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## Media Release

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# Government misrepresenting support for changes to dam approvals process

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust has today revealed the extent to which the Tasmanian Government bureaucrats are misrepresenting the level of support for proposed changes to large dam assessment and approval processes.

In 2005, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water called for submissions on the operation of the Water Management Act. Thirty one were received, which the TCT has recently accessed. Of these 31, only 3 expressed significant concerns about the dam approval process being too stringent. On the other hand, more than half of the submissions received expressed concerns that water management need to be tightened up and greater environmental protection implemented.

TCT Director Craig Woodfield said that it was obvious that the Tasmanian Government was only interested in the views of a minority of a pro-dam lobbyists.

“We have been officially told that in light of the response to the Minister’s call for submissions, it is “understandable” that the Government intends to change the law to make building large dams easier.”

“This has now been shown to be absolute nonsense. The bottom line is that the State Government wants to try and build more environmentally damaging, economically unviable large dams, and is willing to change the law to facilitate this.”

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