



Cassy O'Connor MP | Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

Senator Nick McKim | Senator for Tasmania

6 November 2015

Lonely Planet
90 Maribyrnong Street
Footscray Victoria 3011

Dear Lonely Planet,

We write to you as elected representatives of the Tasmanian Greens to clarify any misunderstanding over the Tasmanian Government's response to your recent advisory to travellers considering visiting Tasmania's wilderness.

We are aware that the Premier, Will Hodgman, intends to write to Lonely Planet highlighting what he believes is a misunderstanding over perceived threats to Tasmania's wilderness.

Ironically, while Premier Hodgman has agreed with every previous glowing reference made to Tasmania by Lonely Planet, he believes you are wrong this time. Despite what the Premier might communicate to you, as the latest Lonely Planet travel advisory states, Tasmania's wilderness is under threat as a result of the current government's policies.

To date, the Tasmanian Liberals have not ruled out logging and increased private tourist development in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. This is the reason that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is sending a delegation to Tasmania later this month.

The Committee has expressed its alarm over the current government's policies in relation to the TWWHA. Specifically, the Committee is concerned that the Draft World Heritage Management Plan released by the Liberal Government allows for activities in the TWWHA that threaten its outstanding universal values.

The Committee's draft decision in June this year strongly urged the, "*State Party to ensure that commercial logging and mining are not permitted within the entire property, and that all areas of public lands within the property's boundaries, including Regional Reserves, Conservation Areas and Future Potential Production Forest Lands, have a status that ensures adequate protection of the Outstanding Universal Values of the property.*"

Pretty unambiguous, we would have thought and certainly confirmation that Lonely Planet is correct in its assessment of threats to Tasmania's wilderness. To add further weight to your publication's assessment, the new Tasmanian Government has flagged future logging operations in more than 400 000 hectares of forested land that was set aside under the previous government for conservation purposes.

So, we advise that Lonely Planet view any attempted greenwash from the Liberal Premier with the scepticism it deserves.

In closing, we would like to warmly and sincerely thank Lonely Planet for the recognition it has given to Tasmania's great beauty, natural magnetism and appeal to travellers. We agree wholeheartedly, as has our Premier in the past. This incredible island with its wild and unspoiled landscapes, the world's cleanest air, very fine food and wine and the richness of its Aboriginal and European cultural history do indeed make it worthy of global praise and attention.

We appreciate Lonely Planet's honest assessments of all that is outstanding about Tasmania, and the honesty evident in your latest assessment of threats to Tasmania's wild places.

Warm regards,

Cassy O'Connor MP
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

Senator Nick McKim
Senator for Tasmania