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Media Release

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TCT calls for new year resolution from Minister David Llewellyn on new reserves

New years day is the time for us all to make resolutions for the coming year and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust has a suggestion for the Minister for Primary Industry and Water David Llewellyn.

The TCT calls on Minister Llewellyn to make a resolution that in 2009 he will ensure the declaration of the 78,000 hectares of reserves recommended in 2006 by the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project (CLAC).

“It has been five years since the CLAC process commenced and two and a half years since it was completed and the TCT is greatly concerned to see the vast majority (72%) of the land subject to this process, including the areas with the highest conservation values, is still unreserved and not protected”, TCT spokesperson Peter McGlone said today.

“It is stated on the Department of Primary Industries and Water web site that State Cabinet has endorsed these reservations so we believe there is no reason for Minister Llewellyn to delay any further.”

David Llewellyn is minister responsible for the reserve declaration process under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 and when formally declared these new reserves will be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service. Most of the land proposed for reservation is currently unallocated Crown land but a small proportion are Public Reserves under the Crown Lands Act.

In September 2008 the TCT wrote to Minister Llewellyn seeking further information on this issue but has not even received a reply.

“These areas have very high conservation and cultural values and the longer they remain unreserved the more likely they will become degraded by lack of active management and lack of control over illegal activities”, Mr McGlone continued.

“The TCT along with hundreds of other Tasmanian community groups and individuals participated in the CLAC process and we deserve to see the Minister implement the final recommendations,” Mr McGlone concluded.

The proposed reserves include: off shore islands containing sea bird colonies, sites of significant geological value, threatened species habitat, threatened vegetation communities, extensive strips of coastline and many have important recreational values. The proposed reserves would also provide important extensions to existing reserves and connections between existing reserves.

Examples of proposed reserves and their values include:

- 3 hectare block of native grassland in Brighton that is habitat to 13 state listed threatened plant species.
- 5323 hectare extension to Mount Cameron Regional Reserve in the north-east.
- 1215 hectare proposed Conservation Area near Granite Point in the north-east that includes more than 10 km of largely undeveloped coastline
- 19629 hectares near Queenstown that contains significant King Billy pine forest and paperbark swamp.
- Four areas totalling 383 hectares in the Meehan Range in Clarence with significant recreational values, threatened species and threatened forest communities.
- 50 islands in eastern Bass Strait including the 232 hectare Hogan Island.

Further Information:

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