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MEDIA RELEASE

Senate inquiry recommends Tasmanian World Heritage modification proposal be withdrawn

The Senate inquiry recommendation to withdraw the Federal government's proposal to reduce the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area has been welcomed by the Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices (ANEDO).

The Senate Committee on Environment and Communications handed down its report today into the Federal Government's proposal to reduce the size of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area by 74000 hectares.

"The Committee's report shows that Federal government's claims that the forests in question are degraded are unsubstantiated and inaccurate," said ANEDO spokesperson Adam Beeson.

"The government's approach is completely at odds with the World Heritage Committee which unanimously agreed the 74000 hectares at stake, is of Outstanding Universal Value just eleven months ago.

"The government's application to remove World Heritage protection so the area can be logged, just eleven months after it was given, is a globally unprecedented move. It will embarrass Australia and has the potential to undermine the World Heritage Convention."

EDO Tasmania prepared a submission on behalf of ANEDO and gave evidence at the Committee hearing in Hobart on 31 March 2014.

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