

Please consider this submission carefully.

1. Regarding a land management role for local or regional Aboriginal community organisations.

My understanding is that current Aboriginal land managers looking after Aboriginal land (and who are local to these areas), are experienced, and have the deep knowledge and expertise to care for this country and its resources sustainably and sensitively, as has been done for millennia. Extensive landscapes have already been restored over the years proving effectiveness, so this process must continue with Aboriginals as the land managers.

Since 2005 there has been no significant return of Crown land to the original custodians of the land the Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples, despite Government promises to do so. This should be corrected and value would be provided in returning the 495,000 ha Takayna/Tarkine wilderness rain forests and wild unspoiled coastline to Aboriginal land management and care. These are fragile environments, mostly in tact and in as pristine a state as is possible to imagine in modern times, urgently need to remain so. Placing Takayna/Tarkine within the TWWHA (Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) would ensure adequate future protections of these fragile areas, prevent further habitat and biodiversity loss and ensure these areas are adequately protected for all peoples on earth. It more than meets all the world heritage criteria of cultural, biodiversity, unique and threatened/endangered species presence also. We should be caring for country in a united way to maintain cultural resources and access for all Aboriginal people, and they have proven themselves as the most worthy and reliable Land managers in Tasmania. All Aboriginal people currently have access to Aboriginal Land so no further changes are required.

2. Regarding Revisions to Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania (ALCT) elections

My understanding is that the community has already confirmed they do not want any revisions to the ALCT elections, as they can currently challenge anyone applying who may not be of Aboriginal descent. This is currently a fair, equitable and transparent process requiring proof of their eligibility through an Aboriginal Panel appointed by the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner.

Should any 'advisory' panel be needed, the elected ALCT should act as this panel to the Electoral Commissioner – not another panel appointed solely by a Minister as this will undermine any confidence in the process, and could lead to unacceptable bias.

Alternatively, appointments could be made by the Commissioner themselves and be restricted to the existing members of the ALCT electoral roll.

3. Regarding Governance issues

ALCT is already a collective and inclusive ownership model with community members an integral part of its governance, unlike other organisations. In other organisations, rights are only given to members on their list, it is exclusive and any transfer of land to these organisations will exclude Aboriginal people across Tasmania, which is unfair and unjustified.

ALCT already generates and publishes management plans via the Health Country Planning processes and is accountable to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community. ALCT also does not receive appropriate funding to deliver the proposed significant reporting proposals, and is already meeting the requirements required by the Tasmanian Audit Office, which requires significant time and resources to achieve.

4. In conclusion - The Aboriginal community must decide how land is returned and managed.

It is not the job of white colonialists, who with all due respect in just 230 years have presided over extinctions of the Tasmanian Tiger and Dwarf Tasmanian Emu, possibly also giant penguins. They have facilitated a massive slaughter of whales, elephant seals, penguins and other land flora and fauna, although some are recovering despite too little legal protections being in place to assist them.

We are still slaughtering our rich carbon stores in native forests as a loss making government endorsed and loss-making enterprise, and are also ready to desecrate virgin Takayna myrtle rainforest to provide an unnecessary extra MMG tailings dam, against the best practice option of paste filling old workings by returning spoil back underground where it belongs. Tailings dams have a tarnished record for leakage and failures causing extensive environmental damage and life loss to nearby communities around the world, so should not be endorsed as they are unacceptable, when safer alternatives exist. There are reportedly 6kms underground tunnels at Rosebery suitable for this purpose. MMG are already paste filling at their zinc mine in QLD, because the Environment Department there insisted upon it - why doesn't TAS EPA also

insist it as a requirement to continue operating, and protect our unique forests? Clearly handing this land and more land into Aboriginal management is the only way we can ensure these areas are protected in perpetuity, a critical responsibility this Government refuses to adopt or accept.
Please act wisely - before it is too late.
Mike Willson