

The 1999 *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area*

Management Plan – An Award Winning Plan

When completed in 1999, the *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999* was widely recognised as a state of the art, natural area management plan. Not only was the plan comprehensive, strongly evidence-based and clear, it was also prepared through a well thought out process that included extensive public and stakeholder consultation. This included an invaluable ‘issues & options’ consultative stage, which led to the Plan being a broadly accepted, balanced plan, for what had been a highly contentious area.

At the time of the Plan’s release, the Mercury (16/4/1999) recognised the major achievement of the Plan, noting “*The 10-year management plan of Tasmania’s wilderness world heritage area is an impressive attempt to achieve the impossible – to be all things to all people. ... The management plan will appeal ... as being sensible [and] containing reasonable attempts to **balance**¹ the needs of all who have an interest in Tasmania’s wilderness*”.

The excellence of the *1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan* has been recognised through a number of awards, including:

- Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Tasmanian State Award and Australian National Award for conservation planning (2003/2004)
- Australian Federal Minister's Award for Planning Excellence 2004 (winner across all categories of the PIA Awards).

The *1999 Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan* also contained a new approach to the evaluation of management. This, and the first major evaluation of the Plan under this new monitoring system, the *State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Report 2004*, was also recognised through:

- The Australasian Evaluation Society’s Award for Best Evaluation Publication (Caulley Tulloch Award) in 2005.

The selection of the PWS’s ‘Evaluation of management effectiveness in the TWWHA’ project as a finalist in the 2006 Australian Banksia Environmental Awards (category: Land and Biodiversity).

¹ TNPA emphasis.