



The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Minister for the Environment

PDR: MS13-001175

H.E. Mrs Sheika Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Al-Thani
Chair, World Heritage Committee
Permanent Delegation of the State of Qatar to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M4.17
1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

18 DEC 2013

Your Excellency

I am writing to you in relation to the minor boundary modification to extend the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area approved by the World Heritage Committee at its June 2013 meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The World Heritage Committee has recognised the Tasmanian Wilderness as a property with outstanding universal value; including areas of exceptional beauty, majestic stands of tall eucalypt forests, wilderness landscapes, habitat for nationally threatened and endemic species and important geological features. In addition, it contains important, but as yet poorly understood, cultural heritage values.

The Australian Government is concerned that the extension approved by the World Heritage Committee in June 2013 includes a number of pine and eucalypt plantations along with some areas of forest that have previously been subject to heavy logging. These areas detract from the overall outstanding universal values of the property.

Given this, the Australian Government will undertake a reassessment of the extension to identify those areas that we consider clearly fall short of the World Heritage Convention's criteria and diminish the overall integrity of the property and its values. This will be undertaken in close consultation with the Tasmanian Government as the managers of the property and with other relevant stakeholders.

Following this reassessment, the Government will seek a further minor modification to realign the minor boundary extension so as to ensure that poor quality areas are not included. The Government will make this submission on or before 31 January 2014. I can assure you that any minor boundary modification sought would not seek to remove any areas that are protected as national parks at the time of lodgement of the original minor boundary adjustment, being at 1 February 2013.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Greg Hunt'.

Greg Hunt

Cc: Mr Kishore Rao, Director, World Heritage Centre