

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION inc.

Press Release

Friday 26th March 2004

The Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc calls on The Honourable Bryan Green, Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and the rest of the Tasmanian State Government to stop repeating the lie that 40% of Tasmania is **protected** in formal reserves and Tasmania's World Heritage Area whenever it's environmental credentials are questioned or criticised (most lately Bryan Green in response to British Parliamentarian Norman Baker's call for a boycott of Tasmania by English tourists because of Tasmania's forestry policies and use of 1080). While 40% of Tasmania may fall within conservation reserves of one form or another (with around 30% being reserved in National Parks, including the World Heritage Area) it is certainly not **protected** under the current Tasmanian Government's tourism driven policies.

Currently the State Government is calling for expressions of interest from developers interested in rolling bulldozers into Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA) and most famous national park, the Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park. The destruction and replacement of the natural values of this area by a large-scale accommodation facility for well-to-do tourists appears to be this Government's definition of formal protection of Tasmania's world-renowned native wildlife and fauna.

This comes on top of changes the Tasmanian Government has already made to the 1999 World Heritage Area Management Plan to allow another major tourism development in the South West National Park where previously development was specifically ruled out 'in view of the natural character of the area.' Furthermore, it was less than a year ago that the Tasmanian Government was exposed for doing secret deals in support of another large tourist-related development within the Maria Island National Park.

It is a lie for the Tasmanian Government to claim or pretend that 40% of Tasmania natural environment is protected when this is clearly not the case.

Furthermore, it is clearly not possible for the Tasmanian Government to claim any environmental credibility when its actions clearly demonstrate its 'open-door' policy for development of Tasmania's National Parks. In this regard, not only are the Government's actions not protecting our magnificent Wilderness World Heritage Area, the only **Wilderness** WHA on the planet, and our most famous national park, they are in fact actually responsible for **initiating the destruction itself**.

For further information please contact
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