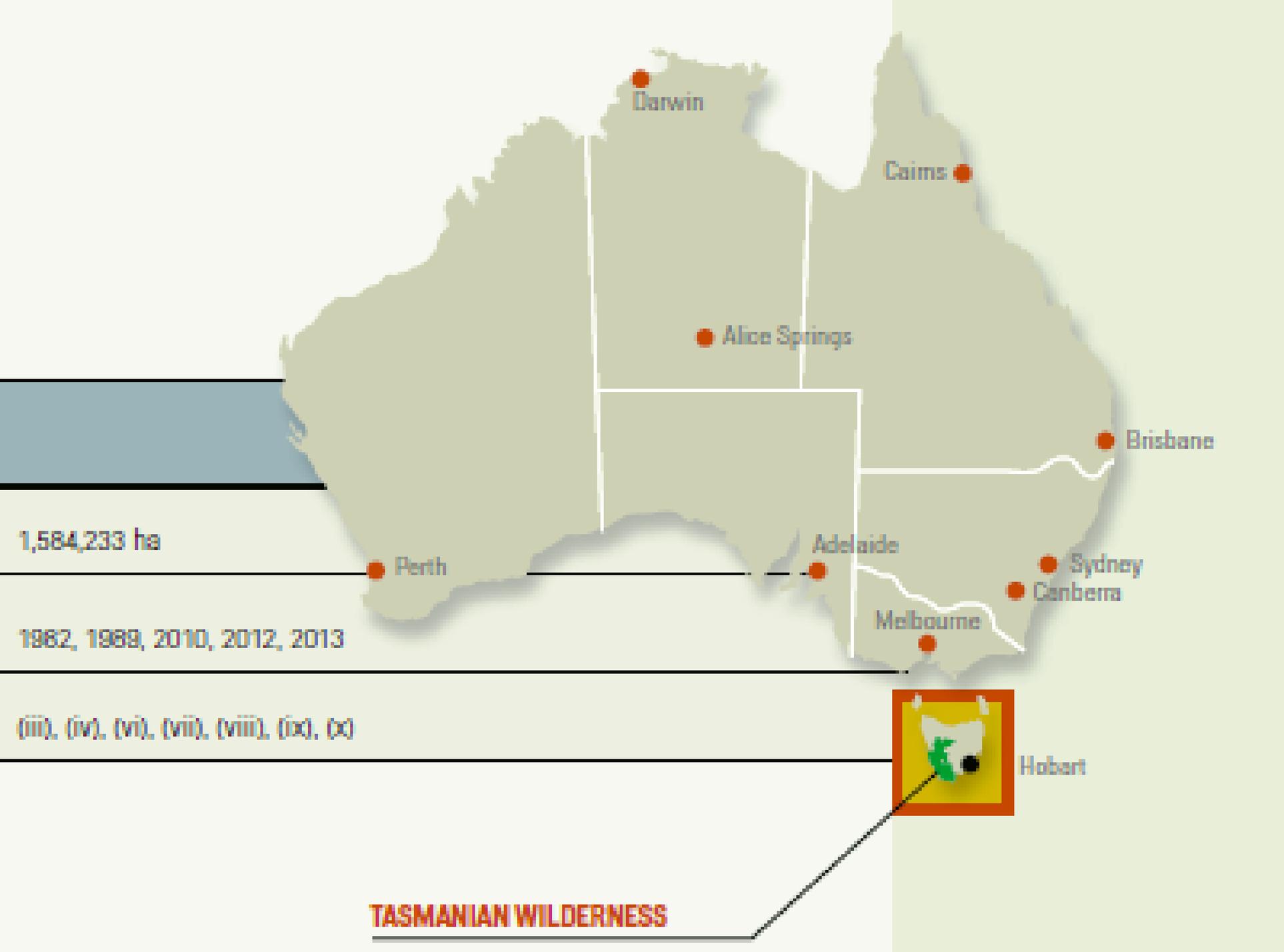




The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Australia)

**How an international treaty has been used to protect
wilderness from dams and logging**

Geoff Law AM, October 2020, International Wilderness Week



An illustration of large, natural, remote landscapes within the Tasmanian Wilderness



**An illustration of large, natural, remote landscapes within the
Tasmanian Wilderness**



**An illustration of large, natural, remote landscapes within the
Tasmanian Wilderness**



**An illustration of large, natural, remote landscapes within the
Tasmanian Wilderness**





What is World Heritage?

- **UNESCO World Heritage Convention, November 1972**
- **Mission is ‘the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation’ of world’s cultural, natural heritage**
- **Over 190 countries**
- **Over 1000 properties listed**
- **Iconic sites such as Pyramids of Egypt; Grand Canyon in USA; Mt Everest; Yosemite NP**

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

The Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

Four natural criteria for World Heritage:

Wild coast, ancient rainforests, giant trees, glaciated mountains, lakes, moorlands, marsupial carnivores, large wilderness.



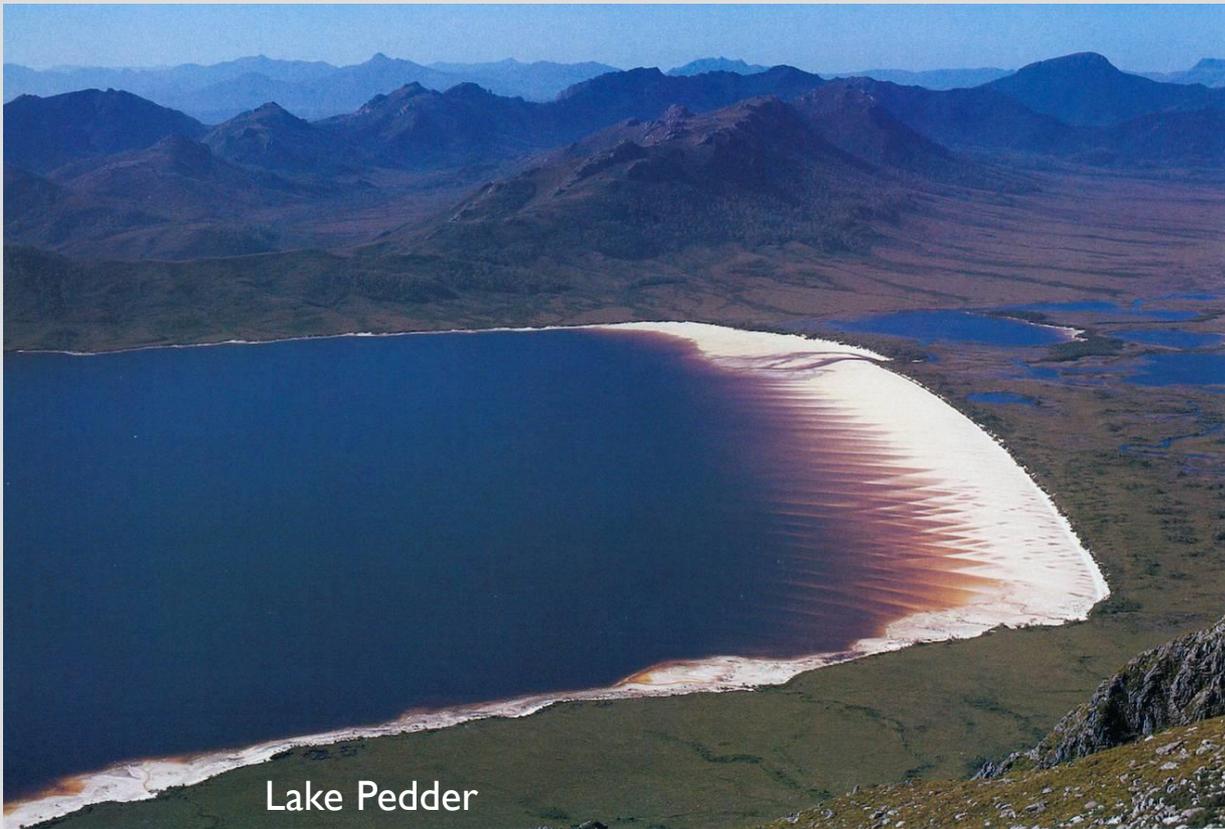
The Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

Three cultural criteria for World Heritage – artefacts and paintings in caves, and story of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people's 35,000-year occupation

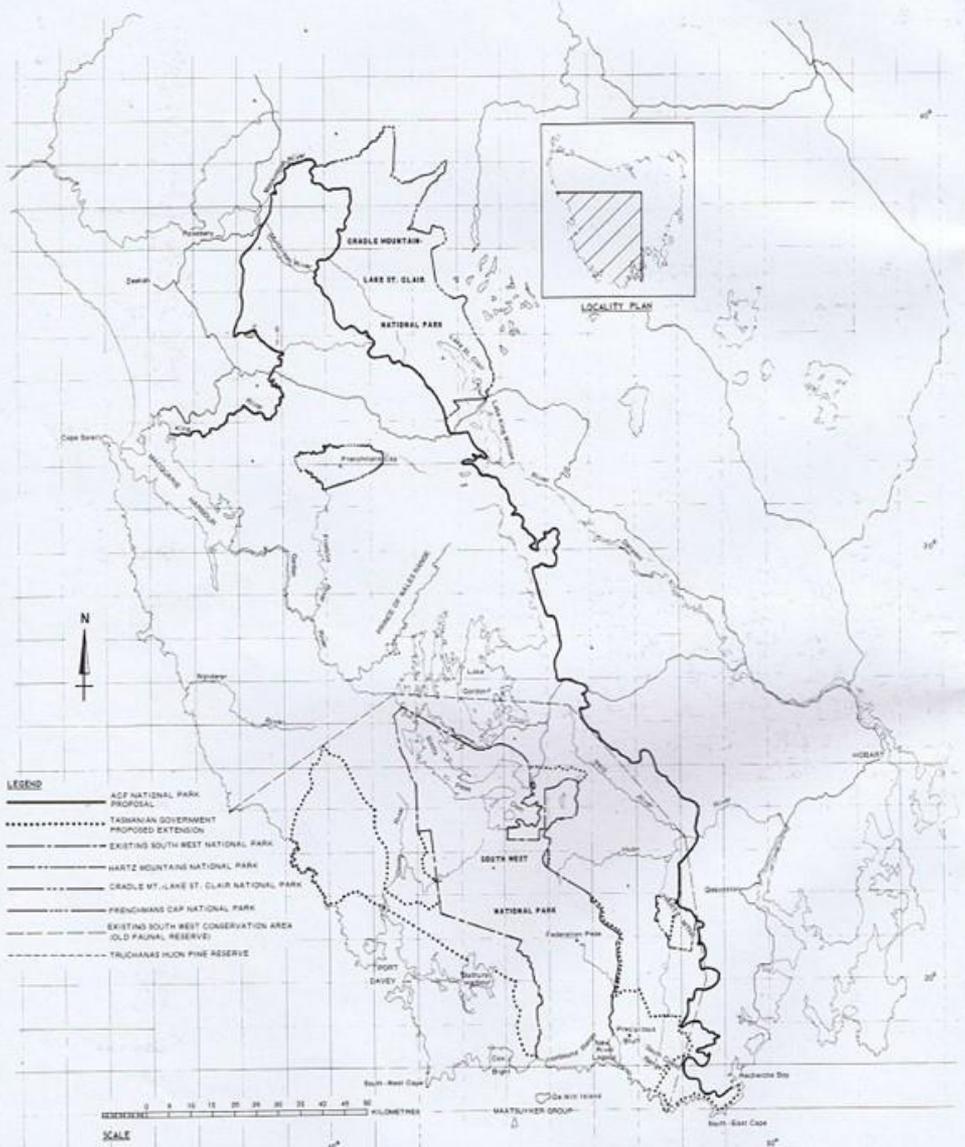


Wilderness destroyed by hydro dams in 1972

- Spirited campaign brought national attention
- Charismatic defeat led to audacious new proposals.



SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA

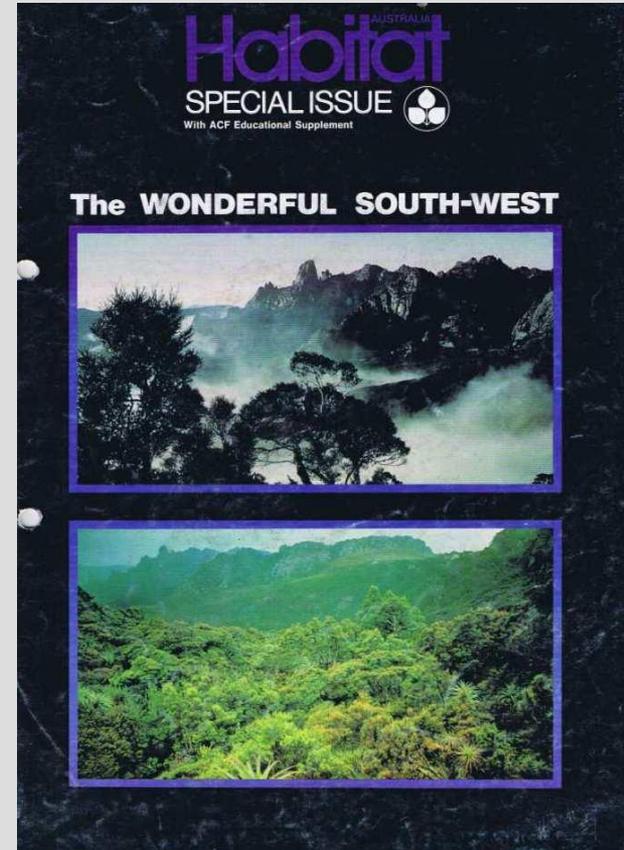
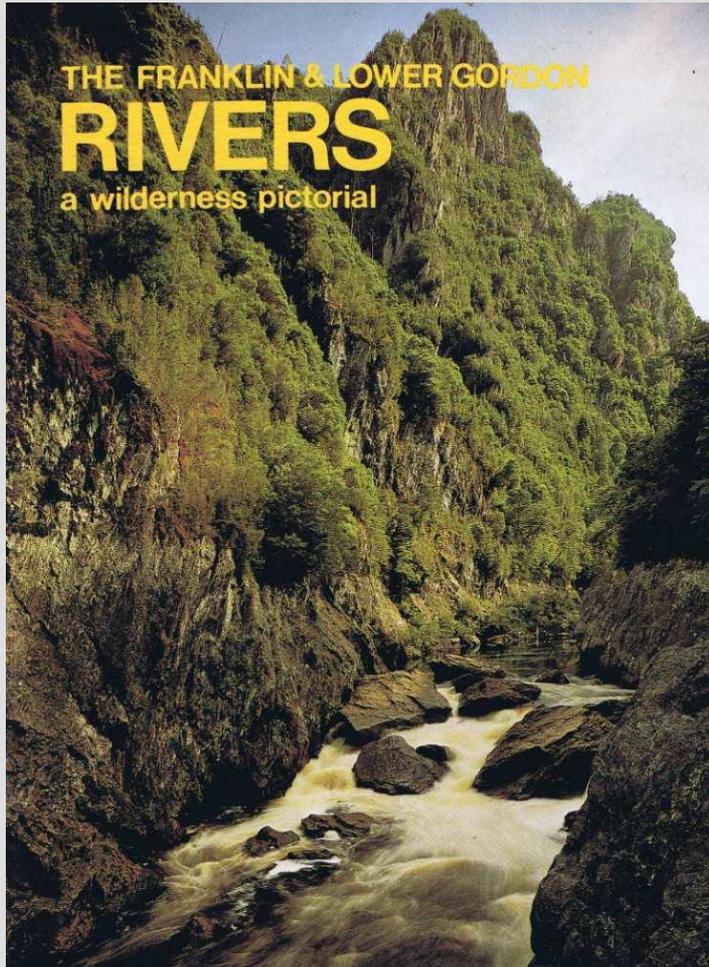


**In 1974
conservationists
proposed a VERY
LARGE new national
park and World
Heritage Listing**

- Internal debates about 'asking for too much'
- Audacity of proposal captured imagination of supporters
- A long-term vision provided direction to the movement for decades

1970s: ENGOs develop and promote their vision

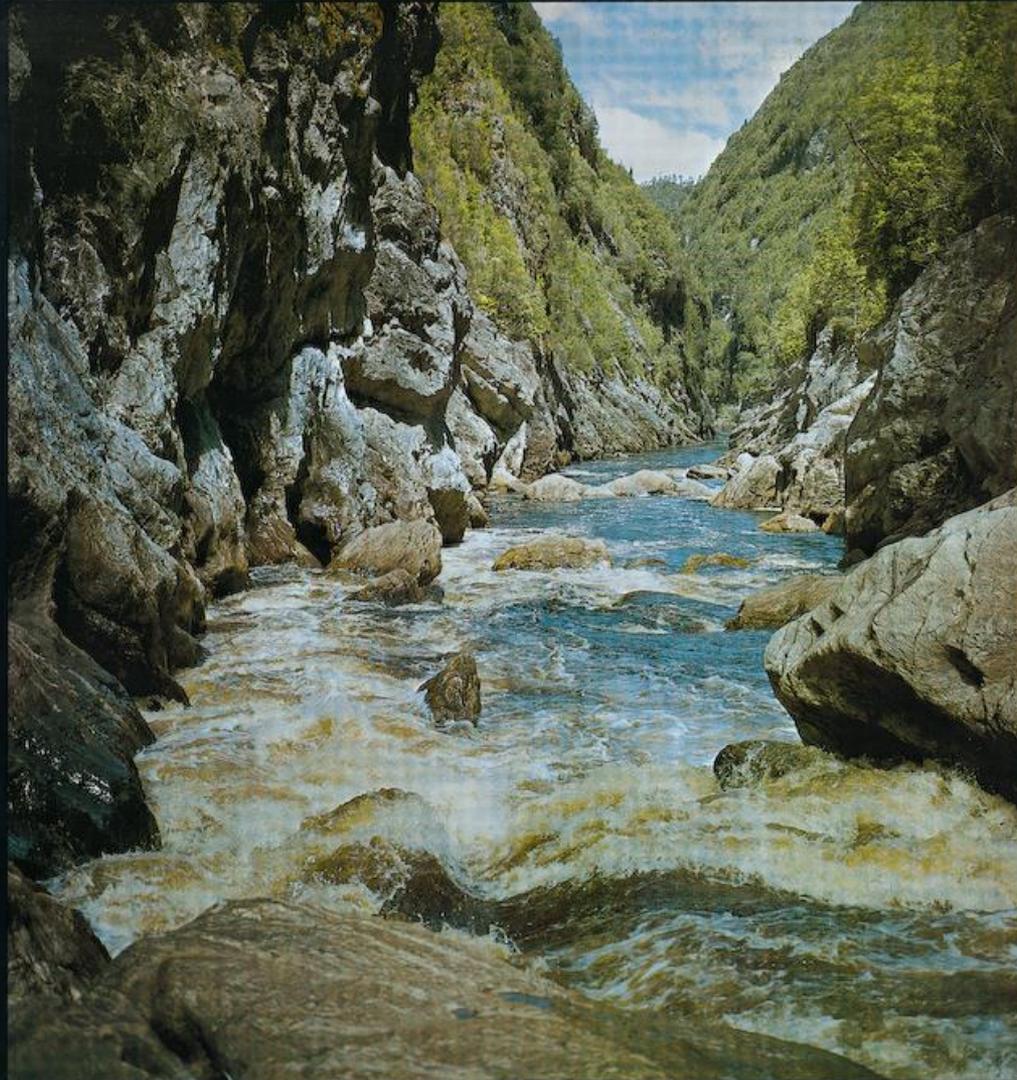
Journals, magazines, picture books,
films, posters, car bumper
stickers



CONFLICT develops over new dam proposal

- Franklin River
becomes focus of
new campaign

- Events unfold as
a **POLITICAL** and
HUMAN DRAMA



A NARROW SECTION OF THE FRANKLIN RIVER--THE THUNDERUSH SLUICE

PHOTO BY TONY MOSCAL

DON'T FLOOD THE FRANKLIN!

YOU MUST SAVE TASMANIA'S LAST WILD RIVER FROM NEEDLESS DESTRUCTION

CONTACT

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS SOCIETY,
102 BULLHORN ST HOBART 7000 Tas.
Phone (002) 24-6543

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA COMMITTEE OF N.S.W.,
P.O. Box 10244 Glenelg Hk.
SYDNEY 2000 N.S.W. Phone (02) 233-6388

BUS
STOP
A
HAIL HERE

22

WE PAY
COMALCO'S
POWER
BILL.

THINK

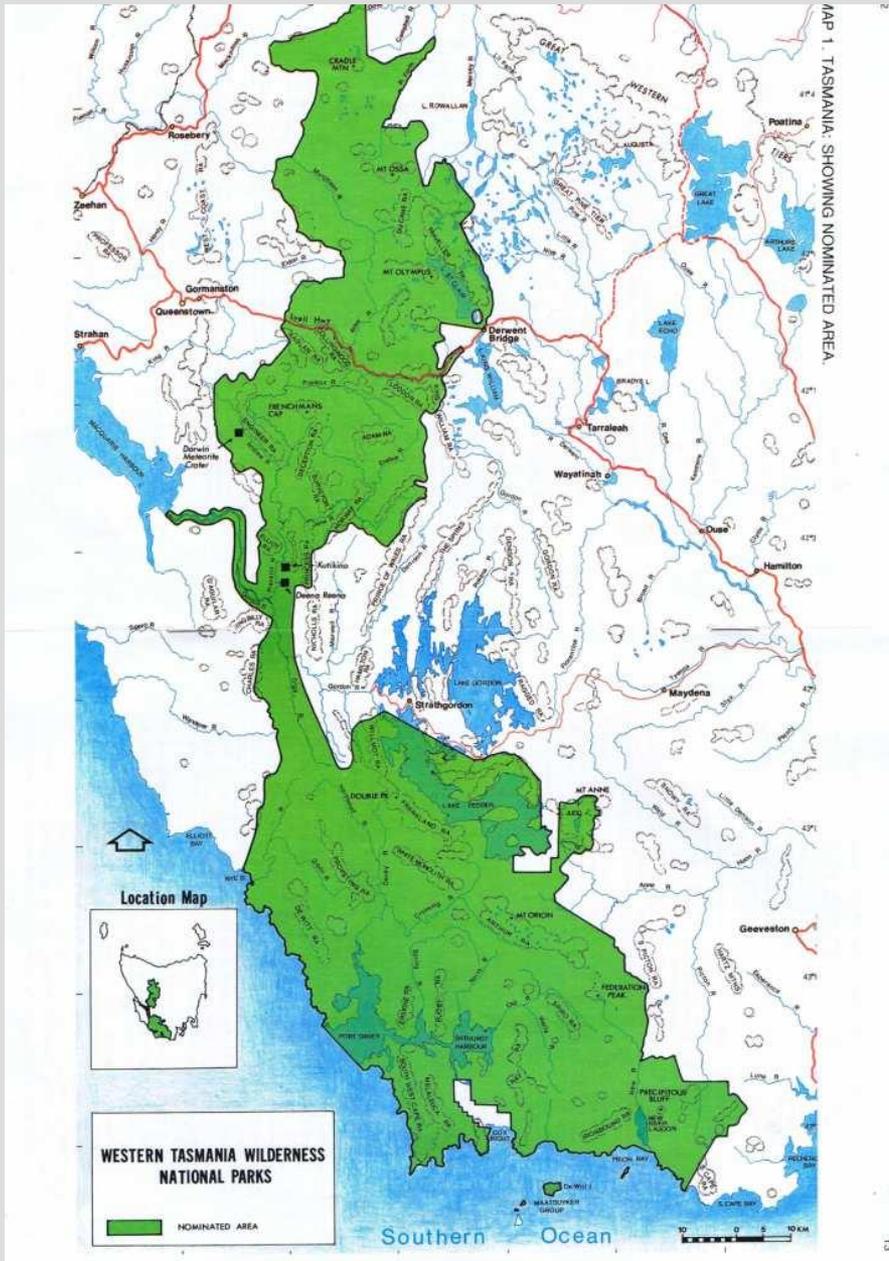
WE CAN'T
AFFORD

SAVE
THE

SAVE
THE

SAVE OUR WILD RIVERS
BIG DAMS = BIG POWER BILLS

WADDY,
WHAT DOES
IT MEAN?

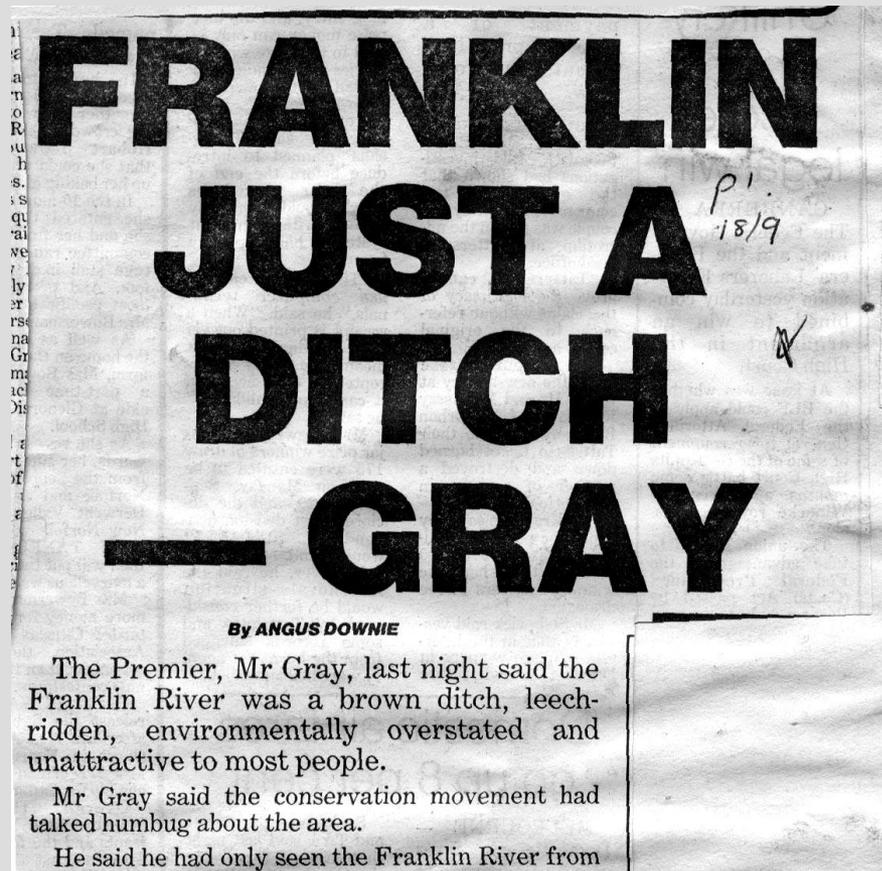


World Heritage Nomination November 1981

- Bi-partisan political support
- Support at state and national levels
- Response to long-term vision of ENGOs

1982: Conflict intensifies

- New Tasmanian Premier Robin Gray committed to dams seeks withdrawal of World Heritage nomination, starts dam construction
- Australian Prime Minister ensures WH nomination proceeds



Tasmanian Wilderness Listed as World Heritage 14 December 1982

Franklin River Blockade begins on same day – over 1300 peaceful protesters arrested in three months













THOUSANDS MARCH IN PROTEST OVER FRANKLIN RIVER DAM



THOUSANDS of people marched through the centre of the city yesterday to protest the planned damming of the Franklin River in south-west Tasmania.

TV probe exposes

UNESCO expresses concern

*The Committee is seriously concerned at the likely effects of dam construction ... considers that **flooding of parts of the river valley would destroy a number of natural and cultural features of great significance...** The Committee suggests that the Australian authorities should ask the Committee to place the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger...*

14 December 1982

Dam construction now an international issue

Franklin River big issue in Australian national election March 1983

Could you vote for a party that will destroy this?



Despite advice from his Attorney-General's Department that he has the power to intervene, Mr. Fraser has refused to prevent the flooding of the Franklin River.

Despite evidence that flooding the Franklin will be of little benefit to Tasmanians in providing power or creating jobs (the dam will add only 10% to Tasmania's electricity supply, fewer than 1,000 construction workers will be employed, and only 29 permanent jobs created), Mr. Fraser's Government has chosen to preserve peace in the Liberal Party rather than act to preserve an area of irreplaceable beauty.

If the Liberal Government is re-elected, this scene will be drowned, along with hundreds of other equally unique places.

Our concern is not politics, but the Franklin. Unfortunately, Mr. Fraser has made the Franklin a political issue.

And so we must ask you to vote for those parties committed to saving the Franklin.

Even though you may never have voted for them before and may never again.

We ask you, this once, to put Australia's heritage above party politics.

To vote, in the Senate, for the Australian Democrats.

And, in the House of Representatives, for the Australian Labor Party.

Because your vote, now, can save the Franklin for all time.

**VOTE
FOR THE
FRANKLIN**
BECAUSE ONLY YOUR VOTE CAN SAVE IT.

National South-West Coalition
including Tasmanian Wilderness Society
and Australian Conservation Foundation.

Authorised by Dr Robert Brown, Parliament House, Hobart.



New Australian Government elected March 1983

- ***‘The dam will not be built.’*** (PM-elect Bob Hawke, election night, 5 March)
- **World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983**
- **Tasmanian Government keeps building the dam**
- **Conflict goes to the High Court**

High Court Decision | July 1983 confirms Australian Government's power to protect World Heritage

Cheers at the court after judges rule four to three

FINAL EXTRA
 LATE PRICES
340,443
 daily sales

NO DAM!



The \$10,000 winner!

Why not let The Herald help you buy this house in Flemington?
 Today, we publish details in the Real Estate Weekly Supplement of how you can save \$10,000 on the charming four-bedroom Victorian home.
 If you make the successful bid for the house when it is auctioned by A.W. Stevens at 11 a.m. tomorrow, then The Herald will pay \$10,000 of the sale price.
 The property was selected at random from the many properties advertised in today's supplement for auction tomorrow.
 Payment of the \$10,000 will be made when the sale is finalised, on settlement and and possession of the property.
 The \$10,000 bonus offer is part of The Herald's expanded real estate coverage. Today's bumper 32-page supplement includes a special four-page spotlight on Albert Park.
 Next week, The Herald will look at Doncaster-Templestowe.
 And tomorrow, make sure you get The Herald for all Saturday's important auction results — especially the Flemington sale.
 Join the real estate winners in The Herald this weekend.

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BRISBANE. — The Federal Government today won the battle to stop the damming of the Franklin River.

The full High Court, in a 4-3 judgment, ruled against the dam.

Work on the project — known as the Gordon-below-Franklin dam in Tasmania's south-west — will stop immediately.

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, speaking in Canberra, said there would be no "revenge" against Tasmania.

"I say straight forward to the people of Tasmania they can look forward to total co-operation from my Government," Mr Hawke said.

He said "revenge" was not in the nature of his Government and he had made that plain to the Tasmanians since the election campaign.

Mr Hawke said consultations would continue with the Tasmanian Government to work out compensation.

Initially, the Federal Government was likely to pay for much of the \$30 million that had been spent on the dam.

The Herald

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1983 64 PAGES

25c

Incorporating Real Estate Supplement and Terra Firma

63-0211
 63-9251



An elated Bob Brown at the High Court today.



Victory for the fighting doctor

BRISBANE. — Dr Bob Brown has won his six-year battle... and lost a job.

The Tasmanian Wilderness Society has won its fight, and no longer needs its director.
 As the champagne corks popped Dr Brown said: "I've never been so happy to lose a job."
 He described the decision as "monumental".
 He admitted his eyes



WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION ACT 1983

Reprinted as at 28 February 1991

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Commencement
3. Interpretation
- 3A. Identified property
- 3B. Judges
4. Application
5. Act to bind Crown
6. Property to which section 9 applies
7. Property to which section 10 applies
8. Sites to which section 11 applies
9. Unlawful acts
10. Unlawful acts by certain corporations
11. Unlawful acts in relation to Aboriginal sites
12. Certain acts not unlawful
13. Consents given pursuant to sections 9, 10 and 11
14. Enforcement
15. Copies of Proclamations to be laid before Parliament
16. Revocation of Proclamations under sections 6, 7 and 8
17. Compensation
- 17A. Entry and search etc.
- 17B. Obstruction of inspectors
- 17C. Confidentiality
18. Delegation by Minister
19. Effect of World Heritage (Western Tasmania Wilderness) Regulations
20. Jurisdiction of Courts
21. Regulations

SCHEDULE

CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Implications

- National laws to protect World Heritage *
- Civil society empowered and emboldened
- New campaigns for wilderness areas across Australia emerge

*These laws subsequently subsumed into broader Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999



National and International Implications

- **Federal responsibility to protect World Heritage confirmed**
- **Subsequent use of powers to protect Queensland rainforests, Kakadu, Tasmanian forests**
- **Political status of environment led to Australia spearheading international treaty to protect the Antarctic**

Ancient forests with giant trees threatened next to the World Heritage Area

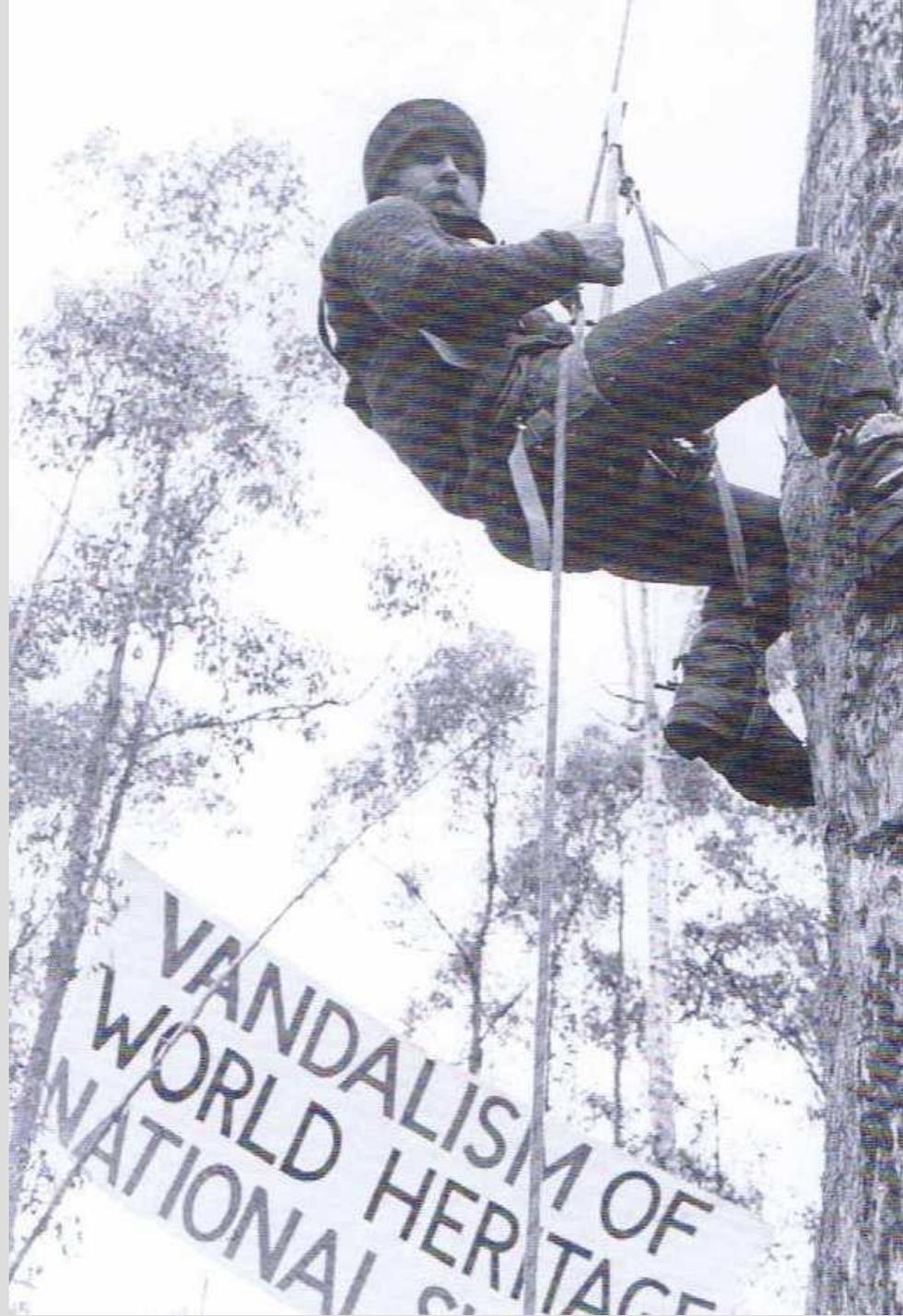
ENGOS develop case for WH extension



CONFLICT AGAIN!

Logging industry versus conservation movement
dramatizes the issue





VANDALISM OF
WORLD HERITAGE
NATIONAL S



1986: Conflict intensifies

Violent against protesters galvanizes public, leads to intervention in Tasmania by the Australian Government

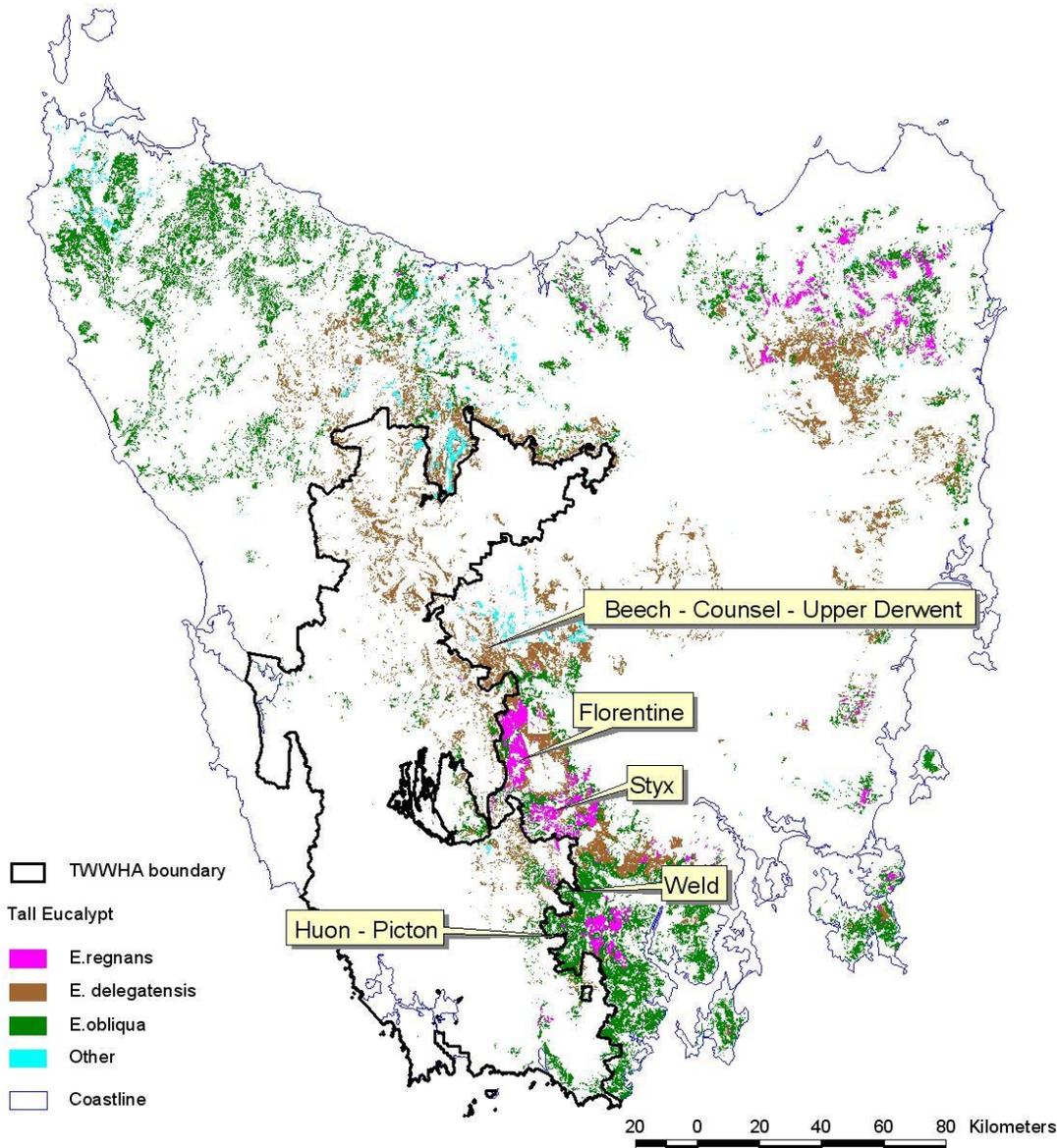


Flawed World Heritage Extension 1989

- WH area almost
doubled

- But most oldgrowth
forests left out

- Conservationists
realise it will be a very
long haul



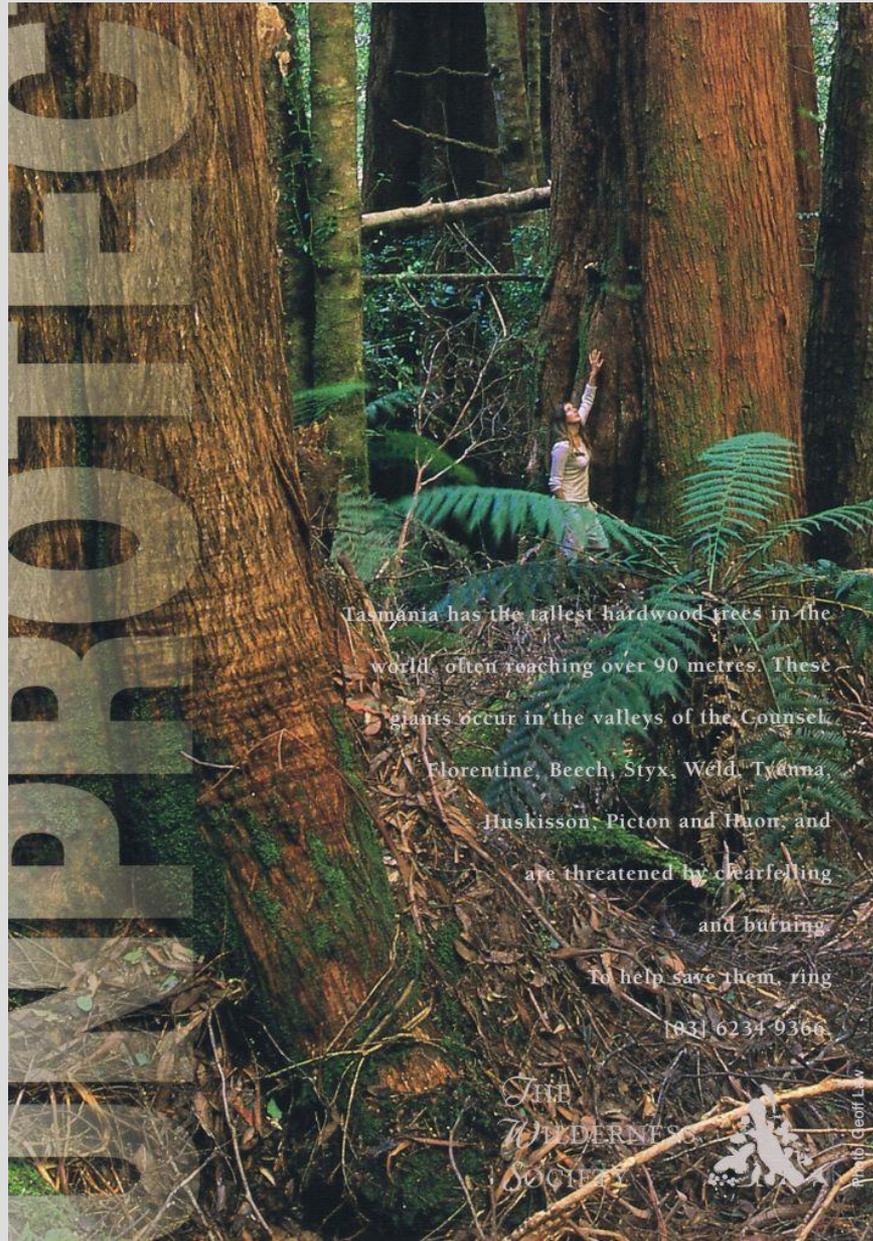
The conflict continues: wilderness invaded, giant trees destroyed



The conflict continues: the mangled remains of logged forests are burnt in fires lit by forest authorities



The campaign continues: 1990 to the present



Tasmania has the tallest hardwood trees in the world, often reaching over 90 metres. These giants occur in the valleys of the Counsel, Florentine, Beech, Styx, Weld, Tynna, Huskisson, Picton and Huon, and are threatened by clearfelling and burning.

To help save them, ring

1831 6234 9366

THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY

Photo: Geoff Law

The campaign continues: 1990 to the present



The campaign continues: 1990 to the present



The campaign continues: 1990 to the present



THE VOICE OF TASMANIA

MERCURY

GUNNS COLLAPSE

WHAT IT MEANS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

2008-2012:

Tasmania's Biggest Logging Company Goes Broke

- **Company failed to force huge pulp mill on population**
- **Company tried to sue conservationists**
- **Company caught out manipulating political system**
- **Company's share price and markets collapsed due to tarnished reputation**

TASMANIAN FOREST AGREEMENT 2012

Between

Australian Conservation Foundation

Australian Forest Contractors
Association

Australian Forest Products Association

Construction, Forestry, Mining and
Energy Union

Environment Tasmania Inc

Forest Industries Association of
Tasmania

Tasmanian Forest Contractors
Association

Timber Communities Australia

Tasmanian Sawmillers Association

The Wilderness Society Inc

The Wilderness Society (Tasmania) Inc

Industry wanted a peace deal

The Signatories recommend that Government nominate to the World Heritage Committee, for consideration in June 2013, the ... proposed minor extension to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area...

Australian Governments propose WH extension January 2013

- Covers the major tracts of oldgrowth tall-eucalypt forest

- 'Minor modification' means a short timeline for UNESCO approval



Tasmanian Wilderness proposed extension

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982, extended in 1982, 2010, 2012.
Current Area = 1,412,183 ha



Scale 1:750,000
Data Sources: © Commonwealth of Australia, World Heritage Areas.
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1984
Date: January 2013

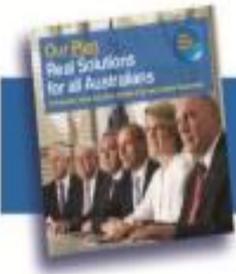


Extension adopted by UNESCO June 2013

World Heritage Committee unanimous



2014: New Australian Government seeks to de-list World Heritage forests



The Coalition's Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania

18

The Coalition has never supported Labor's recent rushed and political World Heritage extension, which was put in place against the will of the Tasmanian people, and we will seek to have it removed.

World Heritage Committee, Doha, 2014

UNESCO takes just 10 minutes to unanimously reject the proposal to excise 74,039 ha from the Tasmanian Wilderness

Portugal describes proposal as 'feeble'



Australian Government proposal dismissed (23 June 2014)

Indigenous groups opposed excision and lobbied in Doha



Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Property

Still unfinished business
– see the shaded areas
west of the property

And new threats to
property have emerged



Map 2. Tasmanian Wilderness - Revised Boundary

Current Area = 1,412,183 ha
Proposed extension Area = 170,000 - 174,000 ha*

- Proposed WHA Boundary
- Proposed WHA (land portion)
- Other World Heritage Area
- National Park
- Other Protected Area
- Road (major)
- Road (minor)
- Track
- Railway
- River

Scale 1:750,000

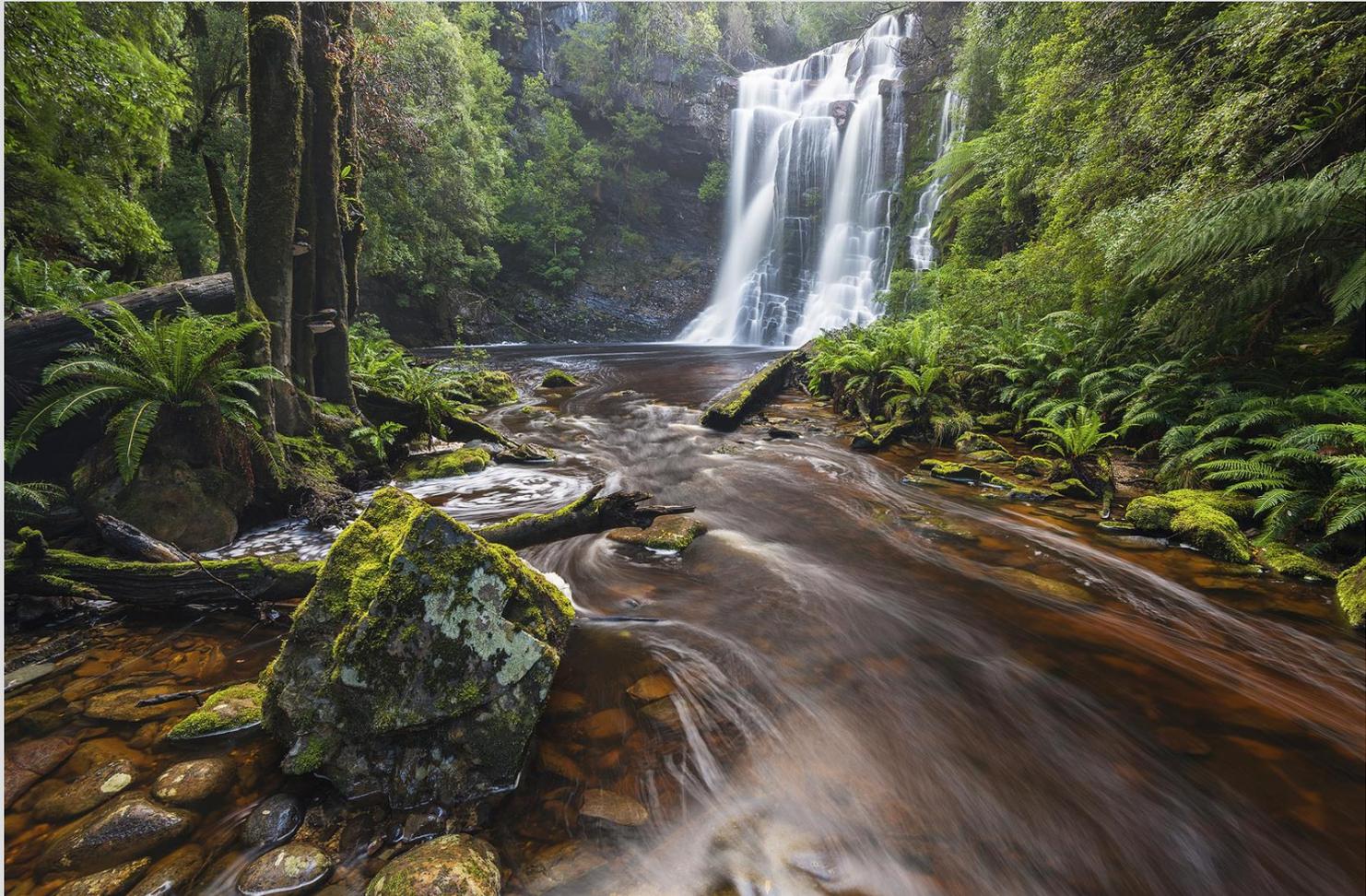
Data Sources: © Commonwealth of Australia, 96th Heritage Areas, © State of Tasmania, Tasmanian Reserve Estate, Tasmanian Aboriginal Geospatial Data of Australia 1994, February 2013



*A more accurate figure will be issued in the extension plan, and accompanied by a more detailed description of the proposed area. It will form part of the supplementary information to be provided by 28 February 2015.

Proposed extension of the World Heritage property post-2013

NGOs push for additional areas of rainforest, mountains, moorlands, rivers, coast and cultural landscapes into WH area



Proposals for intrusive accommodation complexes, cable cars and other tourism developments that would destroy wilderness



Threat from Climate Change

Large wild fires caused by dry lightning strikes threaten rainforests and ancient trees in places never before burnt



**Rainforests, tall trees, wild coast, glaciated mountains,
lakes, Aboriginal heritage, caves have strong
international recognition and national protection**



Rainforests, tall trees, wild coast, glaciated mountains, lakes, Aboriginal heritage, caves have strong international recognition and national protection



Rainforests, tall trees, wild coast, glaciated mountains, lakes, Aboriginal heritage, caves have strong international recognition and national protection



**Rainforests, tall trees, wild coast, glaciated mountains, lakes,
Aboriginal heritage, caves have strong international recognition and
national protection**



Wilderness and World Heritage:

- **Drawing lines on maps: campaigners' intimacy with the landscape leads to audacious vision**
- **Evocative photography combined with people power builds public support**
- **CONFLICT between conservationists and resource industries dramatises the issue, generating media coverage**
- **Engagement with UNESCO processes necessary but not sufficient – local action also crucial**
- **In Tasmania, the World Heritage Convention provides enduring protection, transcending ups and downs of local politics**



WORLD HERITAGE IS FOREVER

The Bob Brown Foundation www.bobbrown.org.au

Upper Florentine, World Heritage Area - Rob Blakers