

# Foreword

This first State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Report is a landmark publication in the world of protected area management. It presents the findings of an evaluation of management effectiveness for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and documents the extent to which the management objectives were achieved under the first management plan.

While performance evaluation and reporting are widely recognised as fundamentals of best practice management systems, there are few, if any, examples of evidence-based reporting of the effectiveness of management for protected areas.

For most managing agencies, the development of a management plan is a significant achievement in itself. Few agencies audit the implementation of the management plan; and fewer still attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of management in achieving its objectives and desired outcomes. And yet evaluation is a critical step in recognising and correcting any departures from the desired outcomes of management.

This report marks the culmination of over 10 years of focus by the Parks and Wildlife Service to develop and establish a system of outcomes-based evaluation that is integrated into the management cycle for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

With this report—and its underlying management evaluation system—Tasmania has achieved a world first in providing a structured and evidence-based account of how management of a World Heritage Area has performed against its management objectives and the obligations of the World Heritage Convention—to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the property.

This report is expected to contribute to management excellence for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area by:

- guiding ongoing management directions and priorities for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to better achieve objectives and deliver desired outcomes;
- providing managers and other decision-makers with a sound information base to support adaptive management;
- providing transparency in management and providing all stakeholders with ready access to detailed accurate information about management matters;
- contributing to informed public involvement in management of the TWWHA.

Future editions of this report will regularly update the findings of evaluation.

With this report, I believe Tasmania has set a new benchmark for excellence in protected area management. I commend this report to everyone with an interest in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and to those worldwide who have responsibilities or interests in protected area management.

I believe all Tasmanians can feel justifiably proud of the growing number of world-leading initiatives that this smallest state of Australia is producing. The Tasmanian Government is committed to ensuring that Tasmania's national parks and World Heritage Areas are managed with excellence as world-class parks for Tasmanians and the world to visit and appreciate.



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