

Parks and Protected Areas

This island's wilderness, wild places and national parks protect natural and Aboriginal cultural heritage values found nowhere else on Earth. They nourish us as locals and draw visitors from within the state, across the country and around the globe. Nature underpins lutruwita/Tasmania's clean green brand, which gives our primary producers and exporters a critical edge in global markets.

Extending the TWWHA

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is a testament to the power of people to change policy and protect special places.¹

Declared in 1982, the TWWHA has been extended various times. Most recently in 2013, with the Greens in balance of power, 170,000ha were added. Areas of the Styx, Weld and Florentine valleys, kooparooka niara/Great Western Tiers and other tall forest areas are now permanently protected.²

Other areas of equal World Heritage significance are still entirely unprotected, or are in lower protection conservation reserves. These are threatened by mining, logging,³ off-road vehicles and general mismanagement from underfunding and lax regulation.

The boundary of the TWWHA remains unresolved, and communities continue to fight for World Heritage status for important areas.

We will fight to achieve World Heritage status for areas outside the TWWHA, including the takayna/Tarkine, the Spero-Wanderer Wilderness, the West Coast Range, the Vale River Catchment, Granite Tor Conservation Area and Recherche Bay.

Aboriginal Protected Areas

No public land has been returned to Aboriginal ownership for over 20 years. In 2023 the Liberals

ignored a request of the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania to create a new Aboriginal-owned National Park tenure. They also refused to return crown land – that was before parliament to be protected – as an Aboriginal-owned kooparooka niara National Park.

Returning land to Aboriginal ownership as a new National Park tenure should be established as an option for government, and appropriate land should be identified for transfer and return.

We will fight for the establishment of a new reserve national park tenure that provides for Aboriginal-ownership and management. *kooparooka niara* and *takayna* should be returned under this tenure, in consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Development in Parks

In 2016, the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) Management Plan was secretly changed to facilitate the construction of private commercial tourism developments.

Longstanding protections were overturned and a specific provision was made in the new management plan for developments such as the luxury lodges on the South Coast, South East Cape, Lake Malbena, Lake Rodway, and on the Overland Track.⁴

The Liberals' have pushed these projects with their dodgy Expressions of Interest (EOI) process. They have exploited the weak, non-

¹ TNPA, [Creating Today's Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area – A Brief History of its Reservation](#), 2017.

² Ibid.

³ Mackey, B, Cadman, S, Rogers, N and Hugh, S, [Assessing the risk to the conservation status of temperate rainforest from exposure to mining,](#)

[commercial logging, and climate change: A Tasmanian case study](#), Biological Conservation, Vol. 215, 2017.

⁴ Tasmanian Government, [Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan](#), 2016.

statutory parks' development assessment process that has no guarantee of community consultation or right of appeal.

We will fight to restore strong protections in reserve management plans, end the secretive EOI tourism process, and ensure a robust statutory assessment process that includes genuine community consultation and merits-based appeal rights are established.

4WDs in Conservation Areas

The permitted and illegal use of off-road vehicles on reserves such as the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area and Southwest Conservation Area are impacting on sensitive vegetation, shorebirds and irreplaceable Aboriginal cultural heritage.⁵

Some tracks should be closed and rehabilitated, others better managed and regulated.

The Liberal Government is currently investing \$10 million in a 4WD strategy for western Tasmania that includes establishing new 4WD access tracks and expanded campgrounds on a sensitive Aboriginal cultural landscape.

We will fight to review 4WD access in parks and reserves, and increase compliance officers to prevent 4WDs causing damage in the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area, Southwest Conservation Area and other reserved lands.

Public Infrastructure

In 2018, parks funding per hectare in Tasmania was \$23.79, compared to \$42.03 in Victoria, \$58.43 in NSW, \$61.04 in South Africa and \$121.30 in the United States.⁶

Underinvestment in the Parks and Wildlife Service has occurred while visitation and tourism activity has increased and climate

change and pest-related land management pressures have intensified.⁷

There is an urgent need to invest in Tasmania's reserved land management capacity and infrastructure, to preserve the natural and cultural integrity of parks and maintain the visitor experience.

We will fight for increased funding for the Parks and Wildlife Service, including investment in TWWHA land management and infrastructure. This includes funding for upgrading and maintaining existing tracks and visitor infrastructure, new gateway infrastructure, and visitor education and interpretation.

Staffing

We have a plan to restore staffing to the Parks and Wildlife service so it can focus on employing rangers to ensure the protection of natural and cultural heritage values. [Read our plan here.](#)

And we have a plan to improve recruitment and retention across key public service roles, including rangers. [Read our plan here.](#)

Budget

	(\$m)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
4WD Compliance		0.24	0.25	0.26	0.27	1.02
EOIs and RAAs		0.13	-	-	-	0.13
Extend TWWHA		0.13	-	-	-	0.13
Aboriginal Land		0.13	-	-	-	0.13
Infrastructure		15.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	37.50
Total		15.76	7.75	7.76	7.77	39.04

FIND ALL OUR POLICIES: tasgreensmps.org/policy/

⁵ McGlone, P, [Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area and Recreational Vehicles](#), 2010.

⁶ Queensland Treasury Corporation, [Queensland protected areas financial sustainability strategy report](#), 2018, p. 23.

⁷ Martin, L, [Talking Point: Tasmanian national parks need money – and a plan](#), The Mercury, 2018.