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PRESS RELEASE

TAC TO APPROACH FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

WILL SEEK AUTHORITY FROM CANBERRA FOR TAC TO ACT AS LAND MANAGER OF WESTERN TASMANIA ABORIGINAL COASTAL LANDSCAPE

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre will send a delegation to meet Federal Environment Minister, Josh Frydenberg, to seek a declaration under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC) that Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre be the land manager for the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Coastal Landscape area.

Aboriginal Heritage worker of the TAC, Adam Thompson, said, "It is obvious from the State Government's actions that Canberra has to restrict the State's ability to destroy Aboriginal heritage and sensitive environmental dunes and middens. From the time Adam Brooks declared publicly the State Liberal government would open up the tracks to 4 wheel drive vehicles to the obsession by the Government fighting Aboriginals in the Federal Court, it is clear the State government cannot be trusted to manage the area."

Today the Full Court of the Federal Court accepted part of the Tasmanian government's argument that preliminary activity such as Mr Brooks press statement and Park's decision to act on Government instructions, are not 'actions' under EPBC capable of being prevented by Court injunctions. However, the Full Court accepted permits to enable 4 wheel drives into the area are actions and can be prevented under EPBC by legal injunctions or by the land managers properly authorised by the Federal Minister.

Adam Thompson added, "Under EPBC, Minister Frydenberg has the power to stipulate who managers of the Federally declared protected area is. We will use Mr Brooks' statements, and those of the Premier, to show the aggressive and detrimental intent of the State government. We are the real owners of that land. We should be managers."

The Commonwealth already funds the State through Parks and Wildlife, the costs of managing the area. It will not therefore cost the Commonwealth any extra to fund us.

We will be happy to work with Parks and Wildlife if we are successful in gaining management of the area."

Adam Thompson
Aboriginal Heritage worker
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
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