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MEDIA RELEASE

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Tasmanian Government clears threatened forest community

The Tasmanian Government has cleared an endangered forest community at the Meander Dam site which is subject to a moratorium on clearing. Approval has been given by the Forest Practices Authority to clear this site even though the Rivers and Water Supply Commission was unable to come up with any concrete offsets or compensatory habitat.

TCT Director Craig Woodfield said that this is yet another example of the failure of the Tasmanian forest practices system to protect biodiversity, as highlighted by the Weilangta decision earlier this week.

“The endangered *Eucalyptus ovata* forest community at the site and the surrounding vegetation was home to quolls, devils, masked owls and a host of other threatened flora and fauna species. And yet the Tasmanian Government was able to intimidate an obese Forest Practices Authority into approving the clearing of this important habitat.”

Mr. Woodfield said that that an urgent review of the biodiversity protection provisions of the forest practices code was required, and that the Tasmanian Government needed to acknowledge this, rather than trying to transfer responsibility to the Commonwealth.

“The cat is well and truly out of the bag - forestry operations in Tasmania are not protecting biodiversity. This is first and foremost the responsibility of the Tasmanian Government, and the TCT is ready and willing to engage in any process to revise and improve this situation.”

For comment call Craig Woodfield or Alistair Graham on 6234 3552 or 0417 160 751