Plan comprehensively addresses the need for fire research and management in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It also takes into account all of the conclusions and recommendations made by two independent reviews of the management of the 2016 fires.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council's (AFAC) independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires⁷ was published in April 2016. This review made 12 recommendations and concluded that "the way in which the fires were managed is a tribute to the Tasmanian fire agencies, their leadership and all personnel involved in this incident". These recommendations will be implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and operational measures.

An independent Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project reported in December 2016⁸. The project investigated the impact of climate change on future bushfire risk in Tasmania's wilderness areas and appropriate firefighting responses. The project reported that Tasmania has well-developed fire management procedures relating to fire prevention and protection for the property, and noted that Tasmania's firefighting agencies had already implemented a number of changes ahead of the 2016-17 fire season. The 2016 Management Plan takes into account the 18 recommendations reported by this project and includes management actions to implement them.

In mid-2017 the Tasmanian Government allocated AUD\$4 million over four years to projects aimed at implementing the recommendations of the independent reviews and protecting the natural and cultural Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The funding will deliver a bushfire risk assessment model, a fire plan, a model of fire cover, bushfire recovery rehabilitation trials. The Aboriginal Heritage Council will be consulted to provide advice on incorporating Aboriginal cultural values in the model. The funds will also support broad-scale fire mitigation activities, primarily fuel reduction burning to reduce the risk of fires impacting on the property's values.

In implementing the 2016 Management Plan for the property, the Tasmanian Government will work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and relevant stakeholders to develop a strategy and implementation plan for the use of fire as a traditional cultural practice (section 4.5 of the 2016 Management Plan.)

⁷ [AFAC independent review](#) (Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited, April 2016. AFAC Independent Operational Review. A review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016, Victoria).

⁸ [Final Report - TWWHA Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project](#) (Press, AJ (Ed.) 2016. Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project. Tasmanian Government, Hobart).

1.4 Dual naming

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 6: *Encourages the State Party to explore the possibility of dual naming for the property, to reflect its wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community with the property;*

State Party's response

Work has commenced to identify a dual name for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Dual naming of the property that reflects the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area's wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community's relationship with the property will be implemented through the 2016 Management Plan⁹ using the process outlined in the '*Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy. A policy for naming of Tasmanian geographical features*'. The policy is available at http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/189314/Aboriginal_and_Dual_Naming_Policy.pdf.

The process involves engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to identify and approve an appropriate Aboriginal name with the process likely to be undertaken over multiple years.

⁹ Refer to the Executive Summary, Statement of Values and management action in section 4.6 "A Cultural Landscape" of the 2016 Management Plan.

1.5 Cultural values

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 6: *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by mid-2017, a synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the property and a detailed plan for the comprehensive cultural survey, as recommended by the mission, and, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*

State Party's response

1.5.1 Synthesis report

A synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2016, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 June 2017.

A literature review and synthesis report entitled *Aboriginal Heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA): a literature review and synthesis report* was finalised in March 2017.

The report has been acknowledged and endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and was provided to the World Heritage Centre on 15 June 2017. It is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/aboriginal-heritage-twwha>.

The report is a review of the archaeological research that has been undertaken in the property over the past 40 years. The report is being used to inform the preparation of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the preparation of the detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment referred to in section 1.5.2 below.

1.5.2 Detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment

A detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2016, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2017.

A detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment titled '*Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)*' is being finalised and will be sent to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council is guiding, reviewing and supporting the development of the Plan.

1.5.3 Cultural values assessment of the 2013 extension

Surveys are underway to identify and improve understanding of the cultural values in the areas added to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in 2013. The surveys are expected to be complete in late 2018.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments have funded the '*Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the TWWHA Project*' which involves community consultation and cultural heritage surveys within the areas added to the property in 2013.

The project commenced in December 2016 and is scheduled for completion in October 2018. The project involves consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community on cultural values and cultural heritage surveys within the 2013 extension area of the property.

This assessment responds to the 2013 request from the World Heritage Committee (Decision 37 COM 8B.44).

1.5.4 Legislative reform

The Tasmanian Government has passed new laws that strengthen the protection of Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage across all of Tasmania, including the cultural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The Tasmanian Government's *Aboriginal Relics Amendment Act 2017* came into force on 16 August 2017. The amendment act changes the name of the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* demonstrates the Tasmanian Government's commitment to reset its relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. It provides additional protection for Tasmania's rich Aboriginal heritage, including the Aboriginal heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The new legislation:

- removes reference to 1876 as being a "cut-off" point for what is considered as Aboriginal heritage
- increases penalties for damage to Aboriginal heritage in line with the penalties for damage to non-Aboriginal heritage
- introduces tiered offences, in association with the removal of the ignorance defence; introduces new defences related to emergency responses and compliance with guidelines; and removes the six-month time limit for prosecuting offences
- establishes a statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council of Aboriginal people to advise the Minister
- requires that the new Act be fully reviewed within three years.

The Aboriginal Heritage Council was established on 16 August 2017 under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. The Council first met on 19 September 2017 and will meet on a regular basis. Members of the Council are Tasmanian Aboriginal people appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister.

2. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY WHICH MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

2.1 Orange-bellied parrot

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are investing significant resources to protect the orange-bellied parrot which is a World Heritage value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area under criterion (x).

The orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) is a World Heritage value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It is listed as critically endangered under Australian legislation and endangered under Tasmanian legislation. There are thought to be fewer than 70 birds in the wild and the species is only known to breed at Melaleuca in the property. Breeding occurs in the summer months between October and April, after which the birds migrate to the southern coastline of mainland Australia. Volunteers provide significant assistance during each breeding season by monitoring orange-bellied parrots at Melaleuca.



A National Recovery Plan for the orange-bellied parrot provides a national approach to ensure the long-term survival of the species in the wild. Management actions to improve the chances of survival of this iconic and endemic species include: habitat management burns to provide suitable foraging habitat; installing artificial nest boxes; supplementary feeding; and mitigation of threats posed by disease, competitors and predators.

A captive insurance population is a vital element in the recovery program for the orange-bellied parrot. As well as providing an insurance population, releases of captive bred birds into the wild are critical to promote long-term survival of the species in the wild. At the start of the 2016-17 breeding season 23 captive bred birds were released at the Melaleuca breeding site. These birds supplemented the wild population which subsequently produced 19 juveniles.

The Tasmanian Government has developed stringent biosecurity and disease management protocols for orange-bellied parrots in Tasmania in consultation with an expert Veterinary Technical Reference Group. The protocols outline disease screening and management procedures for captive and wild populations.

Orange-bellied parrots are screened prior to translocation and release into the wild to mitigate the spread of pathogens and parasites, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and Psittacine beak and feather disease virus. Animal health protocols implemented at the Melaleuca breeding site include annual disease surveillance of wild birds and clinical investigations of sick and dead birds. Stringent biosecurity and hygiene measures, including disinfection protocols at Melaleuca, are implemented to assist the recovery of the species.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are committed to do all they can to ensure the survival of the orange-bellied parrot. In May 2017 the Tasmanian Government announced funding of AUD\$3.2 million to construct a new captive breeding facility with an increased capacity to breed birds to assist the recovery of the population in the wild. It is anticipated that this facility will be in operation by mid-2018. The Tasmanian Government is working with the Australian and Victorian governments and researchers to trial a range of novel intervention strategies to help bolster the wild population.

2.2 Macquarie Harbour and the Maugean skate

The Tasmanian Government is implementing a number of measures to better understand and protect water quality and habitat in Macquarie Harbour. Macquarie Harbour is currently the only known habitat of the Maugean skate. The Maugean skate is an endangered species and a value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The south eastern third of Macquarie Harbour is included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (refer to Map 1: Macquarie Harbour on the following page). Macquarie Harbour is currently the only known location of the Maugean skate (*Zearaja maugeana*) which is listed as endangered under Australian and Tasmanian legislation. The Maugean skate was previously known in the upper reaches of Bathurst Harbour (also in the property), but has not been found there recently. It was first discovered in 1988.

The Maugean skate is a species of fish that has a strong preference for habitats in the 5-15 m depth range, but has been detected in depths from 0.6 m to 55 m¹⁰. It is thought that skates lay their eggs in water at least 20 m deep. Maugean skates are thought to live for approximately 15 years.

Salmon farming began in Macquarie Harbour in the 1980s. Annual production remained at approximately 2000 tonnes per annum until 2005 when production levels began to rise. By 2011 production levels were 9000 tonnes, rising to 15,500 tonnes in 2015 and approximately 16,000 tonnes in late 2016. In 2017 biomass determinations made by the Director of Tasmania's Environment Protection Authority required production levels to be reduced from 21,500 tonnes to 14,000 tonnes in February and 12,000 tonnes in June. The marine farm lease closest to the boundary of the property was completely destocked. There are no marine farms in the World Heritage area of Macquarie Harbour.

Marine farming produces organic waste that reduces the level of dissolved oxygen and increases levels of dissolved nutrients in the harbour. The low oxygen environment contributes to the expansion of dense mats of bacteria (*Beggiatoa* spp) on the floor of the harbour, including in the World Heritage area. Following the destocking of the marine farm lease in April 2017, industry monitoring found only two sites in the World Heritage area with observed *Beggiatoa* spp.

Increased aquaculture is one of the causes of declining levels of dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters of Macquarie Harbour. Other causes include organic load from freshwater inflows from the Gordon and King rivers.



Maugean skate (photo: Neville Barrett)

There is concern that the survival of the Maugean skate is at risk as a result of decreasing levels of dissolved oxygen. Research is underway to better understand the habitat and breeding requirements of the Maugean skate, including to assess the vulnerability of the species to low dissolved oxygen conditions. The study aims to determine the distribution of Maugean skate eggs within the harbour with particular reference to depth and dissolved oxygen.

The Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority (EPA Tasmania), the marine farm lessees and research bodies continue to monitor for impacts of aquaculture in the harbour. There has been an increase in environmental monitoring under marine

farm licence requirements and research studies in response to deterioration in the environmental condition of Macquarie Harbour. EPA Tasmania prepared guidelines to develop Environmental Management Plans for those lessees proposing under-pen waste collection systems to capture uneaten fish food and fish faeces.

¹⁰ Bell et al (2016). Movement, habitat utilisation and population status of the endangered Maugean skate and implications for fishing and aquaculture operations in Macquarie Harbour. Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, Tasmania

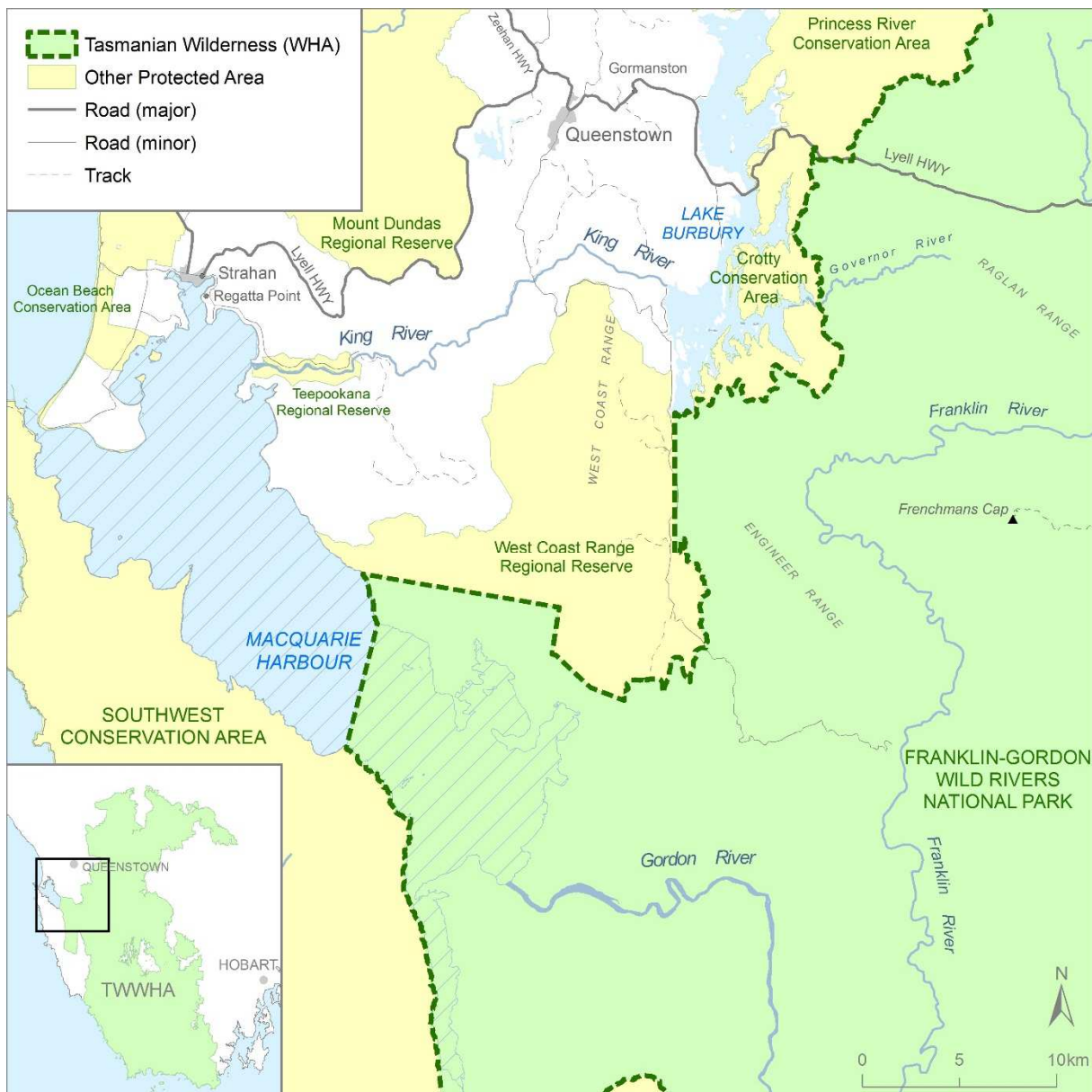
Any reduction in organic particulates on the harbour bed will reduce dissolved oxygen demand. These waste collection systems were trialled by one operator (Tassal) in June 2017 and are currently being installed on other pen bays.

The University of Tasmania is researching the impact of low dissolved oxygen on Maugean skate survival and reproduction through a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project. This project is funded through to 2020.

The Tasmanian Government is collaborating with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science to identify marine fauna values, including the Maugean skate, in the parts of Macquarie Harbour that are included in the property. The outcomes of this project will be reported in early 2018.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to manage production levels in Macquarie Harbour and support monitoring and targeted research programs, in consultation with industry and scientists, to ensure the long-term survival of the Maugean skate in Macquarie Harbour.

Map 1: Macquarie Harbour



3. POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTIONS INTENDED WITHIN THE PROPERTY, THE BUFFER ZONES AND/OR CORRIDORS OR OTHER AREAS, WHERE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS MAY AFFECT THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

3.1. Quarterly reporting

The Australian Government has been informing the World Heritage Centre of potential developments that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, including its authenticity and integrity, since 2011.

In 2011 Australia formalised a procedure for providing quarterly notification reports to the World Heritage Centre of proposed developments within or outside a property that may impact a property's Outstanding Universal Value. Notification reports and a full list of proposed, approved and withdrawn actions relating to the property that require consideration under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) are available at:

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/notification-development-proposals.

Proposals under the Tasmanian Government's expressions of interest process for tourism investment opportunities in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area must meet Tasmanian and Australian Government assessment and approval requirements. Proposals are required to demonstrate under the Australian Government's EPBC Act that the activity would not have a significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. All proposals that require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act will be included in the quarterly notification reports to the World Heritage Centre.

No proposals have been approved under the EPBC Act for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area since the 2016 State Party Report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted on 8 April 2016.

4. APPENDICES

4.1 World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 7B.66

Fortieth session – Istanbul, Turkey (10 - 20 July 2016) and Paris, France (24-26 October 2016) Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181)

The World Heritage Committee;

Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add,

1. Recalling Decisions 38 COM 847 and 39 COM 7B.35, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
2. Commends the State Party for its commitment to explicitly rule out all forms of commercial logging and mining in the whole of the property, as well as its other commitments made in response to the recommendations of the 2015 joint IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission, and requests the State Party to implement all of the mission's recommendations;
3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to include additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and notes that a separate Tourism Master Plan will be elaborated in order to refine the balance between legitimate tourism development and conservation of cultural and natural attributes, based on consultation and negotiation with relevant stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community;
4. Notes the information provided by the State Party with regard to the recent fires which affected the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that fire research and management are fully reflected in the revision of the draft Management Plan for the property, including through the evaluation of recent experiences with fire response and taking into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016;
5. Encourages the State Party to explore the possibility of dual naming for the property, to reflect its wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community with the property;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by mid-2017, a synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the property and a detailed plan for the comprehensive cultural survey, as recommended by the mission, and, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

4.2 Implementation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission’s recommendations

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 1	<p>The Tasmanian Government should consider options to take full advantage of National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, in line with the provisions of the National Parks and Reserves Management Act (2002), and a consolidated National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council should include adequate involvement of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government fully supports the role of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council as it is set out in the <i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i> (Tas) and has ensured that its membership includes representatives from the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to develop a Communication Strategy for the property. The strategy will examine “improvements in the communication of activities and deliberations of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council that are relevant to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area” (section 7.1 of the management plan).</p> <p>The Council includes two Aboriginal people who represent the men and women of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p> <p>In 2017 the Council met four times with the General Manager of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and other key officials (compared to two meetings in 2016).</p> <p>At these meetings the Council provided advice on, and discussed a range of issues, including: draft reports and plans, fire management, tourism proposals, strategic planning, the literature review and synthesis report on the Aboriginal heritage of the property. They also discussed a number of on-ground management issues such as salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour.</p>
Rec 2	<p>The State Party should confirm an unambiguous commitment that the property is off-limits to commercial logging in its entirety, and fully reflect this commitment in the Management Plan for the whole of the property.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has ruled out commercial logging, including harvesting of special species timbers, in the whole of the property.</p> <p>This commitment will be given effect through the new management plan for the property.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan and the Strategic Management Statement rule out commercial logging, including harvesting of special species timbers, in the whole of the property. Huon pine salvage from the shoreline of Macquarie Harbour is permitted.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 3	<p>The State Party should confirm an unambiguous commitment that the property is off-limits to mineral exploration and extraction in its entirety and fully reflect this commitment in the Management Plan for the whole of the property.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has ruled out mining in the whole of the property.</p> <p>This commitment will be given effect through the new management plan for the property.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan and Strategic Management Statement rule out mineral exploration and extraction in the whole of the property.</p> <p>The management plan states in section 3.2 that mineral exploration and extraction, other than for management purposes, is not permitted.</p> <p>Mineral exploration and mining is restricted to the extraction of gravel for management/ maintenance purposes.</p>
Rec 4	<p>Gravel use derived from borrow pits for maintenance needs within the property should be minimised. The State Party should conduct a comprehensive review of the road network with the objective to close and rehabilitate non-essential roads so as to reduce the future demand for gravel among other benefits.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>A review of the road network is underway. One of the priorities of the review is to identify roads that can be closed and rehabilitated to reduce the demand for gravel required for maintenance.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan and Strategic Management Statement confirm the commitment of the Tasmanian Government to minimise use of gravel from borrow pits for maintenance needs in the whole of the property. Guiding principles for gravel extraction are in section 8.5 of the management plan.</p> <p>The review of the road network is expected to be complete by mid-2019 and is addressed in sections 3.1.1, 6.3.2 and 8.5 of the management plan.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 5	<p>Essential existing gravel extraction for ongoing local maintenance in the property should be guided by the following principles across the property, including the excisions within it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No import of gravel to the property should be permitted, in order to minimize biosecurity risks; • No export of gravel from the property should be permitted, and uses should be restricted to the maintenance of existing infrastructure • New borrow pits should not be permitted; • Any significant change to current practice in relation to increased gravel need with potential to impact the property, to be notified to the World Heritage Committee prior to any decisions being taken on how to address this by the State Party. 	<p>Support</p> <p>These principles will guide the management of gravel extraction and use in the property.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The following guiding principles for gravel extraction are included in section 8.5 of the 2016 Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel used for management purposes is to be extracted from sources assessed as being 'low risk' of containing weeds and diseases. • Gravel is not to be exported for use outside the property. • Use of new gravel sources is to be avoided. • Gravel demand is to be minimised. • Gravel is not to be imported into the property. • Any proposed action to change gravel use that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of the property will be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Energy for assessment under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Australia's national environmental law). <p>The World Heritage Committee is informed of actions that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area through the Australian Government's quarterly reporting process.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 3.1 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 6	<p>In line with a recent Committee request (Decision 39 COM 7B.35), the Management Plan should establish strict criteria for new tourism development within the property, which would be in line with the primary goal of protecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Additional criteria will be included in the new management plan to apply to the assessment of commercial tourism proposals in the property. These criteria will ensure protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>Appropriate and sensitive tourism is an important way of presenting the property, as required under the World Heritage Convention, and is important for the Tasmanian economy.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a number of measures to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional criteria for the assessment of activities and proposals in the property that require assessment under the Reserve Activity Assessment process to ensure World Heritage values are considered (section 3.3.1 of the management plan) • additional strict assessment criteria to ensure commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (section 6.8 of the management plan) • consideration of impacts on wilderness values in the assessment of any activity in the property (section 8.2 of the management plan). <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.1 of this report.</p> <p>Proposed activities likely to have a significant impact on the property's World Heritage values, including the property's wilderness character and cultural attributes, will also be subject to assessment under Australia's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 7	<p>The comprehensive Tourism Master Plan details should refine the balance between legitimate tourism development and the management and conservation of the cultural and natural values of the TWWHA based on further consultation and negotiation of competing interests.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The intent of this recommendation will be achieved primarily through the regulation of land use in the new management plan for the property.</p> <p>The Tourism Master Plan will provide additional guidance, context and policy direction for decision making under the new management plan. In particular the Tourism Master Plan will include consideration of issues, including protection and presentation of values, sustainable use, future visitor trends and expectations.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to “Develop a Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and other key stakeholders” (section 6 of the management plan).</p> <p>The Tourism Master Plan will consider the management and conservation of the cultural and natural values of the property and is due to be completed by December 2019.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.2 of this report.</p>
Rec 8	<p>The term “wilderness” should be retained in the property name, while future dual naming is strongly encouraged to reflect both the Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community with the property.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The term “wilderness” will be retained in the property’s name.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is exploring the potential for dual naming of the property in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>The property will remain named the “Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area”.</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action in section 4.6 to follow the protocols of the Tasmanian Government’s Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy and request a dual name for the property to reflect its Aboriginal heritage, and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to the area, to complement the existing recognition of its wilderness values.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.4 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 9	The "Wilderness Zone", as currently used and interpreted, should be retained in the zonation of the TWWHA, while explicitly providing for Aboriginal access for cultural practices as an integral part of the management of the zone.	<p>Support</p> <p>A 'wilderness zone' will be retained in the property and Aboriginal access for cultural practices will be an integral part of the management of that zone.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes over 80 per cent of the property in the 'wilderness zone'. This reflects an increase of over 78,000 hectares from the previous management plan. It includes large expanses with high wilderness value. Some areas previously zoned as 'wilderness' have been rezoned as 'remote recreation' to allow for appropriate tourism opportunities.</p> <p>The use of land zoned as wilderness zone in the 2016 Management Plan is consistent with the 1999 Management Plan with minor exceptions. Special events and construction of new tracks for environmental/ management purposes may be permitted under the 2016 Management Plan.</p> <p>A key outcome of the 2016 Management Plan is that activities in the property must be managed in a way that protects the property's wilderness value. Impacts on wilderness value must be considered in assessment of any proposed activity within the property (section 8.2).</p> <p>The management plan confirms that continuing cultural practice in the wilderness zone is a fundamental part of its management (section 3.1.1.4).</p> <p>Work has commenced on the development and implementation of a policy and process that allows Aboriginal people access to, and use of, animal, plant and other material from the property for cultural purposes. The implementation of this policy and process is a requirement of the management plan (section 4.5).</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 10	<p>All land in the property should be managed in a way that is consistent with World Heritage status, and the recommended means to ensure such a consistent approach is to grant reserve status wherever possible. As long as there will be areas within the TWWHA not subject to Management Plans, adequate management of the property in its entirety should be ensured by an overarching Strategic Management Statement in line with obligations under the EPBC Act.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The EPBC Act provides a high level of protection for the World Heritage values of the whole property. The EPBC Act provides legal protection for World Heritage values by regulating actions occurring within or outside a property that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the values of the property.</p> <p>The new management plan will include a 'Strategic Management Statement' which will detail the management arrangements for areas of the property not subject to the new statutory management plan.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will seek to give public lands in the property reserve status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> (Tas), noting the role of the Tasmanian Parliament and the need to undertake broad community consultation.</p> <p>Further information is available in sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p><u>Reserve status</u></p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will seek the approval of the Tasmanian Parliament of proclamations for the reservation of Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) not covered in the management plan (section 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 of the Strategic Management Statement).</p> <p>The reservation process remains a priority and reserve classes for this land will be determined following broad community consultation.</p> <p>The World Heritage Centre will be advised as the reservation process progresses.</p> <p>Land that is reserved will be managed in accordance with the 2016 Management Plan. Until then, this land will be managed in accordance with the Strategic Management Statement.</p> <p><u>Management arrangements</u></p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan applies to approximately 97 per cent of the property.</p> <p>The Strategic Management Statement sets out management arrangements for tenures in the property that are not subject to the management plan for legal reasons (for example, privately owned land).</p> <p>The management statement is in line with obligations of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 11	Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) within the property should not be convertible to Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and should be granted status as national park.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has ruled out all commercial logging in the whole of the property and will not seek to convert FPPFL to PTPZL.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will seek to give public lands in the property reserve status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> (Tas), noting the role of the Tasmanian Parliament and the need to undertake broad community consultation.</p> <p>The new management plan will include a 'Strategic Management Statement' which will detail the management arrangements for areas of the property not subject to the new statutory management plan.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The Strategic Management Statement provides that Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) will not be exchanged or converted to Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL). The Tasmanian Government will seek the approval of Tasmanian Parliament of proclamations for the reservation of Permanent Timber Production Zone Land and Future Potential Production Forest Land not covered in the management plan (section 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 of the Strategic Management Statement).</p> <p>The reservation process remains a priority and reserve class will be determined following broad community consultation.</p> <p>The World Heritage Centre will be advised as the reservation process progresses.</p> <p>Land that is reserved will be managed in accordance with the 2016 Management Plan. Until then, this land will be managed in accordance with the Strategic Management Statement.</p>
Rec 12	A systematic stock-taking exercise should serve to compile all available information about cultural sites within the TWWHA in a synthesis report according to conditions and terms agreed by the diverse Tasmanian Aboriginal Community for submission to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council has approved a project plan for the cultural heritage study which, with financial support from the Australian Government, will include the preparation of a synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites in the property. The report will be provided to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to analyse previous Aboriginal cultural heritage work to understand key knowledge gaps and to contribute to the development of a prioritised survey and research program for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (section 4.2 of the management plan).</p> <p>A literature review and synthesis report entitled <i>Aboriginal Heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA): a literature review and synthesis report</i> was finalised in March 2017.</p> <p>The report has been acknowledged and endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and was provided to the World Heritage Centre on 15 June 2017.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.5 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 13	<p>A detailed proposal for a comprehensive cultural survey, a longer term initiative requiring adequate resources and full Aboriginal endorsement and involvement, should be elaborated for submission to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017 for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. The proposal should include a calendar on survey stages over a multi-year period.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The project plan approved by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council includes provision for comprehensive on-ground surveys and extensive community involvement staged over several years.</p> <p>A detailed plan for this comprehensive cultural survey will be provided to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017 for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. The plan will include a calendar of survey stages over a multi-year period.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, including the 2013 extension, to ascertain all Aboriginal values. The survey requires a desktop assessment, on-ground work, Aboriginal participation in all aspects of the projects, organisation of Aboriginal access trips to areas and consultation with Aboriginal people (section 4.2 of the management plan).</p> <p><i>A 'Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)' is being finalised. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council has guided, reviewed and supported the Plan which will be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. Further information is available in section 1.5 of this report.</i></p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 14	The State Party and the Tasmanian Government should jointly ensure an equal and integrated consideration of the cultural and the natural heritage of the mixed property.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that the property's cultural and natural heritage values are equally considered and is working closely with the Tasmanian Government to achieve this shared objective.</p> <p>The new management plan for the property will integrate the management of natural and cultural values. The Tasmanian Government's commitment to develop joint management arrangements with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community will strengthen this integrated approach.</p> <p>On completion, the cultural heritage study will provide more detailed information on the cultural heritage values of the property. This will provide a strong basis on which to ensure a more equal and integrated approach to the management of the property's cultural and natural heritage values.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 in the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan recognises that for Aboriginal people, natural values are inseparable from their cultural understanding of the natural world.</p> <p>The management plan establishes a framework for joint management to ensure an appropriate level of integration of research and monitoring related to all values is undertaken in partnership with Aboriginal people. It also recognises that optimal management of natural and Aboriginal cultural values is contingent upon an integrated approach.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has established a Cultural Management Group within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to oversee implementation of the Aboriginal cultural management outcomes of the management plan and to provide ongoing support of Aboriginal cultural values management in the property.</p> <p>Further information is in section 4 of the management plan.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 15	The State Party and the Tasmanian Government should provide and secure an adequate long-term allocation of financial and human resources to allow for proper consideration of cultural heritage.	<p>Support</p> <p>The cultural heritage study will be led by the Aboriginal Heritage Council. The Australian and Tasmanian governments are supporting this work.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will provide additional resources for cultural heritage management. These commitments will be included in the new management plan for the property.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments will continue to commit resources to improving the understanding of the property's cultural heritage.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.4 of the 2016 State Party Report</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following management actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase baseline funding for management of Aboriginal cultural values to a quantum that reflects their importance in the area's World Heritage listing • produce an implementation plan that clearly outlines the steps to achieve adequate funding of management actions. The implementation plan will determine the relationship between funding increases and actions within the plan that are contingent upon that funding; and identify the parties who are responsible for the implementation of the management actions, timelines and processes of review and consultation (section 4.7 of the management plan). <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments have provided 'baseline' funding for day-to-day management of the property since 1983. Baseline funding for management of Aboriginal cultural values has substantially increased from AUD\$160,000 in 2013-14 to AUD\$740,000 in 2016-17 and AUD\$705,000 in 2017-18. In addition to baseline funding, in 2015 the Australian Government provided AUD\$575,000 for work to provide more detail on the cultural heritage of the property and how this relates to its Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan for the management plan was finalised in November 2017.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments have funded the <i>'Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the TWWHA Project'</i> which involves community consultation and cultural heritage surveys within the areas added to the property in 2013.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.5.4 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 16	<p>The State Party should improve the property's current draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV) upon completion of the cultural sites synthesis report expected by mid-2017 and provide it to the World Heritage Centre at the earliest possible date after mid-2017 for review by the Advisory Bodies, and consideration by the World Heritage Committee. The SoOUV should explicitly make reference to the pending comprehensive cultural survey and the possible need to update the SoOUV upon completion of the survey.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council will develop and oversee the cultural heritage study of the property requested by the World Heritage Committee. This work will assist in the production of a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value at the earliest possible date after mid-2017.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.5 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan states that a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value will be prepared for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area following completion of the cultural values assessments (section 1.2 of the management plan).</p> <p>An improved Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value will be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in 2018.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 17	The State Party should ensure adequate resources for fire research and management, so as to better understand the role of fire and to optimize its management.	<p>Support</p> <p>On 9 March 2016 the Tasmanian Government announced that it will invest AUD\$250,000 in a research project that will examine the impact of climate change in the property and strengthen fire-fighting techniques specific to managing wilderness areas. This project will be completed in consultation with the Australian Government.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service has a recurrent fire management budget of AUD\$1.8 million with AUD\$650,000 allocated for ongoing fire management planning in the property. Additional expenditure for fire suppression is directly funded by the Tasmanian Government.</p> <p>Australia is a world leader in fire management and fighting techniques. Both Governments are committed to ongoing maintenance of this capability and continual improvement through review and evaluation.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 2.4 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan acknowledges that fire is one of the major threats to the property's natural and cultural values and includes a number of measures to continue resourcing fire research and management in the property (section 4.3, 5.2.1 and 8.1).</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments have resourced fire research and management activities since the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area was listed in 1982.</p> <p>Recent examples of resourcing on fire research and management include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tasmanian Government allocated AUD\$4 million over four years from 2017 to implement recommendations of the independent reviews of the 2016 fires in the property, including for planning, rehabilitation and fire mitigation activities. • The Australian and Tasmanian governments' jointly funded the emergency response to managing the January 2016 bushfires in the property at a cost of AUD\$11.5 million. • The Tasmanian Government provided AUD\$250,000 in 2016 for a research project on the impact of climate change and opportunities to strengthen fire-fighting in the property. The project published its report in December 2016¹¹. • In 2016 the Australian Government provided AUD\$100,000 to the University of Tasmania to improve understanding and management of fire in the property. This project is expected to be complete by mid-2018.

¹¹ http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/Climate_Change_Priorities/climate_risks_and_opportunities/bushfire_research_project

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 18	<p>The State Party should fully reflect biosecurity as a cross-cutting and permanent management priority in the Management Plan and ensure and, as required, step up financial and human capacity to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The new management plan will ensure that biosecurity continues to be managed as a high priority.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments are committed to providing adequate resources to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks as a high priority.</p> <p>Significant resources are dedicated to managing biosecurity issues in Australia, both federally and at the state level.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 2.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy 2013-17 is a whole-of-government framework within which biosecurity issues are addressed in the most effective way. The strategy will be updated and extended in 2018.</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following biosecurity measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a Biosecurity Overlay that facilitates a cross-cutting and permanent management priority that is responsive to changes in biosecurity risk and would facilitate a step-up in financial and human capacity to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks as required (section 3.1.2 of the management plan). Implementation will commence in 2018. • identify new threats to Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area's natural values and reassess known threats, including weeds, pests, diseases and anthropogenic impacts; and, where possible, develop or review mitigation options, including the strengthening of biosecurity arrangements and increased cultural and volunteer involvement in control and eradication (section 5.1.2 of the management plan). • develop a comprehensive suite of strategies that minimises biosecurity risks to the natural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (section 5.2.2 of the management plan). <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments adopt a systematic approach to provide financial and human capacity to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks at national and state borders in addition to the property level.</p> <p>Additional resources have been allocated to survey and review biosecurity risks, and install biosecurity infrastructure, in the 2013 extension area of the property.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 19	The State Party should fully consider the linkages between the property and adjacent lands, including the increased length of boundaries shared with private land as a result of the 2013 Minor Boundary Modification.	<p>Support</p> <p>In Australia, most World Heritage properties, including the Tasmanian Wilderness, do not have a formal buffer zone. This is because the EPBC Act provides legal protection for World Heritage values by regulating actions occurring within or outside a property that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the values of the property.</p> <p>In relation to forestry actions outside the property, operational separation zones between the property and adjoining wood production coupes provide protection from the impacts of forestry.</p> <p>The Australian Government provided AUD\$680,000 to the Tasmanian Government to work collaboratively with adjacent land holders to address boundary management issues and implement on-ground works, following the 2013 minor boundary modification.</p> <p>Fact sheets have been developed for landholders whose properties are part of, or adjacent to the property providing information about what this means for them.</p> <p>The new management plan will provide a range of measures to facilitate cooperative approaches along the property boundary, particularly in relation to private land, and across tenure types.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following provisions that consider the shared boundaries of the property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate areas of common interest to neighbours into a Communication Strategy for the property to ensure that neighbouring landowners are provided with relevant and timely information, and to clearly set out appropriate communication channels and responsibility for local areas (section 7.5 of the management plan) • establish procedures that allow, as required, for the ongoing development of good neighbour management in local and regional areas (section 7.5 of the management plan) • establish a Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Land Managers Group (section 10.3 of the management plan). <p>Complementary to this, the Tasmanian Government is implementing a Working Neighbours Program to develop respectful and productive relationships and partnerships between reserve and adjacent land managers, which further shared natural resource management and biosecurity goals and interests.</p> <p>The Working Neighbours Program is due to be complete by mid-2019.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 20	The State Party should support and consolidate the emerging joint management of the TWWHA with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is committed to progressing opportunities for joint management with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>A key desired outcome of the 2016 Management Plan is that management of Aboriginal cultural values will be undertaken through a joint management governance arrangement that is supported by a dedicated unit, within five years (section 4.2 of the management plan). The following management actions are included to achieve this outcome by establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Cultural Management Group (CMG) within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to oversee implementation of the cultural management outcomes of the management plan and to provide ongoing support for management of the Aboriginal cultural values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area • governance arrangements that provide a role for a non-government Aboriginal organisation in the joint management of the Aboriginal cultural values of the property.