



tasmanian conservation trust inc

Media Release

18 December 2009

Additional funding for the Parks and Wildlife Service welcomed by the TCT

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust today congratulated the Bartlett Government on its allocation of additional funds for the Parks and Wildlife Service.

“While much more funding is undoubtedly needed, the TCT congratulates the State Government for allocating additional funding in these difficult financial times,” said TCT Director Peter McGlone.

“The fact that this funding is for staff to do land management is especially welcomed as the TCT has been calling for this for several years.

“While some critics have accused Premier Bartlett of behaving like a naughty child who pretends to be good for Christmas, the TCT believes that good behaviour by governments should be rewarded. It is important that Governments are told when they are heading in the right direction otherwise they may never change.

“For many years the government has cut back the Service's ability to manage and protect the natural values in our reserve system while boosting visitor services. This recent decision makes a start toward correcting this in-balance.

“It is vital that the majority of new staff are ‘rangers’ with skills to carry out enforcement, ecological fire management and other high level duties.

“We are disappointed that funding provided for the current financial year will only permit about ten new staff to be employed.”

The TCT prepared a detailed submission to the State Budget for 2010-2011 in which an additional \$28 million per year was requested for the Parks and Wildlife Service.

“While the additional funding announced by the State Government is welcomed, there is a huge backlog of work in our reserves which must be funded or the natural and cultural values will start to erode.

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"If the very values which attract people to our reserves are degraded then tourists will start to notice their experiences do not match the promises in the tourist industry marketing," Mr McGlone concluded.

Further information:

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