



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Dr Mechtild Rossler
Director
World Heritage Centre
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE

Dear Dr Rossler

State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

I am pleased to provide you with the *State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area*, in response to World Heritage Committee Decision 42 COM 7B.61, paragraph 10 in 2018.

The report provides an update to the 2017 State Party Report. It also includes information on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 reactive monitoring mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness.

I would be pleased for the World Heritage Centre to upload the report to the Centre's publicly accessible State of Conservation Information System after 2 December 2019. I would appreciate it if the World Heritage Centre could notify the Department of the Environment and Energy one business day prior to publishing the report on the Centre's website. This will allow time for the Department to advise key stakeholders that the report is available and to include a link on the Department's website.

Please feel free to contact Ms Samantha Burt, Acting Director, International Heritage Section, australiaworldheritage@environment.gov.au for further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Oxley
First Assistant Secretary
Heritage, Reef and Marine Division

22 November 2019



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 42 COM 7B.61**

FOR SUBMISSION BY 1 DECEMBER 2019

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This report should be attributed as '*State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Australia)*, Commonwealth of Australia 2019'.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to the request of the World Heritage Committee in 2018 (Decision [42 COM 7B.61](#) paragraph 10) to provide a report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (the property). It also provides an update on the implementation of the 2016 World Heritage Committee Decision [40 COM 7B.66](#) and implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 Report of the joint ICOMOS / IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is one of the Southern Hemisphere's largest temperate wilderness areas, encompassing more than 1.58 million hectares and covering almost a quarter of the state of Tasmania. It is recognised as having natural and cultural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value and is one of only two World Heritage properties that meet seven World Heritage criteria (the other is Mount Taishan, China).

The property has a robust system of protection and management in place. The *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan* came into effect in December 2016. This Management Plan meets the legislative requirements of the Tasmanian and Australian governments and is guiding the actions encouraged by the World Heritage Committee.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments have made significant progress in responding to the recommendations from the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission. The requests of the subsequent 2016 and 2018 decisions of the World Heritage Committee are also being actively addressed. Most have been fully implemented, and all others are in the process of being implemented.

Improved engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and better understanding and protection of their cultural heritage within the property is a major achievement. Progress is significant and ongoing. Cultural heritage specialists are on staff and are involved in the protection and management of the property. A policy to guide the identification of a dual name for the World Heritage property has been prepared in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and is now in place.

The 2016 Management Plan and accompanying Strategic Management Statement rule out mining and commercial logging, including harvesting of special species timbers, in the whole of the property. The Tasmanian Government is now conducting a two stage process to proclaim land previously zoned as timber production as reserved land, allowing these areas to be managed in accordance with the 2016 Management Plan.

Other achievements described in this report include significant work towards development of a Tourism Master Plan for the property in consultation with the Tasmanian community and within the planning framework provided by the 2016 Management Plan. It will provide guidance, context and policy direction for tourism and recreation across the property.

Fire is one of the greatest challenges for the management of the property, particularly in the context of a changing climate. The property experienced significant fires in 2016 and again in 2019. Lessons learned from the 2016 fires helped with preparation and response capacity during the even more extensive 2019 fires.

A draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been prepared and provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

RÉSUMÉ

Ce rapport répond à la demande du Comité du patrimoine mondial en 2018 (Décision [42 COM 7B.61](#), paragraphe 10) de soumettre un rapport sur l'état de conservation de la Zone de nature sauvage de Tasmanie (le bien). Il fait également le point sur la mise en œuvre de la Décision [40 COM 7B.66](#) prise en 2016 par le Comité du patrimoine mondial, ainsi que sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la Mission conjointe ICOMOS/IUCN suivi réactif du bien en 2015.

La Zone de nature sauvage de Tasmanie est l'une des plus vastes zones de nature sauvage tempérées de l'hémisphère Sud : elle s'étend sur plus de 1,58 million d'hectares et couvre presque un quart de l'État de Tasmanie. Elle est reconnue comme ayant une valeur universelle exceptionnelle pour le patrimoine naturel et culturel, et représente l'un des deux biens répondant à sept critères du Patrimoine mondial (l'autre étant le mont Taishan, en Chine).

Le bien dispose d'un solide système de protection et de gestion. Le *Plan de gestion de la Zone de nature sauvage de Tasmanie du patrimoine mondial* est entré en vigueur en décembre 2016. Ce plan de gestion est conforme aux exigences législatives des gouvernements de l'Australie et de Tasmanie, et oriente les actions encouragées par le Comité du patrimoine mondial.

Les gouvernements de l'Australie et de Tasmanie ont fait des progrès significatifs pour répondre aux recommandations de la Mission de suivi réactif de 2015. Les demandes formulées dans le cadre des décisions ultérieures de 2016 et 2018 par le Comité du patrimoine mondial sont également abordées de manière résolue. La plupart ont été intégralement mises en œuvre, les autres étant en cours d'exécution.

Une concertation plus poussée avec les peuples Aborigènes de Tasmanie ainsi qu'une meilleure compréhension et protection de leur patrimoine culturel au sein du bien représentent un accomplissement majeur. Les avancées réalisées sont importantes et continues. Des experts du patrimoine culturel font partie de l'équipe en place et participent à la protection et à la gestion du bien. Une stratégie pour guider l'identification d'un nom double pour le bien du Patrimoine mondial a été élaborée et mise en application, en consultation avec les communautés aborigènes de Tasmanie.

Le Plan de gestion de 2016 et la Déclaration de gestion stratégique qui l'accompagne interdisent, dans l'ensemble du bien, les exploitations minières et forestières à des fins commerciales, y compris l'abattage d'espèces exceptionnelles. Le gouvernement de Tasmanie met actuellement en place un processus en deux étapes visant à proclamer comme réserve des terres précédemment considérées comme exploitables pour la production de bois, permettant ainsi à ces zones d'être gouvernées par le Plan de gestion de 2016.

Les accomplissements décrits dans ce rapport comprennent également des avancées significatives vers la rédaction d'un Plan directeur en matière de tourisme pour le bien, en consultation avec la communauté tasmanienne et dans les limites du cadre de planification établi par le Plan de gestion de 2016. Ce plan apportera des lignes directrices, un contexte et une orientation stratégique pour le tourisme et les loisirs dans l'ensemble du bien.

Les incendies représentent l'un des plus grands défis pour la gestion du bien, notamment dans le contexte du changement climatique. Des incendies de grande ampleur ont affecté le bien en 2016 et 2019. Les leçons tirées des incendies de 2016 ont été mises à profit en termes de préparation et de capacité de réaction lors des incendies encore plus dévastateurs de 2019.

Un projet de la Déclaration de valeur universelle exceptionnelle a été rédigée et soumis au Centre du patrimoine mondial pour examen par les organes consultatifs.



Map 1 Location of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (red outline)

1 INTRODUCTION

The Australian and Tasmanian governments have made significant progress in responding to recommendations from the November 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (the property). The recommendations of the subsequent 2016 and 2018 decisions of the World Heritage Committee are also being actively addressed. Most have been fully implemented and all others are being implemented.

Improved engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and better understanding and protection of their cultural heritage within the property is a major achievement. Progress is significant and ongoing. Cultural heritage specialists are on staff and are involved in the protection and management of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Other achievements include significant work towards development of a Tourism Master Plan for the property, as well as progress in proclaiming areas previously zoned for timber production as reserved land.

1.1 Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

This State Party Report, prepared in cooperation with the Tasmanian Government, responds to the 2018 and 2016 decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (see Decision [42 COM 7B.61](#) at **Appendix 1** and Decision [40 COM 7B.66](#) at **Appendix 2**).

An update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission is also included in this report (see **Appendix 3**).

1.2 The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 and extended in 1989, 2010, 2012 and 2013. It is inscribed on the basis of seven World Heritage criteria – three cultural ((iii), (iv) and (vi)) and four natural ((vii), (viii), (ix) and (x)).

The property is one of the world's largest temperate wilderness areas and is a precious cultural landscape for Tasmanian Aboriginal people who have lived there for at least 35,000 years. Tasmanian Aboriginal people adapted to changes in climate and the natural environment through a full glacial-interglacial climatic cycle and were the southernmost people in the world during the last ice age. The intangible and tangible evidence of their continuing culture is of outstanding universal significance. The ecosystems within the extensive wilderness areas of western Tasmania are of outstanding significance for their exceptional natural beauty, distinctive landforms, palaeoendemic species and communities, unusual threatened plants and animals, and ecological processes that result in some of the tallest vegetation in the world. The alpine ecosystems, with their hard green cushion plants; the moorland ecosystems, with their burrowing crayfish; the estuarine ecosystems, with their dark surface waters; and the alkaline wetland systems, with their freshwater stromatolites, are without analogue.

The property covers approximately 1.58 million hectares, or around 23 per cent of the State of Tasmania (see **Map 1**). Day-to-day management is primarily undertaken by the Tasmanian Government. A small number of private landholders (for example Bush Heritage Australia, Hydro Tasmania, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and others) also manage land within the property.

1.3 Legislative Protection of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Australia's national environmental law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides an overarching high level of protection for the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The two key pieces of Tasmanian legislation that provide for the management of the property are the [Nature Conservation Act 2002](#) and the [National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002](#).

Where an action that is likely to have a significant impact is proposed to be undertaken within, or outside, a World Heritage Area, the EPBC Act ensures that Outstanding Universal Value is protected. Under this legislation, a proposed action of this type is determined to be a 'controlled action' and must undergo assessment and a decision as to whether or not it can proceed.

This process allows the Australian Minister for the Environment to grant or refuse approval to take an action, and to impose conditions on the taking of an action. The EPBC Act imposes substantial civil and criminal penalties on a person who takes an unlawful action. Further information on the EPBC Act processes that operate to protect World Heritage is available at **Appendix 5**.

The component collective of reserves that form the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area are declared under Tasmania's [Nature Conservation Act 2002](#) which sets out the values and purposes of each reserve class. The reserves are managed under Tasmania's [National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002](#) according to management objectives for each reserve class.

1.4 Quarterly reporting to the World Heritage Centre

The Australian Government informs the World Heritage Centre of 'controlled actions' under the EPBC Act that are relevant to Australian World Heritage properties.

In 2011, Australia formalised a procedure for providing quarterly notification reports to the World Heritage Centre. The following decisions are reported:

- controlled actions with a World Heritage "trigger" under Section 12 of the EPBC Act
- previously notified proposals under assessment
- withdrawal of a previously notified controlled action by a proponent.

Notification reports are available at: www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/notification-development-proposals.

Recent EPBC Act referrals for proposals in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area are detailed under **Section 4** and further information can be accessed at <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/referralslist/>.

1.5 Effective Management and Planning

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are fully committed to protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The *2016 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan* guides the property's management.

The *2016 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan*¹ 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*² (over 97 per cent of the property). A Strategic Management Statement details management arrangements for the remaining area.

The recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 and 2018 decisions of the World Heritage Committee are implemented through the 2016 Management Plan, the Strategic Management Statement and other statutory measures, as well as the *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Business Strategy (2018 - 2022)* and Annual Plans for the property.

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

1.6 Funding

The management of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian governments. The total annual budget is AUD \$10.2 million.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments have a five-year agreement (2018-2023) to each provide AUD \$5.1 million towards a total annual budget for management and presentation of the property of AUD \$10.2 million.

The Australian Government has also provided one-off grants for specific purposes.

The Tasmanian Government provides management funding which is additional to the co-contribution requirement. This provides for additional labour to support increased visitation, operating expenses and the maintenance and renewal of assets.

In order to ensure adequate and fit for purpose facilities, the Tasmanian Government has committed a considerable capital infrastructure program to support tourism infrastructure for the property. **Table 1**, sourced from *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Business Strategy (2018 - 2022)*, outlines the significant investment in assets to be made over the next several years.

¹ The management plan is published on the Tasmanian Government's website at <http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wilderness-world-heritage-area-twwha/twwha-management-plan>.

² Excluding conservation areas vested in Hydro Tasmania

Major capital projects	2018/19 (AUD \$M)	2019/20 (AUD \$M)	2020/21 (AUD \$M)	2021/22 (AUD \$M)	2022/23 (AUD \$M)
Cradle Mountain Visitor Experience	17.6	3.0	3.0		
Cradle Mountain Experience	3.0	13.0	15.0	20.0	14.0
Overland Track Huts	0.40	0.50	0.96	1.14	
Cockle Creek improvement to the southern gateway to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area	0.40	0.20	0.20		
Maintenance Boost Funding	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68
Totals	22.08	17.38	19.84	21.82	14.68

Table 1 Investment in assets in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

In 2017-18 the Tasmanian Government provided AUD \$4 million over four years in order to develop a better understanding of fire and to undertake planned burns within the property (more detail is provided in **Section 3.1**). A further AUD \$2.68M over four years was provided to support the recovery of the Orange-bellied parrot (more detail is provided in **Section 3.2**).

2 RESPONSE FROM THE STATE PARTY TO DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

2.1 Implementation of Decision 42.COM 7B.61

The full text of the 2018 World Heritage Committee decision is provided at **Appendix 1**. Relevant paragraphs from the decision are quoted below, and a State Party response is provided for each.

2.1.1 Implementation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission's recommendations

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 3: *Welcomes the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 mission through the new 2016 Management Plan for the property, particularly the ban on commercial logging along with mineral exploration and extraction within the property and the recommendations related to fire research and management, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard.*

State Party's response

The 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures remain in place.

The recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee (Decision [40 COM 7B.66](#) at **Appendix 2**) are implemented through the 2016 Management Plan, the Strategic Management Statement and other statutory measures. **Appendix 3** of this report provides detail on how each of the Reactive Monitoring Mission's recommendations is being implemented.

Almost all of the recommendations have been implemented and the other recommendations are being implemented as a priority.

2.1.2 Assessment criteria for commercial tourism proposals

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 4: *Also welcomes the specific inclusion in the Management Plan of additional assessment criteria for commercial tourism proposals and requirements to consider potential impacts on the wilderness values of the property.*

State Party's response

Tasmanian and Australian government assessment and approval requirements are in place in relation to commercial tourism proposals for the property.

The 2016 Management Plan includes a number of measures in relation to commercial tourism that protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes. These include:

- additional criteria for the assessment of activities and proposals in the property that require assessment under Tasmania's Reserve Activity Assessment process to ensure that where World Heritage values are likely to be affected they are identified and managed or mitigated (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 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (section 8.2 of the management plan).

In addition to these measures, proposed tourism activities likely to have a significant impact on the property's World Heritage values, including the property's wilderness character and cultural attributes, are also subject to assessment under the EPBC Act.

Proposals under the Tasmanian Government's expressions of interest process for tourism investment opportunities in the property must meet Tasmanian and Australian government assessment and approval requirements. Under the EPBC Act, proposals are required to demonstrate that the activity would not have a significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. All proposals determined to be controlled actions under the EPBC Act are included in quarterly notification reports to the World Heritage Centre (see **Section 1.4** above).

2.1.3 Tourism Master Plan

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 5: *Urges the State Party to expedite the development of the Tourism Master Plan in order to ensure a strategic approach to tourism development within the property, in line with the primary goal of protecting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to submit the draft Tourism Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation.*

State Party's response

A Tourism Master Plan for the property is being developed. A strategic paper that outlines key policy positions will be released to the public by December 2019. A draft of the Tourism Master Plan will then be released for public consultation in March 2020.

The property is a popular destination for local, domestic and international visitors and its Outstanding Universal Value is presented through many diverse visitor experiences.

The 2016 Management Plan (section 6.1) requires that a Tourism Master Plan be developed for the property, in order to ensure a strategic approach to its presentation. A Tourism Master Plan is being developed, in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key stakeholders.

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

A strategic paper outlining key policy positions will be released to the public in December 2019. This will be followed by the release of a draft Tourism Master Plan for public comment in March 2020. The draft Tourism Master Plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, as required in Decision 42 COM 7B.61, Paragraph 5.

When completed, the final Tourism Master Plan will provide additional guidance, context and policy direction for tourism and recreation in the property, within the planning framework provided by the 2016 Management Plan.

The Tourism Master Plan will promote protection and presentation of the property's natural and cultural values and will ensure that the interpretation and presentation of the property's Aboriginal cultural values is determined by Aboriginal people and guided by the projects underway as part of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania's priority works program (further detail on this is provided at **Section 2.1.6**).

2.1.4 Designation of land zoned for potential timber production as reserves

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 6: *Requests the State Party to finalize, as a matter of priority, the on-going process to designate Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) within the property as reserves.*

State Party's response

The reservation process for Future Potential Production Forest Land and Permanent Timber Production Zone Land within the property is progressing. Reserve class will be determined following stakeholder consultation. No native forest logging is permitted in the property.

Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL)

FPPFL in the property consists of unallocated Crown land (25,428 hectares) managed by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, as well as vested or freehold land managed by Hydro Tasmania (9,735 hectares).

Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL)

There is a total area of 942.3 hectares of PTPZL within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

At the time of the 2013 minor boundary extension nomination there were a number of timber production coupes subject to existing Forest Practices Plans. These were mostly 'transitional coupes' and it was understood they would be harvested. The transitional coupes have now been harvested in accordance with certified Forest Practices Plans and have been, or will be, regenerated.

There are also a small number of plantation coupes in PTPZL within the property. These plantation coupes require ongoing management, including thinning, and are expected to be harvested and regenerated to native forest.

Management and proclamation of these areas as reserved land

PTPZL and FPPFL are not covered in the *2016 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan*. Management of this land is described in sections 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Strategic Management Statement (attached to the 2016 Management Plan), which details management arrangements for tenures that cannot be subject to the statutory management plan.

The Strategic Management Statement provides that FPPFL will not be exchanged or converted to PTPZL.

The Tasmanian Government is now conducting a two stage process for proclamation of FPPFL and PTPZL as reserved land:

Stage 1 – a stakeholder consultation process for proclamation of FPPFL within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area will commence in the first quarter of 2020. Reserve class will be determined following this consultation.

Stage 2 - operations consistent with the Strategic Management Statement are underway for regeneration of PTPZL within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Once this regeneration process has been completed, proclamation as reserved land will occur.

Once reserved, these areas will be managed in accordance with the 2016 Management Plan, but until the process is complete, this land will be managed in accordance with the Strategic Management Statement.

The World Heritage Centre will be advised when the reservation process is complete.

2.1.5 Assessing cultural heritage assets

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 7: *Commends the State Party for the progress made with assessing cultural heritage assets by documenting archaeological and other research undertaken over the past 40 years.*

State Party's response

A Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area has been completed.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments funded the '*Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Project*'. This project involved community consultation and cultural heritage surveys within the areas added to the World Heritage property in 2013.

The cultural values assessment responds to the 2013 request from the World Heritage Committee (Decision [37 COM 8B.44](#)) to "undertake further study and consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in order to provide more detailed information on the cultural value of the additional areas and how these relate to the Outstanding Universal Value of the existing property".

The project commenced in December 2016 and was completed in June 2019. The initial consultation meetings were invaluable for refining and directing the field survey assessment methodology. The field survey assessment encompassed two field teams completing a combined 90 days of field survey that covered a total of approximately 980 linear kilometres. The field surveys resulted in the identification and recording of 132 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. The total number of registered Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 2013 Extension Area is now 231 individual sites.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage sites recorded in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 2013 Extension Area, and the cultural values they represent, are considered to be non-renewable resources providing insights into the lives of Aboriginal people in the past, and ongoing connections to Country for their descendants in the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. This point was strongly emphasised by most of the Aboriginal community representatives who were involved in this project.

2.1.6 Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 8: *Also encourages the State Party to implement the Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property, in order to fully define both living and archaeological heritage and to support co-management of these resources with the Aboriginal communities.*

State Party's response

The *Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* has been completed and is being implemented.

The *Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* (the Detailed Plan) was provided to the World Heritage Centre in February 2018 (see <https://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/cultural-assessment-twwha>).

The Detailed Plan outlines a multi-year comprehensive cultural assessment of the property.

Tasmanian Aboriginal community organisations and individuals were engaged and consulted throughout the preparation of the Detailed Plan, and it was guided and supported by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council. While consultation and engagement were undertaken, it is recognised that any future implementation of the Detailed Plan will require additional engagement with, and the involvement of, the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The Detailed Plan was prepared as one component of an 'Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values Project' for the property and was funded by the Australian Government.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (part of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Division, in Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment) has commenced the management and implementation of the following projects:

- *Rock Art in the Landscape and Seascape of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area: recording, conservation and risk management* – Understanding Values project outlined in the Detailed Plan. Field trips have commenced to provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to access and record rock marking sites throughout the property and contribute to their ongoing conservation and management.
- *Interpretation and Presentation of the Aboriginal Cultural Values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* – Key Desired Outcome (KDO) 4.6 of the 2016 Management Plan. The project involves the development of a guide to support interpretation and presentation of Aboriginal cultural values of the property. The guide will provide practical, step by step instruction to inform projects and initiatives on how to interpret and present Aboriginal cultural values in the property. It will include guidance on appropriate engagement, consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal communities. The project has commenced with initial Aboriginal community engagement and consultation underway.
- *Aboriginal Community Access Visits to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* – Key Desired Outcome (KDO) 4.7 of the 2016 Management Plan. The project will provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to be "on Country" (i.e. accessing and working on traditional lands) to access resources, pursue activities and actively participate in the management of the property. The project has commenced with three Aboriginal organisations undertaking access visits to the property.

- **Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Awareness Training** – Key Desired Outcome (KDO) 4.3 of the 2016 Management Plan. The purpose of the training is to ensure all relevant Tasmanian Government staff who have responsibility for and/or undertake regular management activities in the property have an appropriate level of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the property's Aboriginal heritage values for the effective management, protection and conservation of those values.

These projects will provide cultural and heritage awareness training and will offer employment opportunities for Aboriginal people to develop and deliver course material to the property's land managers.

2.1.7 Draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 8 (continued) ...and *further encourages it to use these data to complete the drafting of a Retrospective Statement of OUV;*

State Party's response

A revised draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal Heritage Council and the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and other stakeholders.

The Australian Government sent the revised draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value to the World Heritage Centre on 2 October 2019 for review by the Advisory Bodies.

In response to this request and the recommendation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission (see recommendation 16 in **Appendix 3**), a revised draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (draft Statement) has been prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal Heritage Council and Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. A number of other organisations and private landholders were also consulted and their comments considered in preparing the draft Statement. These include the Australian Committee for IUCN, Australia ICOMOS, Bush Heritage Australia, Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and The Wilderness Society.

The draft Statement includes information about the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including in the area added in 2013.

2.1.8 Addition of cultural heritage specialists to the property staff

2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61 Paragraph 9: *Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to add cultural heritage specialists to the property staff, in order to ensure the effective protection and management of cultural sites within the property.*

State Party's response

Cultural heritage specialists are employed within Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

A Cultural Management Group, with responsibility for the management of cultural values and delivery of relevant key desired outcomes in the 2016 Management Plan, has been established within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (part of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Division, in Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment). This group is comprised of a Manager, Executive Services, two archaeologists, a Project Officer and an Aboriginal Heritage Advisor. A Senior Aboriginal Heritage Advisor within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania also supports the Cultural Management Group.

2.2 Implementation of Decision 40 COM 7B.66

2.2.1 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

A dual name for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area will be identified in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Dual naming of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to reflect its wilderness character, Aboriginal heritage and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community's relationship with the property will be implemented through the 2016 Management Plan³ using the process outlined in the 'Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy. A policy for the naming of Tasmanian geographic 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/s with the process likely to be undertaken over several years.

All of the World Heritage Committee's requests in Decision 40 COM 7B.66 have now been addressed by the State Party.

³ Refer to the Executive Summary, Statement of Values and management action in section 4.6 "A Cultural Landscape" of the 2016 Management Plan.

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

3.1 Impacts of Wildfires

Fire is a major management challenge for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The property experienced significant fires in 2016, and again in 2019. The 2016 fires created opportunities to learn about the interactions between fire, the natural environment and fire management practices. These lessons helped with the preparation and response capacity during the even more extensive fires in 2019.

Fire is one of the greatest challenges for the management of the property, particularly in the context of a changing climate. The cumulative area burnt by bushfires in the property since 2006-07 equates to 194,005 hectares (or 12 per cent). 14,602 hectares (or 0.92 per cent) of the property has burnt more than once in that timeframe.

According to climate change projections, the current trends of increased fire frequency and longer fire season duration are likely to continue, together with an increase in the flammability of fire-sensitive communities and organic soils. This is illustrated by the increased number of fire ignitions caused by dry lightning strikes and the number of peat fires in recent years.

Fires in 2016

Tasmania experienced a series of dry lightning strikes in January and February 2016. During this period, 18 fires affected the property, burning approximately 19,936 hectares (1.3 per cent of the property). As reported to the World Heritage Committee in the 2017 State Party Report, high altitude grassland, sedgeland and some cushion plant communities are recovering well, however some areas remain susceptible to ongoing erosion, which is being addressed by a rehabilitation trials project jointly conducted by the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

Fires in 2018/19

A fire was ignited by a lightning storm that crossed Tasmania on the evening of 27 December 2018. Further fires were ignited by a number of bands of dry lightning that crossed the state around 15 January 2019.

The area of the property affected by these fires is estimated at approximately 95,000 hectares (about 6 per cent).

Vegetation impacts

The fires have affected a variety of vegetation types, ranging from communities that exhibit extreme fire sensitivity, to communities that are fire adapted.

A rapid impact assessment was undertaken immediately following the 2019 fires to provide rigorous information on the impacts arising from the 2019 fire season. Of the 95,000 hectares burnt in the property, approximately 83,140 hectares, or 87.7 per cent, is fire adapted vegetation communities such as buttongrass moorland, dry and wet eucalypt forest and scrub communities.

The remaining area consists of other communities that vary in fire sensitivity.

- Extreme fire sensitive communities contain components that will not recover from fire. This includes communities such as rainforest with King Billy pine, alpine conifer communities, and alpine rainforest communities with deciduous beech (*Fagus*).
- The property contains 93,344 hectares of mapped vegetation that is classified as being of extreme fire sensitivity (e.g. conifer rainforest communities, coniferous heath).
 - 514.2 hectares of extreme fire sensitivity vegetation is within the boundaries of the 2019 fires, representing 0.06 per cent of the extent of this vegetation within the property.
- The property contains 465,029 hectares of mapped vegetation that is classified as being of very high fire sensitivity. This includes alpine vegetation, rainforest and mixed forest (eucalypt forest with rainforest understory). The latter vegetation type requires fire at very long intervals (100-350 years) to persist.
 - 11,717 hectares of the very high fire sensitivity vegetation is within the 2019 fire boundaries, representing 2.5 per cent of the extent of this vegetation within the property.

Targeted aerial and on-ground impact assessments immediately following the 2018-19 fires confirmed that most of the affected vegetation is resilient to fire and, as such, is expected to fully recover, although for some communities this will take several decades.

There have been localised impacts on important fire sensitive vegetation values. These include:

- the loss of approximately half of a relictual population of pencil pines at Crooked Lake in the Denison Range
- fire affected very tall forest in the Coles Creek area (the world's largest known stand - average canopy height > 70m)
- a number of giant trees (trees > 85m tall or 280m³ volume) in the southern forests affected by the Riveaux Road fire.

The vegetation communities supporting the very tall forests—although impacted—will recover, given long fire-free intervals.

The long-term recovery of fire sensitive vegetation is not able to be quantified at this stage and is reliant on further field inspections.

Impacts on earth features

The property also contains earth features that are potentially fire sensitive, including karst areas, long undisturbed catchments, aeolian features, and organic soils.

- The property contains 69,153 hectares of mapped geodiversity features that are classified as being of very high fire sensitivity (e.g. patterned peatlands, significant sand dunes and previously undisturbed catchments). Approximately 1.5 per cent of the very high fire sensitivity geo features within the property are within the 2019 fire boundaries.
- The property contains 447,874 hectares of mapped geodiversity features that are classified as being of high fire sensitivity (e.g. peat mounds, karst areas, relict aeolian and periglacial features reflecting past climates). Approximately 0.1 per cent of high fire sensitivity geo features within the property are within the 2019 fire boundaries.

Targeted on-ground and aerial impact assessments confirmed that across the vast majority of the impacted area, the disturbance created by fire is within the normal range and will not cause significant

degradation. However, there were several classes of features that suffered significant damage at a local scale, including organic soils, important karst areas, and one important high elevation sand dune.

Combustion of organic soils occurred as widespread localised pockets, with the total impact impossible to quantify with the existing mapping. More significant and widespread damage occurred to the sensitive alpine organic soils of the Central Plateau, where a significant proportion of the soil was lost to fire, and the remnants are likely to suffer continuing erosion. In addition, two fields of peat mounds in the Wanderer River Catchment suffered major peat loss, with some mounds losing over a metre of peat. Globally rare, peat mounds are known from only one location outside Tasmania. Due to limitations of the available mapping, it is not yet possible to quantify the total losses of organic soils within the property.

Building understanding and capacity in relation to fire

The January 2016 fires created opportunities to learn about the interactions between fire, the natural environment and fire management. An initial evaluation has been undertaken that identified the risks that the 2018-19 fires pose to the values of the property during the 2019-20 fire season. This evaluation included infra-red scanning which will be ongoing to ensure risks are managed throughout the current fire season. The evaluation has informed an action plan for the 2019-20 fire season that will assist in prioritising fire management resources.

An independent operational review of the management of the January 2016 Tasmanian fires⁴ by Tasmanian fire agencies (the Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania) was produced by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council at the request of the Tasmanian Government. These agencies understood that an event of the scale of the 2016 fires would produce examples of good practice to be followed in the future, as well as indicating points where progressive improvement could be applied to optimise future incident management. The report produced 12 recommendations aimed at improving incident response.

Also in response to the 2016 fires, the Tasmanian Government committed AUD \$250,000 for the Tasmanian Wilderness Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project. This project investigated the impact of climate change on bushfire risk in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and identified ways to improve bushfire preparation and response capacity.

In 2017-18, the Tasmanian Government committed AUD \$2 million over a four year period to enable a number of fire related projects to be undertaken, many of which are associated specifically with the property.

One of the key outputs of this work is the preparation of a comprehensive Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Fire Management Plan that will contain:

- clear objectives for fire management in the property
- clarity regarding circumstances in which priority will be given to protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property over built assets
- clear objectives for management burning in the property, including Indigenous burning practices and
- a framework for monitoring impacts of bushfires and planned burns in the property.

⁴ AFAC Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Independent Operational Review - A review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016, prepared for the Tasmania Fire Service, Forestry Tasmania and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, April 2016. Available at https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/userfiles/tym/file/misc/1604_tasfirereport_final1.pdf

The manual *Fire Operations in Tasmania's Parks and Reserves* was also prepared under this program. This document guides strategic planning and tactics for fire operations and details factors such as the conditions under which earthmoving machinery and chemical suppression may be used. It also outlines procedures for reserve value identification, environmental risk management and biosecurity protection. The manual was used in the 2019 fires to induct firefighters from interstate and overseas.

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service is enhancing risk assessment tools, including:

- development of a Bushfire Risk Assessment Model and a Bushfire Operational Hazard Model. These will be used to determine long-term resourcing requirements based on climate change forecasts
- revising mapping of alpine and other fire sensitive vegetation communities in the property, informed by improved resolution imagery and information gathered by aerial reconnaissance during the 2019 fire season
- undertaking ongoing rehabilitation trials in areas of the property that were impacted by the 2016 fires.

An additional AUD \$2 million has been dedicated to funding a Tasmania-wide Fuel Reduction Program. Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service has increased the number of fire management staff to conduct fuel reduction burns in, and adjacent to, the property. These burns have slowed the progress of wildfires, particularly in the western parts of the property, and will help to mitigate the impact of future fire events.

These burns can also have significant conservation benefits. For example, recent burns conducted at Melaleuca Inlet in the south of the property are aimed at regenerating foraging habitat for the Orange-bellied parrot.

Innovation during the 2018-19 fire response

The fire response to the 2018-19 fires included a number of strategies adopted since the 2016 fires. These included:

- use of satellite lightning and hotspot detection services delivered by websites such as Sentinel and Landgate
- early spotter flights
- deployment of initial attack crews
- use of aerial fire retardants delivered by aircraft (this deployment was planned using a decision support model developed after the 2016 bushfires)
- deployment of smaller, more agile, aircraft (fixed-wing "Fireboss" water-bombers)
- development and implementation of protection strategies to protect high conservation value natural assets (for example, establishment of sprinkler lines to protect vegetation at Lake Rhona in the Denison Ranges).

3.2 Orange-bellied parrot

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are committed to ensuring the survival of the Orange-bellied parrot.

The migratory Orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) is identified as one of the World Heritage values that contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value. This species is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and endangered under Tasmania's *Threatened Species Protection*

Act 1995. There has been considerable investment in recovery efforts in recent years, but wild population numbers are low, and ongoing efforts will be required to prevent functional extinction in the wild.

The species is only known to breed at Melaleuca in the south-west of the property. Breeding occurs in the months between October and April, after which the birds migrate to the southern coastline of mainland Australia.

A National Recovery Plan for the Orange-bellied parrot provides a coordinated approach for efforts to ensure the long-term survival of the species in the wild. Implementation of the Recovery plan is overseen by the National Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team, an inter-jurisdictional and multidisciplinary group. The group includes representatives from the Australian, Victorian and Tasmanian governments, breeding institutions, researchers and other species experts, veterinary experts and community group members involved in monitoring. Under the Recovery Plan, the wild and captive populations of Orange-bellied parrots are intensively managed. The wild population consists of wild born and captive bred birds. In the 2018-19 breeding season, 20 birds returned from migration and, of these, four were female. Nineteen birds returned from migration in 2017 of which three were female.

The captive population is used to supplement the wild population to boost numbers. There are approximately 490 adult birds in the captive population in five institutions involved in the captive breeding program, all of which are accredited by the Zoos and Aquarium Association.

In 2015, the Tasmanian Government developed stringent biosecurity and disease management protocols for protection of Orange-bellied parrots, in consultation with an expert reference group. The protocols outline disease screening and management procedures for captive and wild populations.

Ongoing management of the wild population includes the release of captive birds, supplemental feeding, threat management, and the ranching of wild birds over winter to increase the survival of juveniles. The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service undertakes planned ecological burns during autumn to help regenerate important habitat areas for the Orange-bellied parrot.

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 \$2.5 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. This facility has been completed for the 2019-20 breeding season and the breeding capacity at the new facility has doubled compared to the previous facility. In addition to the capital funds to build a new Orange-bellied parrot facility, in the 2017-18 State Budget the Tasmanian Government committed annual recurrent funding of AUD \$170,000. This additional investment will support a range of actions, including the care and release into the wild of additional birds, in collaboration with partner organisations. 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.

3.3 Maugean Skate, Macquarie Harbour

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are committed to ensuring the survival of the Maugean skate.

The maximum permissible biomass for aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour has been lowered to prevent the impact of low dissolved oxygen on a range of values in the harbour, including the Maugean Skate.

Macquarie Harbour, in the west of the property, supports the only known population of the Maugean skate (*Zearaja maugeana*), which is listed as endangered under both the EPBC Act and Tasmania's *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. The skate was previously also known from Port Davey, to the south of Macquarie Harbour but has not been found there since 1992, with recent search efforts failing to find any evidence of the species. Approximately one third of Macquarie Harbour (at the south western end) is included in the property.

An Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies project has highlighted concerns about the long-term survival of the Maugean skate in Macquarie Harbour due to the very low dissolved oxygen levels in the deeper waters. There is sufficient evidence to suggest the low dissolved oxygen levels may have a significant impact on the species.

The Environment Protection Authority Tasmania issues Management Determinations, Environment Protection Notices and orders for management actions to companies involved in salmon farming. This has included setting the Biomass Limit for Macquarie Harbour and approving waste capture treatment and disposal. The maximum permissible biomass for aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour has been lowered from 21,500 tonnes in January 2017, to 9,500 tonnes in May 2018. This limit will be in place from 1 June 2018 until 31 May 2020.

The University of Tasmania is continuing research into the impact of low dissolved oxygen on Maugean skate survival and reproduction through a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project. The project is funded until 2020.

The Australian Government has prioritised the EPBC Act Conservation Advice for the species for review, to ensure new research and concerns are reflected. This review will be completed when the results of current Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funded research into the vulnerability of the species are available. The current Conservation Advice for the Maugean skate was developed in 2008.

3.4 Recent research related to previous mining activity adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Research on possible chemical contamination of lake sediment as a result of historic mining activity adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, has recently been published. However, independent reviews of the research paper have raised uncertainties with this work.

Australian National University researchers have published a paper⁵ which reports on the levels of lead, copper, arsenic and cadmium in sediments of four lakes in the property, and two lakes to the west of the property.

⁵ Schneider, L., Mariani, M., Saunders, K.M., Maher, W.A., Harrison, J.J., Fletcher, M.S., Zawadzki, A., Heijnis, H. and Haberle, S.G., 2019. How significant is atmospheric metal contamination from mining activity adjacent to the TWWHA? A spatial analysis of metal concentrations using air trajectories models. *Science of The Total Environment*, 656, pp.250-260.

These metal contaminants may result from historic mining activity in Queenstown and Rosebery. According to the research, the largest increase in sedimentation and metal contamination occurred around 1930 when open-cut mining commenced and new mining technology was introduced into the region. During this period, the geochemical signal of lake sediments changed from reflecting the underlying geology and lithology to that reflecting mining activities.

The western boundary of the property lies 11 and 12 km from Queenstown and Rosebery, respectively, in the prevailing wind direction. The paper reveals that contamination from mining sites can influence areas up to 130 km downwind of mining sites (Lake Cygnus).

Owen Tarn and Basin Lake (outside the property and closest to the mine sites) had the highest levels of sediment contamination. The lakes located within the property (Perched Lake, Dove Lake, Lake Dobson and Lake Cygnus) also showed sediment contamination ranging from moderate to very severe.

The Tasmanian Government completed a technical review by scientific staff from Environment Protection Australia (EPA) Tasmania and commissioned the University of Tasmania to independently review the paper. The review reports are available on [EPA Tasmania's website](#).

These reviews raised uncertainties with the work, which include potential deficiencies and technical problems, leading to a lack of full confidence in the research.

- Both reviews determined that the research paper conclusion linking open-cut mining to metals in lake sediments is not supported by the data.
- One of the reviews concluded that the researchers' claim that *the metals deposited in the sediments are constantly being remobilised* is not supported by the data.
- Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment collected water samples from sixteen natural lakes and artificial impoundments, in western, south-western, and highland Tasmania, in February and March 2019. All metals concentrations, in all lakes, met the health guideline values of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The results do not indicate that any ecological values are compromised.

Previous studies involving sampling of invertebrates and fish from freshwater lakes within the property failed to demonstrate any adverse findings, indicating that the mining contaminants are most likely strongly bound in the lake sediments.

The Tasmanian Government is considering what further action (if any) may be required.

4 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

A number of tourism proposals in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area are under consideration by the Tasmanian Government. These projects have been, or will be, assessed under the EPBC Act, and will require State and local level approvals.

4.1 Proposed Tourism Development - Halls Island, Lake Malbena, Walls of Jerusalem National Park

A proposal to develop a small tourism operation on a private leasehold property on Halls Island in Lake Malbena was referred under the EPBC Act on 28 March 2018. This proposal sought to establish a 'standing camp' to accommodate a maximum of six visitors and two guides for four-day stays. Visitors would arrive by helicopter to the adjacent mainland and travel by row boat approximately 60 metres to Halls Island. A maximum of 30 tours each year is proposed. Halls Island has an existing small wooden hut, built in 1954, that will remain on the island. This hut was used by the previous leaseholder and more recently by bushwalkers.

The proposal is an allowable activity under the 2016 Management Plan zoning for this area. The Australian Government delegate decided, on 31 August 2018, that the project was unlikely to have a significant impact on any protected matters, including World Heritage values, and could proceed without further assessment under the EPBC Act.

The development application for the proposal was not approved at the local government level. However, this decision was appealed to the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal by the proponent and the Director of National Parks and the appeal was upheld on 21 October 2019. Separately, there was a challenge to the Australian Government decision that no further assessment was required. On 12 November 2019 there was a Federal Court judgment on the Australian Government decision. The implications of the judgment are still being worked through.

4.2 Cradle Mountain Master Plan

Cradle Mountain (in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park), received approximately 280,000 tourists in 2017-18. Based on the latest visitor research numbers for the Cradle Mountain reference site, expected tourism growth is approximately 9.5 per cent each year. This growth has necessitated a considerable investment in new infrastructure to ensure a quality visitor experience is provided.

The Tasmanian Government is making an investment of more than AUD \$56.8 million for implementation of the Cradle Mountain Master Plan. The development of a new Visitor Centre (outside of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) is well advanced and scheduled for completion in December 2019. Plans are also well advanced for a new visitor shelter at Dove Lake (refer to **Section 4.3** for additional information).

In May 2018, a commitment of AUD \$30 million from the Tasmanian Government was matched by the Australian Government to provide a total funding allocation of AUD \$60 million towards the investigation and delivery of a transportation solution, which would connect the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre with Dove Lake (see **Section 4.3** below). This route is currently serviced by hybrid diesel-electric shuttle buses, or visitors can walk on an adjacent path. Previous access arrangements, allowing access to Dove Lake by private vehicle, led to traffic congestion on the narrow, winding Dove Lake Road.

Feasibility and financial modelling are well advanced for the proposed transportation solution, which includes consideration of a cable-way. Any proposal to proceed would require assessment under Tasmania's Reserve Activity Assessment process, relevant local government planning schemes and the EPBC Act before building could commence.

The 2016 Management Plan allows for the proposed redevelopment, as the relevant area is zoned as 'visitor services'. This zone is defined as an area that provides the highest level of developed visitor facilities and is where a majority of visitors experience the property. A 'visitor services' zone is generally a high use area, with mechanised access.

4.3 Dove Lake Shelter, Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park

In September 2018, the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service released a proposal to construct a new viewing shelter and associated infrastructure at Dove Lake. The area is currently used as a car park and the proposal falls within the Cradle Mountain 'visitor services' zone. The 2016 Management Plan defines this zone as an area that provides the highest level of developed visitor facilities. Should the transportation solution described at **Section 4.2** (above) proceed, it will connect the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre with Dove Lake and this viewing shelter.

A visual impact assessment undertaken for the proposal concluded that the visible presence of the viewing shelter in the landscape is acceptable and that there are numerous qualities that commend it as being aesthetically worthy of the proposed location.

The Dove Lake Shelter proposal was referred under the EPBC Act on 29 March 2019. The Australian Government decided, on 26 May 2019, that the project was unlikely to have a significant impact on any protected matters and could proceed without further assessment under the EPBC Act.

The development application was approved by local government on 20 August 2019. The Dove Lake Shelter has now obtained all required approvals and will progress to tender and construction, with work scheduled to commence in early 2020, subject to final tenders and cost.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181quinquies)

Decision: 42 COM 7B.61 (2018)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.66** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 mission through the new 2016 Management Plan for the property, particularly the ban on commercial logging along with mineral exploration and extraction within the property and the recommendations related to fire research and management, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard;
4. Also welcomes the specific inclusion in the Management Plan of additional assessment criteria for commercial tourism proposals and requirements to consider potential impacts on the wilderness values of the property,
5. Urges the State Party to expedite the development of the Tourism Master Plan in order to ensure a strategic approach to tourism development within the property, in line with the primary goal of protecting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to submit the draft Tourism Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalization;
6. Requests the State Party to finalize, as a matter of priority, the on-going process to designate Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) within the property as reserves;
7. Commends the State Party for the progress made with assessing cultural heritage assets by documenting archaeological and other research undertaken over the past 40 years;
8. Also encourages the State Party to implement the Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property, in order to fully define both living and archaeological heritage and to support co-management of these resources with the Aboriginal communities; and further encourages it to use these data to complete the drafting of a Retrospective Statement of OUV;
9. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to add cultural heritage specialists to the property staff, in order to ensure the effective protection and management of cultural sites within the property;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

Appendix 2: Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181quinquies)

Decision: 40 COM 7B.66 (2016)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 847** and **39 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
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;
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;
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;
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;
7. 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.

Appendix 3: Implementation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission's recommendations

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
1	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>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council (NPWAC) comprises ten members including the Chair. The representation includes two Tasmanian Aboriginal people, one male and one female.</p> <p>The NPWAC provides advice to both the Tasmanian and Australian Governments on the Tasmanian Wilderness.</p> <p>The NPWAC meets at least four times per year with the Deputy Secretary of Tasmania Parks and Wildlife and the General Manager Natural and Cultural Heritage Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in attendance.</p> <p>During meetings, the NPWAC considers a range of matters which relate to the management of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In addition, the NPWAC undertakes the review of Reserve Activity Assessments outside of the normal scheduled meetings, as required.</p>
2	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>IMPLEMENTED</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>
3	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>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>Section 3.2 of the 2016 Management Plan and Strategic Management Statement rules out mineral exploration and extraction in the whole of the property.</p> <p>Extraction of gravel for property management/ maintenance purposes is allowed (see also Recommendation 4).</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
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>IMPLEMENTED</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 (Roads) of the 2016 Management Plan.</p> <p>A review of parts of the road network was completed in mid-2019 with the remainder to now be considered. The overall review is addressed in sections 3.1.1, 6.3.2 and 8.5 of the 2016 Management Plan.</p>
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>IMPLEMENTED</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. <p>Any proposed action to change gravel use that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property will be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment for assessment under the EPBC Act.</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
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>IMPLEMENTED</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>In addition to these measures, proposed tourism 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 the EPBC Act.</p>
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 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area based on further consultation and negotiation of competing interests.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</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. A strategic paper that outlines key policy positions to be reflected in the Tourism Master Plan will be released to the public by December 2019.</p> <p>A draft Tourism Master Plan will be made available for public comment and review by the World Heritage Committee Advisory bodies (as required by the World Heritage Committee's 2018 Decision 42 COM 7B.61) in March 2020.</p> <p>Further information is available in Section 2.1.3 above.</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
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>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>The property’s name will remain the “Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area”.</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action (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. This name will complement the existing recognition of its wilderness values.</p> <p>Further information is available in Section 2.2.1 above.</p>
9	<p>The “Wilderness Zone”, as currently used and interpreted, should be retained in the zonation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, while explicitly providing for Aboriginal access for cultural practices as an integral part of the management of the zone.</p>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes over 80 per cent of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in the ‘wilderness zone’. This includes an increase of over 78,000 hectares of Wilderness zone since the 1999 Management Plan. It includes large expanses with high wilderness value. Some areas previously zoned as ‘wilderness’ have been rezoned as ‘self-reliant recreation’ to allow for appropriate tourism opportunities. Significant rock markings have been identified within these areas so potential impacts from recreational and/or commercial operations in these areas will need to be considered.</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. Aboriginal cultural values will need to be considered when planning new tracks.</p> <p>A key outcome of the 2016 Management Plan is that activities in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 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 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (section 8.2).</p> <p>The 2016 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 2016 Management Plan (section 4.5).</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
10	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 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 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>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan applies to approximately 97 per cent of the property.</p> <p>The Strategic Management Statement (attached to the 2016 Management Plan) 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 Strategic Management Statement is in line with the requirements of the EPBC Act.</p>
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>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is conducting a two stage process for proclamation of FPPFL and PTPZL as reserved land (see Section 2.1.4, above).</p> <p>The World Heritage Centre will be advised as the reservation process progresses.</p>
12	A systematic stock-taking exercise should serve to compile all available information about cultural sites within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 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>IMPLEMENTED</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: 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>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
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>IMPLEMENTED</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.</p> <p>The survey of the extension was completed and a report prepared in June 2019.</p> <p>A ‘<i>Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area</i>’ has been completed. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council guided, reviewed and supported the Plan, which was provided to the World Heritage Centre in 2017. Further information is available in Section 2.1.5 of this report.</p>
14	<p>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>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</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>Sections 2.1.5, 2.1.6 and 2.1.7 above provide further detail.</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
15	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>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following management actions:</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. 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>Tasmanian State Government funding for cultural heritage projects has substantially increased in 2017-18 and 2018-19, and ongoing, through Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Business Strategy project allocations. Further information is available in Sections 2.1.5, 2.1.6 and 2.1.8 above.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments funded the 'Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Project', which involved community consultation and cultural heritage surveys within the areas added to the property in 2013.</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
16	<p>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>IMPLEMENTED</p> <p>A revised draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.</p>
17	<p>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>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</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 (further detail at Sections 1.6 and 3.1 above).</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
18	<p>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>IMPLEMENTED</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) • identify new threats to the 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>In response to this, a Biosecurity Strategy for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is in development, with scheduled completion by June 2020.</p> <p>In relation to the 2013 extension area to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, additional resources have been allocated to survey and review biosecurity risks, and to install biosecurity infrastructure.</p> <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. The <i>Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy</i> is a whole-of-government framework, allowing biosecurity issues to be addressed efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>Tasmania's <i>Biosecurity Act 2019</i> will strengthen Tasmania's biosecurity measures to prevent and manage incursions that could impact the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The <i>Biosecurity Act 2019</i> also provides statutory measures for biosecurity programs and zoning, which allow for specific management conditions to be applied and enforced.</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
19	<p>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>	<p>IMPLEMENTED</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>The Tasmanian Government has implemented a “<i>Working Neighbours Program</i>” 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 was completed in September 2019. To date, 249 neighbours have been invited to provide feedback on issues within the 2013 extension to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Of these, 154 neighbours have been engaged one to one. Working Neighbour partnerships have been established with 55 neighbours, and 72 on-ground biosecurity activities have been implemented. An estimated 200 hectares of weeds have been controlled as a direct result of the program.</p>

Rec no.	2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Recommendation	Update on implementation through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
20	State Party should support and consolidate the emerging joint management of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community	<p>IN PROGRESS</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. <p>As described in Section 2.1.8 (above), a Cultural Management Group, with responsibility for the management of cultural values and delivery of relevant key desired outcomes in the 2016 Management Plan, has been established.</p>

Appendix 4:

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) **process for protection of Outstanding Universal Value**

Stage 1 Referral – at this stage, the Federal Environment Minister determines whether or not a development proposal (proposed action) requires approval under the EPBC Act. Where a development proposal has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on Outstanding Universal Value, it needs to be referred for assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. Referrals can be determined to be:

- a controlled action - subject to the assessment and approval process as it is determined likely to have significant impacts (see Stages 2 and 3 below)
- not a controlled action - approval for the referred action is not required as it is determined that it is unlikely to have a significant impact
- not a controlled action if undertaken in a 'particular manner' – approval for the referred action is not required as long as the action is taken in the manner specified in the decision notice
- clearly unacceptable – the referred action cannot be taken as it is determined that it will have unacceptable impacts.

Stage 2 Assessment – proposed actions can be assessed using one of the following assessment methods, all of which involve public consultation:

- accredited assessment by a State Government (for example, on behalf of the Australian Government under a bilateral assessment agreement)
- assessment on referral information (assessment done solely on the information provided in the referral form)
- assessment on preliminary documentation (referral form and any other relevant material identified by the Minister as being necessary to adequately assess a proposed action)
- assessment by environmental impact statement or public environment report
- assessment by public inquiry.

Stage 3 Decision whether to approve - following the assessment of a proposed action, the Minister for the Environment will decide whether to:

- approve the action (with or without conditions of approval)
- not approve the action.

Additional information on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Australia)

Key updates and achievements since December 2019

Achievements since Australia's submission of the State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in December 2019 are summarised below. They include:

- substantial progress towards completion of a final Tourism Master Plan. Future tourism proposals that are under consideration by the Tasmanian Government will take the Tourism Master Plan into account, together with other relevant policies and legislation;
- imminent commencement (February 2021) of public consultation on the proclamation of Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) and Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) as reserved land;
- commencement and good progress on a number of projects designed to support and improve the management, understanding and protection of Aboriginal cultural values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area;
- finalisation of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
- a very successful breeding season for the critically endangered Orange bellied-parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*); one of the attributes that contributes to the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
- ongoing study of the population status and ecology of the Maugean Skate;
- completion of significant stages of the Cradle Mountain Masterplan.

The updates demonstrate the continuing commitment by the Australian and Tasmanian governments to implement the 2016 World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 7B.66 and the recommendations of the 2015 Report of the joint ICOMOS / IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property.

Tourism Master Plan (update to section 2.1.3 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 10)

A draft of the Tourism Master Plan was released for public consultation between 19 March and 25 June 2020. The draft was sent to the World Heritage Centre on 30 March 2020, inviting review of the document by the Advisory Bodies. A technical review of the draft, prepared by IUCN, ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme at the World Heritage Centre was received on 4 July 2020. Australia provided a response on the technical review to the World Heritage Centre on 3 December 2020.

The technical response provided through the World Heritage Centre has been fully taken into account in the review of the Master Plan following the public comment period.

The Master Plan is in the final approvals stage with the Tasmanian Government, which intends to launch the Plan in the coming months.

Designation of land zoned for potential timber production as reserves (update to section 2.1.4 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 11)

Stage 1 of the two-stage process for proclamation of Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) as reserved land has been delayed and will commence in the first quarter of 2021. Stage 1 will involve a stakeholder consultation process for proclamation of FPPFL within the Tasmanian Wilderness

World Heritage Area. Reserve classes for each parcel will be determined following this consultation.

Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the property (updates to the 2019 State Party Report, pages 13-14)

There has been further progress on implementation of several projects outlined in the Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Rock Art in the Landscape and Seascape of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area: recording, conservation and risk management

This Project aims to improve our understanding of Aboriginal rock marking within the TWWHA and determine the associated cultural and natural risks to these sites through research, recording and assessment. The project provides opportunities for collaboration with the Aboriginal community and is informing discussions between the Aboriginal community and DPIPW on effective management actions and outcomes.

The 2020-21 field work program has commenced. Three field trips were completed between November 2020 and January 2021, with two new sites identified. Two field trips are scheduled in February and March 2021.

The digital recording of seven sites in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area commenced in January 2021.

Interpretation and Presentation of the Aboriginal Cultural Values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Project.

The objective of this Project is to develop a Guide on the interpretation and presentation of the Aboriginal cultural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. The Guide was finalised and provided to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) in October 2020.

Planning for the implementation of the Guide has commenced. This will include collaborating with external stakeholders and the PWS.

Management of At Risk Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Project.

This Project aims to identify at-risk Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and determine and implement appropriate actions for their effective ongoing management. A GIS model for coastal sites that identifies the natural and cultural hazards in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area has been developed and development of a GIS model for inland sites has commenced.

Addition of cultural heritage specialists to the property staff (update to section 2.1.8 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 14)

Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Awareness Training for staff working in the Tasmanian Wilderness

As part of the Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Awareness Project, in September 2020 the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre commenced delivery of a three-year rolling program of cultural

awareness training to Department staff who work in the World Heritage property. As at mid-January 2021, four training sessions had been conducted for staff throughout the State. Monthly sessions are fully booked until September 2021.

Draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (update to section 2.1.7 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 14)

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property has been finalised and will be presented to the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Orange-bellied parrot (update to section 3.2 of the 2019 State Party Report, pages 19-20)

As noted in the 2019 State Party Report, Orange-bellied parrots (*Neophema chrysogaster*) are one of the attributes that contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The species is listed as critically endangered under the national *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and endangered under Tasmania's Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

In late 2020, 51 birds returned to summer breeding grounds at Melaleuca in Tasmania's southwest, following their overwinter migration on mainland Australia. This is the highest number of successful returns in recent history. The previous maximum of 35 birds occurred in the 2014-15 season. Returns have been as low as 17 or 18 birds in the past 10 years.

The most recent arrivals combined with the release of captive-bred adult birds during Spring 2020 means there are now 77 Orange-bellied Parrots known to be at Melaleuca.

Recent nest checks and nestling banding in Melaleuca has shown a large increase in the number of baby Orange-bellied parrots this breeding season.

As of mid-January 2021, there were 88 live nestlings across 27 nests, and 8 eggs still to hatch. This means there is potential for 96 fledglings, the highest number of nests, eggs and nestlings from nest boxes since official nest box monitoring commenced in 1994. Brood sizes have also reached a 7-year high.

Nests and nestlings have also been found in nest boxes in New Harbour, about five kilometres from the bird's main Melaleuca breeding site. This is the first record of Orange-bellied parrots breeding at this site since nest-boxes were installed there in 2010, and follows unsuccessful attempts to release captive-bred adults in 2018 and 2019 to try to expand the breeding population.

Maugean Skate, Macquarie Harbour (update to section 3.3 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 21)

The maximum permissible biomass for aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour was lowered from 21,500 tonnes in January 2017, to 9,500 tonnes in May 2018. This limit, which took effect from 1 June 2018 until 31 May 2020, was recently extended to 31 May 2022.

The Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies continues to undertake work to further understand the ecology and population status of the Maugean Skate in Macquarie Harbour. Further surveys are planned for early 2021.

Proposed Tourism Development - Halls Island, Lake Malbena, Walls of Jerusalem National Park (update to section 4.1 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 23)

A proposal to develop a small tourism operation on a private leasehold property on Halls Island in Lake Malbena was referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 28 March 2018. This proposal sought to establish a 'standing camp' to accommodate a maximum of six visitors and two guides for four-day stays. Visitors would arrive by helicopter to the adjacent mainland and travel by row boat approximately 60 metres to Halls Island. A maximum of 30 tours each year is proposed. Halls Island has an existing small wooden hut, built in 1954, that will remain on the island. This hut was used by the previous leaseholder and more recently by bushwalkers. The current lessee of the island has exclusive use, but proposes to continue to allow recreational access and overnight stays on the island under a public access program.

The proposal is considered to be an allowable activity under the 2016 Management Plan zoning for this area. On 31 August 2018, the Australian Government delegate decided that the project was unlikely to have a significant impact on any protected matters, including World Heritage values, and could proceed without further assessment under the EPBC Act. Following a challenge to this decision in the Federal Court, on 16 September 2020, the Australian Government Minister for the Environment decided that the proposal is a Controlled Action requiring assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed. The assessment process is ongoing, with additional information to be published for public consultation before a decision is made whether or not to approve the proposal.

The development application for the proposal was not approved at the local government level. However, this decision was appealed to the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal by the proponent and the Director of National Parks. The appeal was upheld on 21 October 2019. Subsequent appeals to the Tasmanian Supreme Court are understood to be ongoing.

Cradle Mountain Master Plan (update to section 4.2 of the 2019 State Party Report, pages 23-24)

As reported in the 2019 State Party Report, Cradle Mountain (in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park), received approximately 280,000 tourists in 2017-18. Visitor numbers were forecast to reach 300,000 in 2019-20 prior to COVID-19. This growth, together with forecast increases in coming years, has necessitated a considerable investment in new infrastructure to protect this significant area of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and ensure a quality visitor experience is provided at this key visitor node.

The Tasmanian Government is making an investment of more than AUD \$56.7 million for implementation of the Cradle Mountain Master Plan. Development of the Visitor Gateway Precinct is progressing well and the new Visitor Centre (2km outside of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) was completed and officially opened in June 2020.

The Tasmanian Government has progressed an analysis of transport options and detailed cableway route assessment to inform the business case and project feasibility. Modelling of capital construction costs and pricing structures is underway to further inform the project analysis. Subject to the outcome of these investigations, the project will progress through a comprehensive environmental impact assessment.

Dove Lake Shelter, Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park (update to section 4.3 of the 2019 State Party Report, page 24)

The Dove Lake Shelter at Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park obtained all necessary Australian and Tasmanian government approvals in 2019 and construction of the shelter commenced in May 2020. The shelter is due to be completed in August 2022.

1 February 2021