

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
 Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 22  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 5  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division  
**Topic:** World Heritage Area boundary adjustment  
**Hansard Page:** 71  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Pratt asked:**

Senator PRATT: In the original nomination for the boundary extension, what criteria were deemed to be met by the extension area, including those areas previously logged?

Mr Routh: The values related to tall forests, in particular. There are also some areas of karst, which are limestone caves. I think they were the two pre-eminent values that were identified last year.

Dr Dripps: We can take on notice to match those with World Heritage criteria for listing, and we would also draw to your attention, Senator, that of course these values are not present uniformly across the entire site. Some of the values are concentrated in particular areas, so when a property is listed on the World Heritage List it is listed for a range of values—four, five, three—across the entire site, but that does not mean that those values exist in every single area.

**Answer:**

The 2013 boundary extension was nominated for its contributions to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property against four natural world heritage criteria. This was accepted by the Committee.

The natural criteria and the elements that express the Outstanding Universal Value referred to in the justification that was accepted by the Committee are summarised in the following table:

<b>World Heritage Criteria</b>	<b>Contributions to Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity<sup>1</sup></b>
Criteria (vii) – contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.	<p>Addition of areas with high aesthetic values such as stands of tall eucalypt forests, the Great Western Tiers escarpment, and superlative karst features. Enhancement of views from key tourist access points or roads.</p> <p>Enhancement of wilderness quality, for instance by adding additional areas with high wilderness quality or by making core wilderness areas already in the property more remote from human disturbances such as native timber harvesting.</p>
Criteria (viii) – be outstanding examples representing major stages of the earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the	Glacial and peri-glacial features and processes; karst and escarpment features that improve geo-diversity and representation of ongoing geological processes and improve

<p>development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.</p>	<p>protection and management for example by adding the balance of cave systems that were previously partly in and partly out of the property</p> <p>Primitive floral and faunal groups (adding more of these or extending their range in the property and removing threats).</p>
<p>Criteria (ix) – be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.</p>	<p>Endemic Species (adding more of these or extending their range in the property and removing threats).</p> <p>Tall Eucalypt forest – adding additional important stands and enhancing connectivity and ongoing ecological process of reciprocal interaction between tall eucalypt forest and rainforest.</p>
<p>Criterion (x) – contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.</p>	<p>Wet Eucalypt Forest – significantly enhanced representation</p> <p>Habitat for Rare and Threatened Species – additional habitat and addition of rare and threatened species not already within the property. Examples are Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll and <i>Clarence galaxias</i>.</p>