



TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL CENTRE INC.

ABN 48 212 321 102

HEAD OFFICE: D
198 ELIZABETH STREET,
G.P.O. BOX 569,
HOBART TAS. 7001
Phone: (03) 6234 0700
Fax: (03) 6234 0799
Email: hobart@tacinc.com.au

D
182 CHARLES STREET,
P.O. BOX 531,
LAUNCESTON TAS. 7250
Phone: (03) 6332 3800
Fax: (03) 6332 3899
Email: launceston@tacinc.com.au

D
53 ALEXANDER STREET,
P.O. BOX 536,
BURNIE TAS. 7320
Phone (03) 6431 3289
Fax: (03) 6431 8363
Email: burnie@tacinc.com.au

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Press Release

International Report a 'Timely Reminder' to the Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre considers the report of the United Nations Reactive Monitoring Mission into the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to be a "timely reminder to the Tasmanian Government that it is still under international scrutiny for its handling of the cultural and natural values of the area".

State Secretary, Miss Trudy Maluga, said "The report explicitly recognises the primary role of the Aboriginal community in the identification and documentation of the cultural values of the TWWHA and calls for a stock-take and report to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the middle of next year (recommendations 12 & 13). We are fearful this deadline will be breached as have so many other deadlines relating to the TWWHA."

"We remain ready to undertake the cultural values assessment as we were last year. The Government has lost yet another year by keeping Commonwealth funds and governance of the project for itself. Not one thing has happened to progress the cultural values survey since they rejected our application last year", Miss Maluga said.

Miss Maluga welcomed the call "for stricter criteria for new tourism developments and for a better balance between tourism and the protection of cultural and natural values (recommendations 6 & 7). We again stress the need for Aboriginal community development in the approvals process for tourist developments in the TWWHA and throughout the State".

"Joint management of the area with the Aboriginal community must happen sooner rather than later and we welcome the opportunity for this greater involvement as recommended by the international delegation", Ms Maluga said.

Trudy Maluga
State Secretary