



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment

MC14-014852

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

29 JUL 2014

Dear Dr Jensen

I refer to your letter of 14 July 2014 concerning a petition recently submitted for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Petitions regarding the World Heritage status of Tasmanian forests.

The Australian Government accepts the decision of the World Heritage Committee to uphold the 2013 boundary of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

As per the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, the Government has provided funding for the rehabilitation of degraded areas within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Under the *National Partnerships Agreement on the Implementation of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement 2013*, the Government provided:

- \$7,000,000 in December 2013, for the conservation management of additional reserves under the *Tasmanian Forest Agreement Act 2013*, which include areas within the property; and
- \$1,500,000 in 2012-13, for the development of a contemporary management plan for the property, including the areas added in the 2013 extension.

Environment Tasmania Inc received Government funding of \$1,237,500 over two years from the Biodiversity Fund in July 2013 “to restore former plantation land adjacent to and within new reserve and [as then] World Heritage nominated land back to native forests”.

The Government also provides \$3.4 million per annum to support the Tasmanian Government’s management of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. This amount is matched by the Tasmanian Government.

Australia has long been an active and constructive party to the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. We have a good reputation as a positive contributor to the work of the World Heritage Committee and in managing the 19 Australian properties listed under the Convention.

The Government respects the decision of the World Heritage Committee and will continue to work constructively with it on world heritage issues.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt