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New era of environmental degradation

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust has today attacked amendments to the Water Management Act, introduced into parliament this morning, which will remove the oversight of the threatened species and forestry experts as well as wind back appeal rights. TCT Director Craig Woodfield said that this proposal was nothing more than an attempt to silence critics of environmentally damaging large dam proposals, both internal and external to Government. He also revealed that the Minister had barred his Department from distributing the draft Bill to key stakeholders such as the TCT.

“The Tasmanian Government has never forgotten how the TCT exposed the Meander Dam for what it truly was through the appeals system. They are hoping to resurrect a number of previously failed dam projects are trying to gag us, scientists within the Government and the rest of the community in the process.”

Mr. Woodfield said that the number of appeals lodged on dam approvals was tiny, especially compared with other legislation.

“In the last seven years there have been less than 20 appeals over dams. Last year alone there were almost 100 appeals on residential building applications.”

“The only reason to change this law is to hide unsustainable development from independent scrutiny.”

Call Craig Woodfield on 6234 3552 or 0417 160 751 for additional comment