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Press Release

Liberals Risk Loss of Major Tourism & Taxpayers' Funds

The decision of the Tasmanian Hodgman Liberal Government to lodge a last minute appeal against a Federal Court decision to keep west coast tracks closed to 4WD vehicles has angered the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

TAC State Secretary, Miss Trudy Maluga, greeted the government announcement with “disbelief, disappointment, and dismay.”

“The government has already incurred legal costs in the order of 5 or 6 figures at the expense of the Tasmanian taxpayer in a highly reasoned Federal Court decision. It is irrelevant that some sections of the Tasmanian community may not like the decision. The case was decided on matters of evidence and of law. It is incumbent on Premier Will Hodgman to say where the judge went so wrong as to warrant this reckless appeal. Tourists wanting to experience the area for its natural and cultural values just will cease to come to the area if this folly continues”, Miss Maluga said.

The Aboriginal community will “not roll over on this one. The Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape is critical to our future, the law is with us on this, it is an area of national and international significance, and we will keep fighting for its protection”, Miss Maluga said.

Trudy Maluga
State Secretary

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