



20 May 2015

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: environment.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. (the TLC) is a non-political, non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation that uses an evidence-based approach and business principles to protect biodiversity on private land in Tasmania.

We started the TLC in 2001 with \$50 in the bank and a handful of committed volunteers. Since then we have secured significant areas of natural habitat for flora and wildlife including all of Tasmania's 33 species of land mammals (such as the nationally endangered Tasmanian devil, Spotted-tailed quoll, Eastern quoll and Eastern barred bandicoot).

Our vision is for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation and sustainability. To achieve that vision, the TLC's works in three key ways to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment by:

1. Acquiring and managing permanent TLC reserves for biodiversity;
2. Purchasing, covenanting and on-selling properties through our revolving funds; and
3. Working with other private landowners in a variety of ways to help them protect the ecological values of their properties.

In these ways, the TLC's environmental work contributes to the Australian Government's international targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The TLC's environmental work also contributes to healthy landscapes, healthy waterways, healthy soils and healthy communities by supporting landowners to look after the land and generate social, economic and environmental returns for themselves, their communities and for future generations to come.



Wherever possible the TLC works in partnership with others to achieve our goals. Significant partnerships have been formed since the TLC's inception with the Australian Government, through the Department of the Environment; the State Government of Tasmania, through the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment; the University of Tasmania, through the faculty of Science and Engineering and through the Save the Devil Program; Conservation International; Bush Heritage Australia; the Nature Conservancy; the Australian Land Conservation Alliance; the three regional NRM bodies in Tasmania, the Healthy Landscapes Group and its members, trusts and foundations, corporations, local community groups and many, many individuals.

A key partnership initiative is the Midlands Conservation Fund. Together with Bush Heritage Australia we are the members of the Midlands Conservation Fund - an endowment established to offer farmers stewardship agreements to pay for long-term conservation management on their land and safeguard the last pieces of remnant native grasslands and grassy woodlands. The Midlands Conservation Fund was listed on the Register in 2013.

Tax deductibility (DGR) status is critical to the ability of the TLC and the Midlands Conservation Fund to raise funds and continue to do the practical on-ground work we do for Tasmania's environment.

In the 2014 financial year, we raised \$1,480,578 from 3,157 donations through tax deductible gifts into the TLC's Public Fund established under the Register of Environmental Organisation's rules. Those donations were directed toward the following typical environmental outcomes from our work:

- Reserve acquisition.
- On-ground land management activities, including weeding, road works, fencing, fire training, fire equipment and fire suppression, access control, invasive species control, visitor access management, minor infrastructure works, carbon and other biodiversity assessment and management and volunteer support.
- On-ground long term ecological monitoring and management effectiveness monitoring, including a research and education partnership project with the Bush Blitz program and partnerships with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks Water and Environment (DPIPWE) on the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program monitoring Tasmanian devils in the wild.
- Long term conservation management and planning, from a state-wide strategic level to property management level. This includes continued partnership work for biodiversity conservation with individuals, organisations, communities and governments through a range of on-ground initiatives.

