
From:
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2020 1:32 PM
To: TWWHA Tourism Master Plan
Subject: My submission to the Tourism Master Plan

SUBMISSION RE DRAFT PLAN FOR TWWHA
May 6th 2020

From Estelle Ross

Why do people visit Tasmania?

We are renowned for our clean, green image, heritage buildings and towns, production of excellent food and wine and of course our superb wilderness areas.

The first few sentences of the opening paragraph of the original Executive Summary put it in a nutshell:

The TWWHA makes a significant and valuable contribution to the social and economic wellbeing of all Tasmanians. Its landscapes, interwoven with the island's history, loom large in the consciousness of many. It has important recreational, educational, health and aesthetic value, provides vitally important ecosystem services, and helps to drive the Tasmanian economy through such activities as tourism and energy generation.

We are one of very few countries worldwide which meet 7/10 of the criteria on the World Heritage List required to receive this accolade* and so are blessed to have so much of the state's wilderness areas protected for future generations. Only two other areas in the Southern Hemisphere, Fiordland in New Zealand and Patagonia in South America contain similar significant areas of protected temperate wilderness^ . It is important that these wild areas are maintained to provide ongoing biodiversity, carbon capture and homes for our wildlife.

They are also drivers for our lucrative tourism industry which is a top ten contributor to the state's economy second only to the mining sector. #

Our wilderness and world heritage areas are vital to our economy therefore any detrimental project, such as commercial developments inside Parks would put this whole sector at risk. Visitors come to see pristine wild areas not commercial ventures. There should be no more mining or logging permitted here or commercial infrastructure. The area is too precious and unique to despoil.

I read recently that 356,000 hectares of Tasmanian forest is earmarked as Future Potential Production Forest (FPPF). This should not be allowed to happen. Instead, Conservation Areas, Regional Reserves and areas of Future Potential Production Forest Land in the World Heritage Area should be upgraded to national park status to protect them from future logging and mining.

Businesses are only too happy to use the brand **Wilderness**, but tourism infrastructure and commercial activity should be restricted to areas outside the WHA.

It is obvious that wilderness areas need to be adequately protected and yet I understand that a few years ago jobs were cut from Parks and Wildlife. Instead, there should be a massive increase in funding for the sector to help maintain these precious areas. A remote area firefighting detachment should be established to prevent the catastrophic events of last year when thousands of hectares of unique landscape were destroyed. After all, the state government has happily spent \$millions on a totally inefficient loss-making forestry industry for years when these funds could have been spent on caring for our major tourism drawcard- the TWWHA.

Parks and Wildlife Dept should have overall control over this area. It should not be handed to a tourism body that does not have the expertise in ecological management.

I therefore do not agree with the State Government's plan to open the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area for commercial development

Sincerely

Estelle Ross

* <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/world-heritage-criteria>

http://www.tasmaniatopten.com/lists/economic_contributors.php

^ (From page 85 of the Draft Plan)