

**ASIA / PACIFIC**

**TASMANIAN WILDERNESS**

**AUSTRALIA**

# WORLD HERITAGE MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION PROPOSAL – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

## TASMANIA WILDERNESS (AUSTRALIA) – ID No. 181 Quater

### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The background information to this proposal is noted substantively in documents WHC-10/34.COM/INF.8B1.Add and WHC-10/34.COM/INF.8B2, which were considered at the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee (Brasilia, 2010), and previously following a World Heritage Centre and IUCN monitoring mission to the property in 2008. At its 34<sup>th</sup> Session, the World Heritage Committee approved a minor boundary modification that added a series of identified forest reserves into the property, with the exception of the one area that is the subject of the present proposed minor modification, the Southwest Conservation Area south of Melaleuca to Cox Bight, an area of 3,810 hectares. The reason for the delay was the continued presence of mining licenses in this area. In decision 34 COM 8B.46, the Committee welcomed the intention of the State Party to add the area to the property when mining licenses had expired.

### 2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

In its report on the property, which also provides the basis for consideration of the State of Conservation of the property under item 7B of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee, Australia reports on the implementation of decision 34COM 8B.46 and related earlier Committee decisions regarding the South West Conservation Area (Melaleuca-Cox Bight). It agrees that mining is not appropriate in the World Heritage property, and reports that the Australian and Tasmanian Governments have worked closely together to ensure an end to mineral exploration licensing in the Adamsfield Conservation Area within the World Heritage property. Australia has also committed AUS\$500,000 from the Caring for our Country (2010–2012) initiative to assist the Tasmanian Government to implement the relevant World Heritage Committee Decisions.

The State Party reports that mining issues have been resolved. The remaining leases have now been relinquished voluntarily and lessees appropriately compensated by the Tasmanian Government, thus enabling the addition of the Southwest Conservation Area (Melaleuca–Cox Bight) to the existing World Heritage Area. It notes the proposal completes consideration of the proposal for extension put forward in 2010, as noted above.

### 3. IMPACT ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

IUCN has previously evaluated the impact of the proposed minor modification in relation to natural values, as part of the overall proposal made in 2010. The relevant details are provided in the documents referred to above, and in summary the modification provides a further positive addition to the integrity of the property, and is of an appropriate size to be considered as a minor boundary modification as per the Operational Guidelines. In its evaluation of the previous modification proposal, IUCN considered that the State Party proposal related to the Conservation Area south of Melaleuca to Cox Bight was reasonable, and looked forward to this area being added to the property when the mining leases have been resolved.

IUCN considers the proposed modification meets the requirements of the Operational Guidelines.

### 4. OTHER COMMENTS

As a mixed site, ICOMOS will evaluate the proposal in relation to the listed cultural criteria, and the Committee is advised to adopt a decision conforming to the joint advice of IUCN and ICOMOS.

IUCN notes that the property will also be considered under item 7B of the agenda of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session, and that its boundaries have been considered in a range of previous Committee decisions, and thus recommends the Committee recall these other decisions in its decision on the proposed minor boundary modification.

### 5. RECOMMENDATION

IUCN recommends the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/8B and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B2;
2. Recalling decision 34COM 8B.46;
3. Approves the minor modification of the boundaries of the property **Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)** in line with the proposals of the State Party, and as previously considered by the World Heritage Committee;

4. Reiterates its recommendation that the State Party consider further minor modifications to the boundaries of the property, considering the past decisions of the World Heritage Committee on boundaries in relation the natural and cultural values.

**Map 1:** Map of Tasmanian Wilderness Areas showing areas added in 2010 and Southwest Conservation Area (Melaleuca–Cox Bight) proposed addition



**Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area - proposal for boundary modification**



- World Heritage Area boundary
- World Heritage Area (land area)
- Areas that were added in 2010
- Southwest Conservation Area (Melaleuca to Cox Bight)
- Waterbodies
- Principal Road
- Minor Road
- Walking Tracks
- Major rivers

Map produced by:  
 ERIN, Australian Government Department of Sustainability,  
 Environment, Water, Population and Communities (5/1/2012)  
 Projection: WGS84 MGA Zone 558 Scale: 1:700,000 (A3 size)  
 Data Sources:  
 World Heritage Area, Protected Areas - Tasmanian Government  
 Waterbodies; Waterways - Geodata Topo 250K, Geoscience Australia