

# Treaty talk on massacre map

**HELEN KEMPTON**

THE release of an online map showing where Aboriginal people were massacred has sparked a fresh call for a treaty to be negotiated.

Tasmania was the first place in the nation where major massacres of Aboriginal people were recorded and the state features prominently in the new map.

Almost 40 massacre sites are listed where hundreds of indigenous Tasmanians were killed.

From Risdon Cove in 1804, where 30 Tasmanian Aborigines were killed, to Cape Grim, the Meander River, Ben Lomond and Oyster Cove, the online map developed by historian and conjoint professor at the University of Newcastle, Lyndall Ryan, provides a grim but evidence-based reflection on the so-called Frontier Wars.

Prof Ryan said Tasmania was the first site where major massacres occurred in a conflict commonly known as the Black War.



**TRUTH: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's Heather Sculthorpe.**

"They went for a period of about seven or eight years, and in terms of the Aboriginal population in Tasmania, certainly the numbers were devastating," she said.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre chief executive Heather Sculthorpe said the map would prove important in helping tell the true story of the way Tasmania and the nation was invaded and colonised.

"For people to be able to see that horrible history on a map will make the information

much more accessible than it has been in history texts," Ms Sculthorpe said.

"We welcome that innovation. The important thing now is for governments and the people to consider the implications of those massacres.

"What is required to achieve proper and thoughtful reconciliation in the light of such events? We say negotiations for a treaty is an important step.

"Let's start the process."

Tasmanian Aboriginal representatives at a recent meeting at Uluru pushed for a national treaty, which would include land settlement, to be achieved.

Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman has already said the Government had no plans to begin negotiating a treaty.

Prof Ryan said it was hoped more sites of past massacres would be added to the preliminary map over time.

A massacre, in this instance, was defined as the indiscriminate killing of six or more undefended people.