



By email to policy@dpac.tas.gov.au

Submission on *Tasmanian Positive*

(Discussion Paper – Tasmania's Sustainability Vision and Goals)

Page references relate to the full (32 page) version of *Tasmanian Positive*

The Tasmanian National Parks Association (TNPA) is a non-profit, non-government organisation which provides an independent voice on issues that affect Tasmania's national parks and other conservation reserves. The TNPA considers presentation and visitor management to be crucial aspects of the stewardship of reserved land and has a history of engaging in public debate on these issues. The TNPA's membership reflects a range of interests in relation to reserved land, including considerable expertise in the management of natural and cultural values. This submission is restricted to matters of direct concern to the TNPA.

The TNPA welcomes the recognition of the importance of wilderness and our natural heritage contained in the Message from the Premier (page 4): "Tasmania is renowned for our ... world heritage wilderness ... tourism ... and an enviable lifestyle founded in our beautiful natural heritage".

The TNPA's concern is that *Tasmanian Positive* does not fully reflect the Premier's message. There is some acknowledgement of the need to conserve/enhance biodiversity (Natural Environment Goal [page 21] and Natural Heritage Strategy for Tasmania [page 30]), but no acknowledgement of the importance of protecting the wild character (wilderness) of Tasmania.

The *retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area*, recently adopted by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, states that the "quality of wilderness is the foundation for the integrity of its natural and cultural values" and the opportunity to experience wild nature is a key competitive advantage of our tourism industry. Current protections for wilderness are weak with ongoing conflict between those who advocate for its protection and elements of the tourism industry who wish to exploit it while failing to acknowledge that they are simultaneously degrading the wild character upon which their businesses ultimately depend.

If Tasmania is to continue to be recognised for its wilderness and natural values, Tasmania's Sustainability Vision and Strategy must emphasise the importance of maintaining and enhancing both Tasmania's biodiversity and its wild character in order to end the current slow degradation of both.

As requested on page 24, I confirm that the TNPA is interested in being involved in further consultation on matters relevant to our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Sawyer, President, TNPA

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The TNPA acknowledges the First Nation peoples of lutruwita (Tasmania) and their enduring connection to country. We pay our respects to their elders past and present. We also acknowledge that their land was taken, and sovereignty was not ceded.