

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION inc.

Press Release

Monday 29th March 2004

The Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc (TNPA) calls on the Tasmanian Government to reverse its decision to subsidise the massive development (80 cabins plus associated facilities and infrastructure) inside the South West National Park on the edge of the Wilderness World Heritage Area with half a million dollars of Tasmanian taxpayers money.

The developer has made it clear from day one that this development would only go ahead if the Tasmanian Government paid for the upgrade of the Catamaran Bridge and that makes this half a million dollars of Tasmanian taxpayers money, allocated to upgrading the Catamaran Bridge, a direct subsidy to the private developer from Victoria who wishes to develop and exploit one of Tasmania's World famous national parks.

The TNPA also calls on the Government to have this massive development relocated outside the boundaries of the South West National Park.

The people of Tasmania, Australia as well as international tourists have all made it very clear (one thousand postcards delivered to this current Govt) that they do not wish to see major developments inside our magnificent national parks.

The Tasmanian Government had to amend the 1999 Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, the plan developed by the Parks and Wildlife Service to protect our priceless Wilderness World Heritage Area, to allow this development to take place, previous to the Tasmanian Government's amendment this type of development was specifically precluded to protect the values inherent in our national parks and Wilderness World Heritage Areas.

This again proves that the 40% of Tasmania the Tasmanian Government keeps declaring is protected in formal reserves is protected in nothing but name only and really no part of Tasmania's natural environment is safe from destruction under this current Government.

For further information please contact
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