23 February 2014

Subject: Submission to Senate inquiry into Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

As a citizen of Australia, I am deeply concerned by the government's plans to delist the forest areas recently included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In this time of uncertain impact of climate change, and of more known impact of humans on the Tasmanian forests, now is the time to protect our forests, not to reduce the World Heritage Areas. The negative impact of logging on our high conservation areas is well documented, and not supported by the majority of Australians.

In reference to terms of reference "*a. the natural world heritage values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area minor boundary extension passed by the World Heritage Committee in June 2013*", there appears to be no dispute from an international body that these areas are worthy of protection.

In reference to terms of reference "*e. implications for the World Heritage status of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area of the Government's request to withdraw the 74,000 hectares for logging*", as described above, there can be no responsible environmental reason to remove any areas from the World Heritage Area. Economic or political reasons should not play any part in such a decision, yet it appears the government is doing just this. To remove World Heritage Area status and allow logging is environmentally irresponsible and a shame to the Australian people who rely on the government to protect, not to destroy, our high conservation areas. It is also a slap in the face to the World Heritage Committee, who have already approved this area of protection, considering it to be worthy, and now the government suggests they were wrong.

In conclusion I wish to see the government revoke its plans to reduce the World Heritage Area, and for the World Heritage Committee to stand firm and protect our beautiful environment for all Australians.

Yours sincerely

Kylie Jones