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MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

MS17-001026

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21 NOV 2017

Dear Dr Rössler

State Party Report on the State of Conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness

I am pleased to provide you with the *State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area*, in response to World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 7B.66 paragraph 6. The report provides an update to the 2016 State Party Report and includes progress made on implementing the recommendations of the 2015 reactive monitoring mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness.

I have enclosed four hard copies of the report and four electronic PDF copies on USB drives.

I would be pleased for the World Heritage Centre to upload the report to the Centre's publicly accessible State of Conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). I would appreciate it if the World Heritage Centre could notify the Department of the Environment and Energy within one business day of publishing the report on the Centre's website. This will allow the Department to advise key stakeholders that the report is available and include a link on the Department's website.

Please feel free to contact Ms Mahani Taylor, Director, International Heritage Section, australiaworldheritage@environment.gov.au for further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

JOSH FRYDENBERG



Australian Government

**STATE PARTY REPORT
ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION
OF THE
TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA
(AUSTRALIA)**

PROPERTY ID 181 quinquies

**IN RESPONSE TO
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION 40 COM 7B.66**

FOR SUBMISSION BY 1 DECEMBER 2017

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This report should be attributed as '*State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Australia)*, Commonwealth of Australia 2017'.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report on the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (the property) responds to the World Heritage Committee's 2016 decision **40 COM 7B.66** (Appendix 4.1).

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are fully committed to protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. **All of the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee are being implemented through a new management plan for the property and other statutory measures.**

The 2016 Management Plan was completed in December 2016. It includes measures to protect wilderness values as well as additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The management plan requires adoption of a strategic approach to tourism in the property through a Tourism Master Plan. Work is underway and the master plan is due to be completed in 2019. The plan will be developed in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key stakeholders, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission.

In September 2017 the Australian Government committed to provide AUD\$5.1 million per annum to the Tasmanian Government for five years from July 2018. These funds will support management of the property's natural and indigenous cultural heritage, including through the implementation of the management plan.

Recommendations made by the independent reviews of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016 are fully reflected in the management plan. The Tasmanian Government has provided AUD\$4 million over four years to implement key recommendations from these reviews to reduce the risk of fires impacting on the property's values and support broad-scale mitigation activities.

Significant progress on the identification, management and protection of the property's cultural heritage has been made. A synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites was provided to the World Heritage Centre in June 2017 and a detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment of the property is being finalised. In addition an archaeological survey of the 2013 extension is underway. This work is informing the preparation of an improved Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

Significant improvements to the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Tasmania have been achieved. In August 2017 the Tasmanian Parliament passed a new *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. The Act establishes a new statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council that will provide advice on the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage on behalf of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The Tasmanian Government has established a Cultural Management Group within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to provide ongoing support for Aboriginal cultural values management in the property.

A process to identify a dual name for the property is underway. It is proposed that the new name will reflect the property's wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to it.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments continue to provide the resources necessary to support management of the property to ensure its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained.

Australia will continue to work with the World Heritage Centre to provide any additional information required in the lead up to the World Heritage Committee's 42nd session in mid-2018.

RÉSUMÉ

Ce rapport sur l'état de conservation de la Zone de nature sauvage de Tasmanie (le bien) constitue la réponse à la décision du Comité du Patrimoine Mondial **40 COM 7B.66** (Annexe 4.1) de 2016.

Les gouvernements australien et tasmanien sont fermement attachés à la protection de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du bien. **L'ensemble des recommandations de la Mission de suivi réactif de 2015 ainsi que les demandes faites en 2016 par le Comité du patrimoine mondial sont en cours de mise en œuvre dans le cadre d'un nouveau plan de gestion pour le bien et d'autres mesures réglementaires.**

Le Plan de gestion 2016 s'est achevé en décembre 2016. Il comprend une série de mesures destinées à protéger les valeurs de nature sauvage ainsi que de nouveaux critères d'évaluation stricts pour garantir que les projets touristiques commerciaux n'aient pas d'impact négatif sur la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

Le plan de gestion nécessite l'adoption d'une approche stratégique en matière d'activité touristique dans le bien dans le cadre d'un Plan directeur Tourisme. Le travail est en cours et ce Plan directeur devrait être prêt en 2019. Il sera élaboré en consultation avec l'industrie du tourisme, la population aborigène de Tasmanie et les parties prenantes principales, comme l'a recommandé la Mission de suivi réactif de 2015.

En septembre 2017 le gouvernement australien s'est engagé à verser, à partir de juillet 2018 et pour une période de cinq ans, 5,1 millions de dollars australiens par an au gouvernement de Tasmanie. Ces fonds permettront de faciliter la gestion du patrimoine naturel et culturel aborigène du bien, notamment par la mise en œuvre du plan de gestion.

Les recommandations faites par les études indépendantes sur la gestion des incendies de janvier 2016 en Tasmanie ont été entièrement prises en compte dans le plan de gestion. Le gouvernement de Tasmanie a alloué une somme de 4 millions de dollars australiens sur quatre ans pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations principales de ces études en matière de réduction du risque d'impact des incendies sur les valeurs du bien et de soutien des mesures de prévention à grande échelle.

Des progrès significatifs ont été enregistrés en matière d'identification, de gestion et de protection du patrimoine culturel du bien. Un rapport de synthèse de toutes les informations disponibles concernant les sites culturels a été présenté au Centre du patrimoine mondial en juin 2017 et un plan détaillé pour une évaluation culturelle complète du bien est en cours de finalisation. De plus, une étude archéologique de l'extension de 2013 est en cours. Ces travaux serviront à la préparation d'une déclaration rétrospective améliorée de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

Des améliorations significatives de la protection du patrimoine culturel aborigène de Tasmanie ont également été réalisées. En août 2017 le Parlement de Tasmanie a adopté une nouvelle version de la Loi sur le Patrimoine aborigène de 1975. Cette loi crée une nouvelle organisation officielle, l'Aboriginal Heritage Council (*Conseil du Patrimoine aborigène*), qui formulera des avis en matière de protection et de gestion du patrimoine aborigène au nom de la population aborigène de Tasmanie. Le gouvernement de Tasmanie a mis en place au sein de Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania un Groupe de gestion culturelle qui apportera son soutien en matière de gestion des valeurs culturelles aborigènes dans le bien.

Des démarches sont en cours pour trouver une double dénomination au bien. Il est envisagé que le nouveau nom reflète le caractère de nature sauvage du bien, son héritage aborigène et les liens qui le lient à la communauté aborigène de Tasmanie.

Les gouvernements australiens et tasmaniens continuent d'allouer les ressources nécessaires pour soutenir la gestion du bien et garantir ainsi le maintien de sa valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

L'Australie continuera de coopérer avec le Centre du patrimoine mondial et lui fournira toute information supplémentaire qui lui serait demandée à l'approche de la 42^{ème} session du Comité du patrimoine mondial prévue pour la mi-2018.

1. RESPONSE FROM THE STATE PARTY TO DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE¹

1.1 Implementation of the Reactive Monitoring Mission's recommendations

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 3: *Commends the State Party for its commitment to explicitly rule out all forms of commercial logging and mining in the whole of the property, as well as its other commitments made in response to the recommendations of the 2015 joint IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission, and requests the State Party to implement all of the mission's recommendations*

State Party's response

All of the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee are being implemented through commitments in a new management plan for the property and other statutory processes.

The Tasmanian Government released a draft management plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area for public comment on 9 January 2015. The draft management plan provided a framework for the management of the property that, once finalised, would replace the 1999 Management Plan which did not apply to over 176,000 hectares added in 2012 and 2013.

During the ten week public consultation process 7545 submissions were received on the draft management plan. The Tasmanian Director of National Parks and Wildlife reviewed all submissions and proposed modifications to the draft management plan in a report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission in April 2016.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission published its review of the Director's report in July 2016². The Commission found that it adequately addressed and responded to most of the public's concerns. The Commission noted that the most contentious issues raised by the public were changing the name of the "Wilderness Zone" to the "Remote Recreation Zone" as well as providing potential for mining and timber harvesting in the property. Other contentious issues raised in submissions included commercial activities, omission of wilderness attributes, fire management, aircraft use and the description of values.

In recommending the final management plan to the Governor of Tasmania for approval, the Tasmanian Minister for Environment and Parks considered public submissions and campaigns, the Tasmanian Planning Commission's report, the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 decision of the World Heritage Committee.

The 2016 Management Plan³ was approved by the Governor of Tasmania on 29 November 2016 and came into effect on 21 December 2016. The 2016 Management Plan meets the legislative requirements of the Tasmanian and Australian governments and applies to all land in the property reserved under Tasmania's *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (over 97 per cent of the property). A Strategic Management Statement details management arrangements for the remaining area (less than three per cent).

The recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and the 2016 requests of the World Heritage Committee are implemented through the 2016 Management Plan, the Strategic Management Statement and other statutory measures. Appendix 4.2 of this report provides detail on how each of the mission's recommendations are being implemented.

¹ The 2016 World Heritage Committee decision is at Appendix 4.1

² The Tasmanian Planning Commission's review is at http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/news/news_items/report_on_the_draft_tasmanian_wilderness_wha_management_plan

³ The management plan is published on the Tasmanian Government's website at [http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wilderness-world-heritage-area-\(twwha\)/twwha-management-plan](http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wilderness-world-heritage-area-(twwha)/twwha-management-plan).

The 2016 Management Plan reflects the Tasmanian Government's strong commitment to protecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value, while facilitating opportunities for sensitive and appropriate tourism experiences to present the property. In summary, the 2016 Management Plan:

- prohibits commercial logging, including special species timber harvesting, in the whole of the property
- prohibits mining in the whole of the property
- provides for joint management arrangements with Tasmanian Aboriginal people
- ensures the natural and cultural values of the World Heritage property are protected
- proposes a dual name be determined for the property that will acknowledge the property's Aboriginal heritage
- puts in place a number of measures to improve our understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural heritage
- takes into account the recommendations of independent reviews of the 2016 fires
- ensures that impacts on wilderness values are considered in assessments of all proposed activities in the property
- puts in place additional and strict criteria for new tourism development
- increases the area in the 1999 management plan that was zoned wilderness by over 78,000 hectares. Eighty-two per cent of the property is now zoned wilderness.

1.2. Additional and strict assessment criteria and a Tourism Master Plan

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 4: *Welcomes the State Party's commitment to include additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and notes that a separate Tourism Master Plan will be elaborated in order to refine the balance between legitimate tourism development and conservation of cultural and natural attributes, based on consultation and negotiation with relevant stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community;*

State Party's response

1.2.1 Additional and strict assessment criteria

The 2016 Management Plan includes additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that development proposals, including commercial tourism proposals, do not impact negatively on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area's Outstanding Universal Value.

Sensitive development, including to support commercial tourism, provides important opportunities for public presentation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

All proposed activities on reserved land managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (97 per cent of the Tasmanian Wilderness) are subject to a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA)⁴. The RAA process is the environmental impact assessment system that the Parks and Wildlife Service uses to assess whether activities are environmentally, socially and economically acceptable. The RAA process tests whether proposed activities meet the requirements of legislation, plans and policies; weighs the risks and benefits of a proposed activity; and assists in deciding whether an activity should proceed, proceed with conditions or not proceed. The RAA assesses and documents:

- the activity's compliance with relevant statutes, plans and policies
- the activity's environmental, social and economic impacts
- the actions to be taken to maximise beneficial effects and minimise adverse impacts
- whether a proposal is approved, approved with conditions or not approved
- whether the activity, when completed, achieved its stated objectives.

The RAA process will ensure that activities comply with Tasmania's new *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. It will assess and document all proposed activities' compliance with this legislation.

As well as these considerations, the 2016 Management Plan requires that for activities and proposals within the World Heritage Area, the RAA process include:

- **additional assessment criteria** (section 3.3.1 of the 2016 Management Plan)
- **consideration of impacts on wilderness values** (section 8.2 of the 2016 Management Plan)
- **additional and strict criteria for commercial tourism proposals** (section 6.8 of the 2016 Management Plan).

The additional assessment criteria are:

- identify the World Heritage values likely to be affected by the proposal
- identify how those values might be affected
- consider direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on World Heritage values
- identify how any impacts on World Heritage values will be managed or mitigated

⁴ Routine or general maintenance activities that are often done on a day-to-day basis may not require a Reserve Activity Assessment.

- consider the social and environmental benefits and impacts of the proposal
- consider appropriate monitoring and compliance measures
- consider provision of public consultation based on the scale and nature of the proposal.

Additional and strict criteria apply to all commercial tourism proposals. All proposals must:

- describe how the experience is based on the values and features of the property
- submit a case for why it should be situated within the property and address compatibility with existing services and infrastructure
- describe how it will contribute to the guiding vision and management objectives for the property as articulated in the management plan
- describe how potential impacts on the legitimate enjoyment and experience by others of the property's features and values will be managed
- describe how it will be constructed and/or operate in a manner compatible with the protection and conservation of World Heritage and other values
- incorporate environmentally sustainable operational practices and the use of environmentally 'best practice' goods and technologies
- detail any external costs resulting from the proposal including ongoing monitoring and compliance
- demonstrate economic viability.

Australia's national environmental law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides an overarching high level of protection for the World Heritage values of the whole property. The EPBC Act provides legal protection for World Heritage values by regulating actions occurring within or outside a property that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the values of the property.

The Tasmanian Government is reforming its planning system to provide greater certainty to investors and the community. In response to this the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service is reviewing the Reserve Activity Assessment process. The requirements of the 2016 Management Plan will apply to the property regardless of the outcome of the reform which is due to be completed in mid-2018.

1.2.2 Tourism Master Plan

A Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area will be completed by the end of 2019.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is a popular destination for domestic and international visitors. The property provides a diverse range of experiences that present its Outstanding Universal Value.

To ensure a strategic approach to the presentation of these and other values, the 2016 Management Plan requires that a Tourism Master Plan be developed for the property by the end of 2019 (section 6.1.1 of the 2016 Management Plan). The Tourism Master Plan will provide additional guidance, context and policy direction for tourism in the property within the planning framework provided by the 2016 Management Plan. It will be developed in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key stakeholders. A draft Tourism Master Plan will be released for public comment.

The Tasmanian Government will consult with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and will invite the Council to nominate a representative of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to sit on the Steering Committee for the development of the Tourism Master Plan.

The draft Tourism Master Plan will be based on an analysis of data, including an analysis of current and future visitor expectations and demand. It will consider a diversity of visitor experiences, access, social inclusion, training and accreditation for staff and operators, interpretation, sustainable use, commercial possibilities and opportunities to present and conserve the property's values through strategic partnership arrangements, including with neighbouring communities.

It will include a marketing strategy that integrates promotion of the property's values, including historic heritage, with other Tasmanian tourism strategies. Investments in facilities and experiences will be prioritised.

The Tourism Master Plan will promote protection and presentation of the property's natural and cultural values. It will ensure the interpretation and presentation of the property's Aboriginal cultural values are determined by Aboriginal people and guided by an updated version of the 1995 report *Aboriginal Interpretation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* (section 4.4 of the Management Plan).

1.3 2016 Fires

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 5: *Notes the information provided by the State Party with regard to the recent fires which affected the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that fire research and management are fully reflected in the revision of the draft Management Plan for the property, including through the evaluation of recent experiences with fire response and taking into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016*

State Party's response

1.3.1 Update on the impact of 2016 fires

While a small proportion of areas with important conservation values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area were impacted by the 2016 fires, experts agree that broad-scale rehabilitation is not required. Research is underway to better understand how fire impacts conservation values in the property so that future management responses can mitigate those impacts.^{5,6}

Between January and March 2016, thousands of lightning strikes were recorded in Tasmania resulting in 145 vegetation fires affecting approximately 126,800 hectares across the state, including an estimated 19,800 hectares (approximately 1.3 per cent) of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The biggest impact to the natural values of the World Heritage Area from these fires occurred in the areas of Lake Mackenzie, February Plains and Lake Bill.

The areas impacted included a small proportion of the property's fire-sensitive alpine and subalpine landscapes, including a very small percentage of the total extent of pencil pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*). This species is an iconic example of Gondwanic legacy which contributes to the property's Outstanding Universal Value and is featured in the photos below. The majority of natural areas affected were composed of vegetation types which are adapted to or are resilient to fire and are expected to recover.

The Tasmanian Government has undertaken extensive assessment and monitoring in key areas affected by the fires. This includes the alpine area around Lake Mackenzie and the Mersey Forest area. While some areas remain susceptible to ongoing erosion, high altitude grassland, sedgeland and some cushion plant communities are recovering well. The following photos illustrate recovery of subalpine vegetation near Lake Mackenzie.



Photo: Michael Driessen
Subalpine vegetation near Lake Mackenzie four months after the January 2016 fires



Photo: Michael Driessen
Subalpine vegetation near Lake Mackenzie 13 months after the January 2016 fires

⁵ Natural and Cultural Heritage Division (2016). *Lake Mackenzie Alpine Fire Impacts Workshop, 8 June 2016*. Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment, Hobart, Nature Conservation Report Series 16/2.

⁶ Natural Values Conservation Branch (2017) *Assessment of the ecological impacts of the 2016 Mersey Forest Fire Complex*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Hobart, Nature Conservation Report no 17/5.

1.3.2 Independent reviews, research and management

The 2016 Management Plan comprehensively addresses the need for fire research and management in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It also takes into account all of the conclusions and recommendations made by two independent reviews of the management of the 2016 fires.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council's (AFAC) independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires⁷ was published in April 2016. This review made 12 recommendations and concluded that "the way in which the fires were managed is a tribute to the Tasmanian fire agencies, their leadership and all personnel involved in this incident". These recommendations will be implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and operational measures.

An independent Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project reported in December 2016⁸. The project investigated the impact of climate change on future bushfire risk in Tasmania's wilderness areas and appropriate firefighting responses. The project reported that Tasmania has well-developed fire management procedures relating to fire prevention and protection for the property, and noted that Tasmania's firefighting agencies had already implemented a number of changes ahead of the 2016-17 fire season. The 2016 Management Plan takes into account the 18 recommendations reported by this project and includes management actions to implement them.

In mid-2017 the Tasmanian Government allocated AUD\$4 million over four years to projects aimed at implementing the recommendations of the independent reviews and protecting the natural and cultural Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The funding will deliver a bushfire risk assessment model, a fire plan, a model of fire cover, bushfire recovery rehabilitation trials. The Aboriginal Heritage Council will be consulted to provide advice on incorporating Aboriginal cultural values in the model. The funds will also support broad-scale fire mitigation activities, primarily fuel reduction burning to reduce the risk of fires impacting on the property's values.

In implementing the 2016 Management Plan for the property, the Tasmanian Government will work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and relevant stakeholders to develop a strategy and implementation plan for the use of fire as a traditional cultural practice (section 4.5 of the 2016 Management Plan.)

⁷ [AFAC independent review](#) (Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited, April 2016. AFAC Independent Operational Review. A review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016, Victoria).

⁸ [Final Report - TWWHA Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project](#) (Press, AJ (Ed.) 2016. Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Bushfire and Climate Change Research Project. Tasmanian Government, Hobart).

1.4 Dual naming

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 6: *Encourages the State Party to explore the possibility of dual naming for the property, to reflect its wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community with the property;*

State Party's response

Work has commenced to identify a dual name for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Dual naming of the property that reflects the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area's wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community's relationship with the property will be implemented through the 2016 Management Plan⁹ using the process outlined in the '*Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy. A policy for naming of Tasmanian geographical features*'. The policy is available at http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/189314/Aboriginal_and_Dual_Naming_Policy.pdf.

The process involves engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to identify and approve an appropriate Aboriginal name with the process likely to be undertaken over multiple years.

⁹ Refer to the Executive Summary, Statement of Values and management action in section 4.6 "A Cultural Landscape" of the 2016 Management Plan.

1.5 Cultural values

2016 Decision 40 COM 7B.66 Paragraph 6: *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by mid-2017, a synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the property and a detailed plan for the comprehensive cultural survey, as recommended by the mission, and, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*

State Party's response

1.5.1 Synthesis report

A synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2016, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 June 2017.

A literature review and synthesis report entitled *Aboriginal Heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA): a literature review and synthesis report* was finalised in March 2017.

The report has been acknowledged and endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and was provided to the World Heritage Centre on 15 June 2017. It is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/aboriginal-heritage-twwha>.

The report is a review of the archaeological research that has been undertaken in the property over the past 40 years. The report is being used to inform the preparation of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the preparation of the detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment referred to in section 1.5.2 below.

1.5.2 Detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment

A detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission and requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2016, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2017.

A detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment titled '*Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)*' is being finalised and will be sent to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council is guiding, reviewing and supporting the development of the Plan.

1.5.3 Cultural values assessment of the 2013 extension

Surveys are underway to identify and improve understanding of the cultural values in the areas added to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in 2013. The surveys are expected to be complete in late 2018.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments have funded the '*Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the TWWHA Project*' which involves community consultation and cultural heritage surveys within the areas added to the property in 2013.

The project commenced in December 2016 and is scheduled for completion in October 2018. The project involves consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community on cultural values and cultural heritage surveys within the 2013 extension area of the property.

This assessment responds to the 2013 request from the World Heritage Committee (Decision 37 COM 8B.44).

1.5.4 Legislative reform

The Tasmanian Government has passed new laws that strengthen the protection of Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage across all of Tasmania, including the cultural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The Tasmanian Government's *Aboriginal Relics Amendment Act 2017* came into force on 16 August 2017. The amendment act changes the name of the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* demonstrates the Tasmanian Government's commitment to reset its relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. It provides additional protection for Tasmania's rich Aboriginal heritage, including the Aboriginal heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The new legislation:

- removes reference to 1876 as being a "cut-off" point for what is considered as Aboriginal heritage
- increases penalties for damage to Aboriginal heritage in line with the penalties for damage to non-Aboriginal heritage
- introduces tiered offences, in association with the removal of the ignorance defence; introduces new defences related to emergency responses and compliance with guidelines; and removes the six-month time limit for prosecuting offences
- establishes a statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council of Aboriginal people to advise the Minister
- requires that the new Act be fully reviewed within three years.

The Aboriginal Heritage Council was established on 16 August 2017 under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. The Council first met on 19 September 2017 and will meet on a regular basis. Members of the Council are Tasmanian Aboriginal people appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister.

2. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY WHICH MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

2.1 Orange-bellied parrot

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are investing significant resources to protect the orange-bellied parrot which is a World Heritage value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area under criterion (x).

The orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) is a World Heritage value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It is listed as critically endangered under Australian legislation and endangered under Tasmanian legislation. There are thought to be fewer than 70 birds in the wild and the species is only known to breed at Melaleuca in the property. Breeding occurs in the summer months between October and April, after which the birds migrate to the southern coastline of mainland Australia. Volunteers provide significant assistance during each breeding season by monitoring orange-bellied parrots at Melaleuca.



A National Recovery Plan for the orange-bellied parrot provides a national approach to ensure the long-term survival of the species in the wild. Management actions to improve the chances of survival of this iconic and endemic species include: habitat management burns to provide suitable foraging habitat; installing artificial nest boxes; supplementary feeding; and mitigation of threats posed by disease, competitors and predators.

A captive insurance population is a vital element in the recovery program for the orange-bellied parrot. As well as providing an insurance population, releases of captive bred birds into the wild are critical to promote long-term survival of the species in the wild. At the start of the 2016-17 breeding season 23 captive bred birds were released at the Melaleuca breeding site. These birds supplemented the wild population which subsequently produced 19 juveniles.

The Tasmanian Government has developed stringent biosecurity and disease management protocols for orange-bellied parrots in Tasmania in consultation with an expert Veterinary Technical Reference Group. The protocols outline disease screening and management procedures for captive and wild populations.

Orange-bellied parrots are screened prior to translocation and release into the wild to mitigate the spread of pathogens and parasites, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and Psittacine beak and feather disease virus. Animal health protocols implemented at the Melaleuca breeding site include annual disease surveillance of wild birds and clinical investigations of sick and dead birds. Stringent biosecurity and hygiene measures, including disinfection protocols at Melaleuca, are implemented to assist the recovery of the species.

The Australian and Tasmanian governments are committed to do all they can to ensure the survival of the orange-bellied parrot. In May 2017 the Tasmanian Government announced funding of AUD\$3.2 million to construct a new captive breeding facility with an increased capacity to breed birds to assist the recovery of the population in the wild. It is anticipated that this facility will be in operation by mid-2018. The Tasmanian Government is working with the Australian and Victorian governments and researchers to trial a range of novel intervention strategies to help bolster the wild population.

2.2 Macquarie Harbour and the Maugean skate

The Tasmanian Government is implementing a number of measures to better understand and protect water quality and habitat in Macquarie Harbour. Macquarie Harbour is currently the only known habitat of the Maugean skate. The Maugean skate is an endangered species and a value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The south eastern third of Macquarie Harbour is included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (refer to Map 1: Macquarie Harbour on the following page). Macquarie Harbour is currently the only known location of the Maugean skate (*Zearaja maugeana*) which is listed as endangered under Australian and Tasmanian legislation. The Maugean skate was previously known in the upper reaches of Bathurst Harbour (also in the property), but has not been found there recently. It was first discovered in 1988.

The Maugean skate is a species of fish that has a strong preference for habitats in the 5-15 m depth range, but has been detected in depths from 0.6 m to 55 m¹⁰. It is thought that skates lay their eggs in water at least 20 m deep. Maugean skates are thought to live for approximately 15 years.

Salmon farming began in Macquarie Harbour in the 1980s. Annual production remained at approximately 2000 tonnes per annum until 2005 when production levels began to rise. By 2011 production levels were 9000 tonnes, rising to 15,500 tonnes in 2015 and approximately 16,000 tonnes in late 2016. In 2017 biomass determinations made by the Director of Tasmania's Environment Protection Authority required production levels to be reduced from 21,500 tonnes to 14,000 tonnes in February and 12,000 tonnes in June. The marine farm lease closest to the boundary of the property was completely destocked. There are no marine farms in the World Heritage area of Macquarie Harbour.

Marine farming produces organic waste that reduces the level of dissolved oxygen and increases levels of dissolved nutrients in the harbour. The low oxygen environment contributes to the expansion of dense mats of bacteria (*Beggiatoa* spp) on the floor of the harbour, including in the World Heritage area. Following the destocking of the marine farm lease in April 2017, industry monitoring found only two sites in the World Heritage area with observed *Beggiatoa* spp.

Increased aquaculture is one of the causes of declining levels of dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters of Macquarie Harbour. Other causes include organic load from freshwater inflows from the Gordon and King rivers.



Maugean skate (photo: Neville Barrett)

There is concern that the survival of the Maugean skate is at risk as a result of decreasing levels of dissolved oxygen. Research is underway to better understand the habitat and breeding requirements of the Maugean skate, including to assess the vulnerability of the species to low dissolved oxygen conditions. The study aims to determine the distribution of Maugean skate eggs within the harbour with particular reference to depth and dissolved oxygen.

The Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority (EPA Tasmania), the marine farm lessees and research bodies continue to monitor for impacts of aquaculture in the harbour. There has been an increase in environmental monitoring under marine

farm licence requirements and research studies in response to deterioration in the environmental condition of Macquarie Harbour. EPA Tasmania prepared guidelines to develop Environmental Management Plans for those lessees proposing under-pen waste collection systems to capture uneaten fish food and fish faeces.

¹⁰ Bell et al (2016). Movement, habitat utilisation and population status of the endangered Maugean skate and implications for fishing and aquaculture operations in Macquarie Harbour. Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, Tasmania

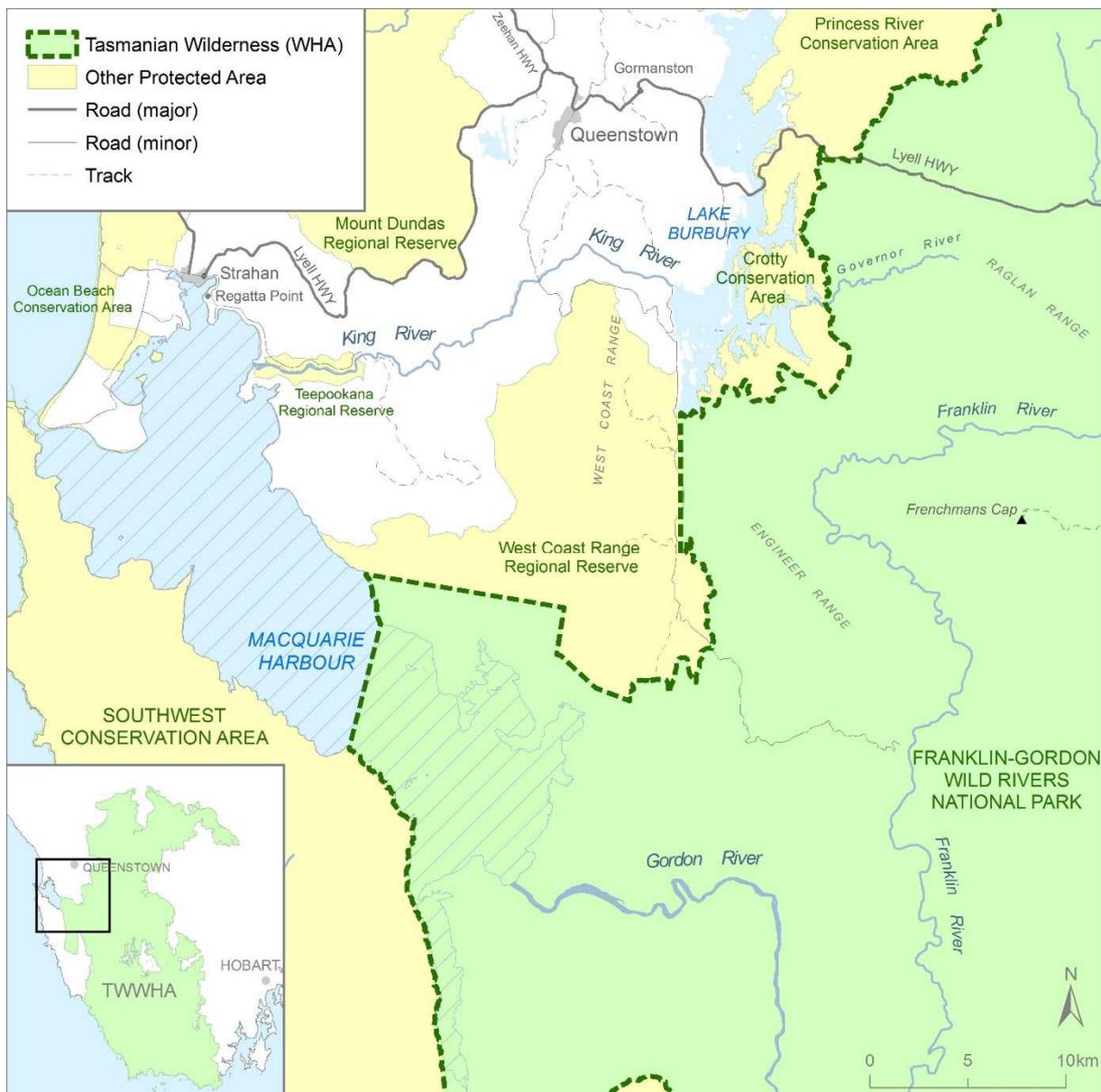
Any reduction in organic particulates on the harbour bed will reduce dissolved oxygen demand. These waste collection systems were trialled by one operator (Tassal) in June 2017 and are currently being installed on other pen bays.

The University of Tasmania is researching the impact of low dissolved oxygen on Maugean skate survival and reproduction through a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project. This project is funded through to 2020.

The Tasmanian Government is collaborating with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science to identify marine fauna values, including the Maugean skate, in the parts of Macquarie Harbour that are included in the property. The outcomes of this project will be reported in early 2018.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to manage production levels in Macquarie Harbour and support monitoring and targeted research programs, in consultation with industry and scientists, to ensure the long-term survival of the Maugean skate in Macquarie Harbour.

Map 1: Macquarie Harbour



3. POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTIONS INTENDED WITHIN THE PROPERTY, THE BUFFER ZONES AND/OR CORRIDORS OR OTHER AREAS, WHERE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS MAY AFFECT THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

3.1. Quarterly reporting

The Australian Government has been informing the World Heritage Centre of potential developments that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, including its authenticity and integrity, since 2011.

In 2011 Australia formalised a procedure for providing quarterly notification reports to the World Heritage Centre of proposed developments within or outside a property that may impact a property's Outstanding Universal Value. Notification reports and a full list of proposed, approved and withdrawn actions relating to the property that require consideration under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) are available at:

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/notification-development-proposals.

Proposals under the Tasmanian Government's expressions of interest process for tourism investment opportunities in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area must meet Tasmanian and Australian Government assessment and approval requirements. Proposals are required to demonstrate under the Australian Government's EPBC Act that the activity would not have a significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. All proposals that require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act will be included in the quarterly notification reports to the World Heritage Centre.

No proposals have been approved under the EPBC Act for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area since the 2016 State Party Report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted on 8 April 2016.

4. APPENDICES

4.1 World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 7B.66

Fortieth session – Istanbul, Turkey (10 - 20 July 2016) and Paris, France (24-26 October 2016) Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181)

The World Heritage Committee;

Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add,

1. Recalling Decisions 38 COM 847 and 39 COM 7B.35, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
2. Commends the State Party for its commitment to explicitly rule out all forms of commercial logging and mining in the whole of the property, as well as its other commitments made in response to the recommendations of the 2015 joint IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission, and requests the State Party to implement all of the mission's recommendations;
3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to include additional and strict assessment criteria to ensure that commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and notes that a separate Tourism Master Plan will be elaborated in order to refine the balance between legitimate tourism development and conservation of cultural and natural attributes, based on consultation and negotiation with relevant stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community;
4. Notes the information provided by the State Party with regard to the recent fires which affected the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that fire research and management are fully reflected in the revision of the draft Management Plan for the property, including through the evaluation of recent experiences with fire response and taking into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the independent review of the management of the Tasmanian fires of January 2016;
5. Encourages the State Party to explore the possibility of dual naming for the property, to reflect its wilderness character, its Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community with the property;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by mid-2017, a synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the property and a detailed plan for the comprehensive cultural survey, as recommended by the mission, and, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

4.2 Implementation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission’s recommendations

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 1	<p>The Tasmanian Government should consider options to take full advantage of National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, in line with the provisions of the National Parks and Reserves Management Act (2002), and a consolidated National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council should include adequate involvement of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government fully supports the role of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council as it is set out in the <i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i> (Tas) and has ensured that its membership includes representatives from the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to develop a Communication Strategy for the property. The strategy will examine “improvements in the communication of activities and deliberations of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council that are relevant to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area” (section 7.1 of the management plan).</p> <p>The Council includes two Aboriginal people who represent the men and women of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p> <p>In 2017 the Council met four times with the General Manager of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and other key officials (compared to two meetings in 2016).</p> <p>At these meetings the Council provided advice on, and discussed a range of issues, including: draft reports and plans, fire management, tourism proposals, strategic planning, the literature review and synthesis report on the Aboriginal heritage of the property. They also discussed a number of on-ground management issues such as salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour.</p>
Rec 2	<p>The State Party should confirm an unambiguous commitment that the property is off-limits to commercial logging in its entirety, and fully reflect this commitment in the Management Plan for the whole of the property.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has ruled out commercial logging, including harvesting of special species timbers, in the whole of the property.</p> <p>This commitment will be given effect through the new management plan for the property.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan and the Strategic Management Statement rule out commercial logging, including harvesting of special species timbers, in the whole of the property. Huon pine salvage from the shoreline of Macquarie Harbour is permitted.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 3	<p>The State Party should confirm an unambiguous commitment that the property is off-limits to mineral exploration and extraction in its entirety and fully reflect this commitment in the Management Plan for the whole of the property.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has ruled out mining in the whole of the property.</p> <p>This commitment will be given effect through the new management plan for the property.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan and Strategic Management Statement rule out mineral exploration and extraction in the whole of the property.</p> <p>The management plan states in section 3.2 that mineral exploration and extraction, other than for management purposes, is not permitted.</p> <p>Mineral exploration and mining is restricted to the extraction of gravel for management/ maintenance purposes.</p>
Rec 4	<p>Gravel use derived from borrow pits for maintenance needs within the property should be minimised. The State Party should conduct a comprehensive review of the road network with the objective to close and rehabilitate non-essential roads so as to reduce the future demand for gravel among other benefits.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>A review of the road network is underway. One of the priorities of the review is to identify roads that can be closed and rehabilitated to reduce the demand for gravel required for maintenance.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan and Strategic Management Statement confirm the commitment of the Tasmanian Government to minimise use of gravel from borrow pits for maintenance needs in the whole of the property. Guiding principles for gravel extraction are in section 8.5 of the management plan.</p> <p>The review of the road network is expected to be complete by mid-2019 and is addressed in sections 3.1.1, 6.3.2 and 8.5 of the management plan.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 5	<p>Essential existing gravel extraction for ongoing local maintenance in the property should be guided by the following principles across the property, including the excisions within it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No import of gravel to the property should be permitted, in order to minimize biosecurity risks; • No export of gravel from the property should be permitted, and uses should be restricted to the maintenance of existing infrastructure • New borrow pits should not be permitted; • Any significant change to current practice in relation to increased gravel need with potential to impact the property, to be notified to the World Heritage Committee prior to any decisions being taken on how to address this by the State Party. 	<p>Support</p> <p>These principles will guide the management of gravel extraction and use in the property.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The following guiding principles for gravel extraction are included in section 8.5 of the 2016 Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel used for management purposes is to be extracted from sources assessed as being 'low risk' of containing weeds and diseases. • Gravel is not to be exported for use outside the property. • Use of new gravel sources is to be avoided. • Gravel demand is to be minimised. • Gravel is not to be imported into the property. • Any proposed action to change gravel use that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of the property will be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Energy for assessment under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Australia's national environmental law). <p>The World Heritage Committee is informed of actions that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area through the Australian Government's quarterly reporting process.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 3.1 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 6	<p>In line with a recent Committee request (Decision 39 COM 7B.35), the Management Plan should establish strict criteria for new tourism development within the property, which would be in line with the primary goal of protecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Additional criteria will be included in the new management plan to apply to the assessment of commercial tourism proposals in the property. These criteria will ensure protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>Appropriate and sensitive tourism is an important way of presenting the property, as required under the World Heritage Convention, and is important for the Tasmanian economy.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a number of measures to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional criteria for the assessment of activities and proposals in the property that require assessment under the Reserve Activity Assessment process to ensure World Heritage values are considered (section 3.3.1 of the management plan) • additional strict assessment criteria to ensure commercial tourism proposals do not impact negatively on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (section 6.8 of the management plan) • consideration of impacts on wilderness values in the assessment of any activity in the property (section 8.2 of the management plan). <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.1 of this report.</p> <p>Proposed activities likely to have a significant impact on the property's World Heritage values, including the property's wilderness character and cultural attributes, will also be subject to assessment under Australia's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 7	<p>The comprehensive Tourism Master Plan details should refine the balance between legitimate tourism development and the management and conservation of the cultural and natural values of the TWWHA based on further consultation and negotiation of competing interests.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The intent of this recommendation will be achieved primarily through the regulation of land use in the new management plan for the property.</p> <p>The Tourism Master Plan will provide additional guidance, context and policy direction for decision making under the new management plan. In particular the Tourism Master Plan will include consideration of issues, including protection and presentation of values, sustainable use, future visitor trends and expectations.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to “Develop a Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in consultation with the tourism industry, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and other key stakeholders” (section 6 of the management plan).</p> <p>The Tourism Master Plan will consider the management and conservation of the cultural and natural values of the property and is due to be completed by December 2019.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.2 of this report.</p>
Rec 8	<p>The term “wilderness” should be retained in the property name, while future dual naming is strongly encouraged to reflect both the Aboriginal heritage and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community with the property.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The term “wilderness” will be retained in the property’s name.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is exploring the potential for dual naming of the property in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>The property will remain named the “Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area”.</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action in section 4.6 to follow the protocols of the Tasmanian Government’s Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy and request a dual name for the property to reflect its Aboriginal heritage, and the relationship of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to the area, to complement the existing recognition of its wilderness values.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.4 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 9	<p>The “Wilderness Zone”, as currently used and interpreted, should be retained in the zonation of the TWWHA, while explicitly providing for Aboriginal access for cultural practices as an integral part of the management of the zone.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>A ‘wilderness zone’ will be retained in the property and Aboriginal access for cultural practices will be an integral part of the management of that zone.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.2.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes over 80 per cent of the property in the ‘wilderness zone’. This reflects an increase of over 78,000 hectares from the previous management plan. It includes large expanses with high wilderness value. Some areas previously zoned as ‘wilderness’ have been rezoned as ‘remote recreation’ to allow for appropriate tourism opportunities.</p> <p>The use of land zoned as wilderness zone in the 2016 Management Plan is consistent with the 1999 Management Plan with minor exceptions. Special events and construction of new tracks for environmental/ management purposes may be permitted under the 2016 Management Plan.</p> <p>A key outcome of the 2016 Management Plan is that activities in the property must be managed in a way that protects the property’s wilderness value. Impacts on wilderness value must be considered in assessment of any proposed activity within the property (section 8.2).</p> <p>The management plan confirms that continuing cultural practice in the wilderness zone is a fundamental part of its management (section 3.1.1.4).</p> <p>Work has commenced on the development and implementation of a policy and process that allows Aboriginal people access to, and use of, animal, plant and other material from the property for cultural purposes. The implementation of this policy and process is a requirement of the management plan (section 4.5).</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 10	<p>All land in the property should be managed in a way that is consistent with World Heritage status, and the recommended means to ensure such a consistent approach is to grant reserve status wherever possible. As long as there will be areas within the TWWHA not subject to Management Plans, adequate management of the property in its entirety should be ensured by an overarching Strategic Management Statement in line with obligations under the EPBC Act.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The EPBC Act provides a high level of protection for the World Heritage values of the whole property. The EPBC Act provides legal protection for World Heritage values by regulating actions occurring within or outside a property that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the values of the property.</p> <p>The new management plan will include a 'Strategic Management Statement' which will detail the management arrangements for areas of the property not subject to the new statutory management plan.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will seek to give public lands in the property reserve status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> (Tas), noting the role of the Tasmanian Parliament and the need to undertake broad community consultation.</p> <p>Further information is available in sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p><u>Reserve status</u></p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will seek the approval of the Tasmanian Parliament of proclamations for the reservation of Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) not covered in the management plan (section 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 of the Strategic Management Statement).</p> <p>The reservation process remains a priority and reserve classes for this land will be determined following broad community consultation.</p> <p>The World Heritage Centre will be advised as the reservation process progresses.</p> <p>Land that is reserved will be managed in accordance with the 2016 Management Plan. Until then, this land will be managed in accordance with the Strategic Management Statement.</p> <p><u>Management arrangements</u></p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan applies to approximately 97 per cent of the property.</p> <p>The Strategic Management Statement sets out management arrangements for tenures in the property that are not subject to the management plan for legal reasons (for example, privately owned land).</p> <p>The management statement is in line with obligations of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 11	Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) within the property should not be convertible to Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) and should be granted status as national park.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has ruled out all commercial logging in the whole of the property and will not seek to convert FPPFL to PTPZL.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will seek to give public lands in the property reserve status under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> (Tas), noting the role of the Tasmanian Parliament and the need to undertake broad community consultation.</p> <p>The new management plan will include a 'Strategic Management Statement' which will detail the management arrangements for areas of the property not subject to the new statutory management plan.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The Strategic Management Statement provides that Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPFL) will not be exchanged or converted to Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL). The Tasmanian Government will seek the approval of Tasmanian Parliament of proclamations for the reservation of Permanent Timber Production Zone Land and Future Potential Production Forest Land not covered in the management plan (section 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 of the Strategic Management Statement).</p> <p>The reservation process remains a priority and reserve class will be determined following broad community consultation.</p> <p>The World Heritage Centre will be advised as the reservation process progresses.</p> <p>Land that is reserved will be managed in accordance with the 2016 Management Plan. Until then, this land will be managed in accordance with the Strategic Management Statement.</p>
Rec 12	A systematic stock-taking exercise should serve to compile all available information about cultural sites within the TWWHA in a synthesis report according to conditions and terms agreed by the diverse Tasmanian Aboriginal Community for submission to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council has approved a project plan for the cultural heritage study which, with financial support from the Australian Government, will include the preparation of a synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites in the property. The report will be provided to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to analyse previous Aboriginal cultural heritage work to understand key knowledge gaps and to contribute to the development of a prioritised survey and research program for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (section 4.2 of the management plan).</p> <p>A literature review and synthesis report entitled <i>Aboriginal Heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA): a literature review and synthesis report</i> was finalised in March 2017.</p> <p>The report has been acknowledged and endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council and was provided to the World Heritage Centre on 15 June 2017.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.5 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 13	<p>A detailed proposal for a comprehensive cultural survey, a longer term initiative requiring adequate resources and full Aboriginal endorsement and involvement, should be elaborated for submission to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017 for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. The proposal should include a calendar on survey stages over a multi-year period.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The project plan approved by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council includes provision for comprehensive on-ground surveys and extensive community involvement staged over several years.</p> <p>A detailed plan for this comprehensive cultural survey will be provided to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017 for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. The plan will include a calendar of survey stages over a multi-year period.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes a management action to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, including the 2013 extension, to ascertain all Aboriginal values. The survey requires a desktop assessment, on-ground work, Aboriginal participation in all aspects of the projects, organisation of Aboriginal access trips to areas and consultation with Aboriginal people (section 4.2 of the management plan).</p> <p><i>A 'Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)' is being finalised. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council has guided, reviewed and supported the Plan which will be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, in consultation with IUCN. Further information is available in section 1.5 of this report.</i></p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 14	The State Party and the Tasmanian Government should jointly ensure an equal and integrated consideration of the cultural and the natural heritage of the mixed property.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that the property's cultural and natural heritage values are equally considered and is working closely with the Tasmanian Government to achieve this shared objective.</p> <p>The new management plan for the property will integrate the management of natural and cultural values. The Tasmanian Government's commitment to develop joint management arrangements with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community will strengthen this integrated approach.</p> <p>On completion, the cultural heritage study will provide more detailed information on the cultural heritage values of the property. This will provide a strong basis on which to ensure a more equal and integrated approach to the management of the property's cultural and natural heritage values.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 in the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan recognises that for Aboriginal people, natural values are inseparable from their cultural understanding of the natural world.</p> <p>The management plan establishes a framework for joint management to ensure an appropriate level of integration of research and monitoring related to all values is undertaken in partnership with Aboriginal people. It also recognises that optimal management of natural and Aboriginal cultural values is contingent upon an integrated approach.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has established a Cultural Management Group within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to oversee implementation of the Aboriginal cultural management outcomes of the management plan and to provide ongoing support of Aboriginal cultural values management in the property.</p> <p>Further information is in section 4 of the management plan.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 15	The State Party and the Tasmanian Government should provide and secure an adequate long-term allocation of financial and human resources to allow for proper consideration of cultural heritage.	<p>Support</p> <p>The cultural heritage study will be led by the Aboriginal Heritage Council. The Australian and Tasmanian governments are supporting this work.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will provide additional resources for cultural heritage management. These commitments will be included in the new management plan for the property.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments will continue to commit resources to improving the understanding of the property's cultural heritage.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.4 of the 2016 State Party Report</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following management actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase baseline funding for management of Aboriginal cultural values to a quantum that reflects their importance in the area's World Heritage listing • produce an implementation plan that clearly outlines the steps to achieve adequate funding of management actions. The implementation plan will determine the relationship between funding increases and actions within the plan that are contingent upon that funding; and identify the parties who are responsible for the implementation of the management actions, timelines and processes of review and consultation (section 4.7 of the management plan). <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments have provided 'baseline' funding for day-to-day management of the property since 1983. Baseline funding for management of Aboriginal cultural values has substantially increased from AUD\$160,000 in 2013-14 to AUD\$740,000 in 2016-17 and AUD\$705,000 in 2017-18. In addition to baseline funding, in 2015 the Australian Government provided AUD\$575,000 for work to provide more detail on the cultural heritage of the property and how this relates to its Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan for the management plan was finalised in November 2017.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments have funded the <i>'Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the TWWHA Project'</i> which involves community consultation and cultural heritage surveys within the areas added to the property in 2013.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.5.4 of this report.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 16	<p>The State Party should improve the property's current draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV) upon completion of the cultural sites synthesis report expected by mid-2017 and provide it to the World Heritage Centre at the earliest possible date after mid-2017 for review by the Advisory Bodies, and consideration by the World Heritage Committee. The SoOUV should explicitly make reference to the pending comprehensive cultural survey and the possible need to update the SoOUV upon completion of the survey.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council will develop and oversee the cultural heritage study of the property requested by the World Heritage Committee. This work will assist in the production of a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value at the earliest possible date after mid-2017.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.5 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan states that a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value will be prepared for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area following completion of the cultural values assessments (section 1.2 of the management plan).</p> <p>An improved Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value will be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in 2018.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 17	The State Party should ensure adequate resources for fire research and management, so as to better understand the role of fire and to optimize its management.	<p>Support</p> <p>On 9 March 2016 the Tasmanian Government announced that it will invest AUD\$250,000 in a research project that will examine the impact of climate change in the property and strengthen fire-fighting techniques specific to managing wilderness areas. This project will be completed in consultation with the Australian Government.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service has a recurrent fire management budget of AUD\$1.8 million with AUD\$650,000 allocated for ongoing fire management planning in the property. Additional expenditure for fire suppression is directly funded by the Tasmanian Government.</p> <p>Australia is a world leader in fire management and fighting techniques. Both Governments are committed to ongoing maintenance of this capability and continual improvement through review and evaluation.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 2.4 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan acknowledges that fire is one of the major threats to the property's natural and cultural values and includes a number of measures to continue resourcing fire research and management in the property (section 4.3, 5.2.1 and 8.1).</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments have resourced fire research and management activities since the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area was listed in 1982.</p> <p>Recent examples of resourcing on fire research and management include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tasmanian Government allocated AUD\$4 million over four years from 2017 to implement recommendations of the independent reviews of the 2016 fires in the property, including for planning, rehabilitation and fire mitigation activities. • The Australian and Tasmanian governments' jointly funded the emergency response to managing the January 2016 bushfires in the property at a cost of AUD\$11.5 million. • The Tasmanian Government provided AUD\$250,000 in 2016 for a research project on the impact of climate change and opportunities to strengthen fire-fighting in the property. The project published its report in December 2016¹¹. • In 2016 the Australian Government provided AUD\$100,000 to the University of Tasmania to improve understanding and management of fire in the property. This project is expected to be complete by mid-2018.

¹¹ http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange/Climate_Change_Priorities/climate_risks_and_opportunities/bushfire_research_project

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 18	<p>The State Party should fully reflect biosecurity as a cross-cutting and permanent management priority in the Management Plan and ensure and, as required, step up financial and human capacity to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The new management plan will ensure that biosecurity continues to be managed as a high priority.</p> <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments are committed to providing adequate resources to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks as a high priority.</p> <p>Significant resources are dedicated to managing biosecurity issues in Australia, both federally and at the state level.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 2.3 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>The Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy 2013-17 is a whole-of-government framework within which biosecurity issues are addressed in the most effective way. The strategy will be updated and extended in 2018.</p> <p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following biosecurity measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a Biosecurity Overlay that facilitates a cross-cutting and permanent management priority that is responsive to changes in biosecurity risk and would facilitate a step-up in financial and human capacity to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks as required (section 3.1.2 of the management plan). Implementation will commence in 2018. • identify new threats to Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area's natural values and reassess known threats, including weeds, pests, diseases and anthropogenic impacts; and, where possible, develop or review mitigation options, including the strengthening of biosecurity arrangements and increased cultural and volunteer involvement in control and eradication (section 5.1.2 of the management plan). • develop a comprehensive suite of strategies that minimises biosecurity risks to the natural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (section 5.2.2 of the management plan). <p>The Australian and Tasmanian governments adopt a systematic approach to provide financial and human capacity to monitor, prevent and manage biosecurity risks at national and state borders in addition to the property level.</p> <p>Additional resources have been allocated to survey and review biosecurity risks, and install biosecurity infrastructure, in the 2013 extension area of the property.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 19	The State Party should fully consider the linkages between the property and adjacent lands, including the increased length of boundaries shared with private land as a result of the 2013 Minor Boundary Modification.	<p>Support</p> <p>In Australia, most World Heritage properties, including the Tasmanian Wilderness, do not have a formal buffer zone. This is because the EPBC Act provides legal protection for World Heritage values by regulating actions occurring within or outside a property that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the values of the property.</p> <p>In relation to forestry actions outside the property, operational separation zones between the property and adjoining wood production coupes provide protection from the impacts of forestry.</p> <p>The Australian Government provided AUD\$680,000 to the Tasmanian Government to work collaboratively with adjacent land holders to address boundary management issues and implement on-ground works, following the 2013 minor boundary modification.</p> <p>Fact sheets have been developed for landholders whose properties are part of, or adjacent to the property providing information about what this means for them.</p> <p>The new management plan will provide a range of measures to facilitate cooperative approaches along the property boundary, particularly in relation to private land, and across tenure types.</p>	<p>The 2016 Management Plan includes the following provisions that consider the shared boundaries of the property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate areas of common interest to neighbours into a Communication Strategy for the property to ensure that neighbouring landowners are provided with relevant and timely information, and to clearly set out appropriate communication channels and responsibility for local areas (section 7.5 of the management plan) • establish procedures that allow, as required, for the ongoing development of good neighbour management in local and regional areas (section 7.5 of the management plan) • establish a Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Land Managers Group (section 10.3 of the management plan). <p>Complementary to this, the Tasmanian Government is implementing a Working Neighbours Program to develop respectful and productive relationships and partnerships between reserve and adjacent land managers, which further shared natural resource management and biosecurity goals and interests.</p> <p>The Working Neighbours Program is due to be complete by mid-2019.</p>

Ref	Recommendation	State Party Report April 2016	Implemented through the 2016 Management Plan and other statutory measures
Rec 20	The State Party should support and consolidate the emerging joint management of the TWWHA with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.	<p>Support</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is committed to progressing opportunities for joint management with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.</p> <p>Further information is available in section 1.1 of the 2016 State Party Report.</p>	<p>A key desired outcome of the 2016 Management Plan is that management of Aboriginal cultural values will be undertaken through a joint management governance arrangement that is supported by a dedicated unit, within five years (section 4.2 of the management plan). The following management actions are included to achieve this outcome by establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Cultural Management Group (CMG) within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to oversee implementation of the cultural management outcomes of the management plan and to provide ongoing support for management of the Aboriginal cultural values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area • governance arrangements that provide a role for a non-government Aboriginal organisation in the joint management of the Aboriginal cultural values of the property.

Aboriginal Heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)

A literature review and synthesis report

March 2017

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Foreword from the Aboriginal Heritage Council

The Aboriginal Heritage Council (AHC) welcomes the Aboriginal Heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA): a literature review and synthesis report.

Archaeological research projects have made a significant contribution to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community's knowledge of ancestral practices by complementing stories and traditions passed down through families.

At times in the past the relationships between researchers and Aboriginal people have been in conflict with different expectations and priorities. However, when co-operation and mutual respect guide the focus, methodologies and use of research, the benefits to Aboriginal people and the research community can be significant.

This literature review and synthesis report provides a helpful synthesis of previous archaeological research in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Council looks forward to further co-operative research projects in the TWWHA and the benefits these can provide to Aboriginal people and the wider Tasmanian, Australian and international community.



Rocky Sainty
Chair – Aboriginal Heritage Council

Executive Summary

This is a review of the archaeological research that has been undertaken in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) over the last thirty-five years. This report was prepared with financial support from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy as part of *The Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values (AACV) Project*. The AACV project was commissioned in response to the July 2016 request by the World Heritage Committee for a 'synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the property' to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017.

Archaeological research has shown that Aboriginal people occupied the TWWHA for at least the past 35,000 years and were, for 20,000 years, the southernmost people on Earth. Archaeological excavations have shown that the area contains a rich suite of Australian Pleistocene (ice age) sites, with occupation deposits providing significant information on Aboriginal life in Tasmanian and mainland Australia during this period. The area can be considered a Pleistocene 'province' as the sites share many attributes in common.

During the Pleistocene, Tasmanian Aboriginal people lived under alpine conditions when temperatures averaged 6°C below those of today. Detailed archaeological studies of faunal assemblages have revealed the hunting and butchering practices of the inhabitants, as well as the timing of their seasonal visits. Aboriginal people predominantly hunted wallaby so this archaeological evidence offers an interesting comparative dataset and research opportunity in relation to select mainland Australian sites and the northern hemisphere sites associated with the reindeer hunters of Europe. Studies of their lithic material shows that, while most was locally obtained, Aboriginal people carried favoured stone up to 100 kilometres from the source.

As the ice age waned, the predominately alpine environment was overtaken by encroaching wet forests. These forests are likely to have driven away the prey species, with Aboriginal people potentially unable to turn back these forests with their firesticks. Based on current evidence, Aboriginal people may subsequently had to abandon large areas in the TWWHA for as long as 10,000 years. At the same time the sea had risen and created the island of Tasmania, isolating the Tasmanian Aboriginal people from mainland Australia for the longest period in human history.

Current archaeological evidence suggests that it was not until about 4,000 years ago that Aboriginal people began to reoccupy the greater TWWHA, with a focus on the coastline. Importantly, while this suggests a period of hiatus, people may have remained within many areas of the TWWHA, with evidence of occupation either undiscovered and/or lost through inundation of coastline by rising sea levels. The presence of hundreds of middens containing the food remains of shellfish, birds, land, and marine mammals is testimony to the

abundant resources on the coastline, which is one of the richest heritage coastlines in Australia.

The TWWHA contains rock markings of particular significance to Aboriginal people today. These range in date from Pleistocene ochre hand stencils deep inside caves to pecked marks on rocks more recently executed with metal tools introduced by European people.

The research completed within the TWWHA has made an important contribution to our knowledge and understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and is a fundamental aspect supporting its listing as a mixed cultural and natural World Heritage property. This knowledge provides an opportunity for Tasmanian Aboriginal people to engage and connect with the cultural practices of the past both now and into the future.

Introduction

This document is a literature review and synthesis report of the archaeological and allied research that has been undertaken since the 1980s into the Aboriginal heritage of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). The document forms a contribution to the larger project entitled *The Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values (AACV) Project* and takes the form of a selective, narrative review of the literature supporting the inclusion of the TWWHA on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria. The literature is sourced mainly from the published, peer-reviewed, academic arena. It considers cultural resource management studies or consultancy reports only where relevant academic treatment is absent.

The document has been prepared in response to the July 2016 request of the World Heritage Committee for a 'synthesis report of all available information on cultural sites of the property' to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by mid-2017 (World Heritage Committee 2016). There are four maps to accompany this report with these found in Appendix A. Map 1 shows the geographical features referred to in the following text. Map 2 illustrates Tasmania at the height of the ice age, including the land bridge connecting Tasmania and mainland Australia. Map 3 shows Tasmania at the time that the land bridge is inundated. Map 4 is the distribution of known Aboriginal heritage sites in the TWWHA, specifically identifying those mentioned in the text. A glossary is provided as Appendix B. Importantly, the reader should note that dates provided within the text as BP (Before Present) are uncalibrated radiocarbon ages.

This is a story of the successful adaptation by Aboriginal people to extreme climatic change over almost 35 millennia. The review begins by describing the initial Aboriginal occupation of Tasmania during the Pleistocene with most of the evidence for this occupation coming from the areas now known as the TWWHA. The narrative continues by recounting the adaptation by Aboriginal people to their new land. While current archaeological evidence suggests that Aboriginal people lived in the area now known as the TWWHA for 20,000 years before the possible abandonment of the area towards the end of the Pleistocene, it remains unclear whether the area was completely abandoned. The possibility for ongoing occupation is reflected by the likelihood of undiscovered sites within this period that may or may not have been lost through environmental changes such as the encroachment of forests and inundation of coastline by rising sea levels.

The TWWHA is one of the world's great archaeological 'provinces' (Cosgrove 1995), containing many Aboriginal sites, each sharing many similar characteristics. The cave sites within the TWWHA contain rich, well-preserved, occupation deposits of bone and stone artefacts. The information contained in these deposits is comparable and regularly surpasses any in mainland Australia from the same period and finds parallels in relation to artefact

numbers and preservation only in sites within France and Spain (Holdaway, 2004; Holdaway & Cosgrove, 1997). The region and its sites offer an important southern hemisphere comparator to the better known Late Pleistocene sites of Europe. "The specific targeting onto reindeer by the European hunters bears comparison with the similar emphasis on wallabies by the sub-Antarctic palaeo-Tasmanians" (Kiernan, Jones, & Ranson, 1983:31).

Despite archaeological excavations in the area only commencing in the early 1980s and ceasing in the mid-1990s, continuing research on the excavated material is still being published in academic papers. The information from these sites has become an important component of general archaeological general text-books on Australian archaeology (Flood, 2004; Hiscock, 2007; Lourandos, 1997; Mulvaney & Kamminga, 1999) as well as specialist works (eg. Dennell & Porr, 2014; Gamble & Soffer, 1990).

Populating the new land

Cosgrove (2007) has argued that the human colonisation of the Sahul landmass (the earlier continent consisting of mainland Australia, Tasmania and Papua New Guinea) over the past 45,000 years was an important episode in human migration across the globe. The arrival of people into Tasmania represented the last phase of this movement and predates, by almost 20,000 years, human migration into the Americas (Dillehay et al., 2015; Meltzer, 2009). It was the southernmost point reached by people at this time. This expansion was facilitated by extreme climatic change. Large-scale variation in solar radiation received by Earth caused substantial change in global temperatures. During cold phases, enormous amounts of water were locked up in sea-ice and glaciers, substantially reducing sea levels across the globe. The arrival of Aboriginal people into Tasmania was facilitated by just such a massive drop in sea level between 40,000 and 36,000 years ago when, at 50-55 metres below present sea level, a land bridge was formed across the eastern edge of what is now Bass Strait (Lambeck & Chappell, 2001). Entry into and expansion across Tasmania by Aboriginal people appears to have been almost instantaneous, with two of the earliest occupation sites known in Tasmania, Warreen Cave and Parmerpar Meethaner, both in the TWWHA, dated to 34,790±501 BP (Allen, 1996a) and 33,850±420 BP (Cosgrove, 1995) respectively. At the time, Aboriginal people would have been living well inland and at a relatively high altitude. A vast heritage became submerged when seas rose again to their present level. Thus, the cultural heritage of the TWWHA holds even greater significance, as the surviving remnants of a much wider social and economic system.

It has been claimed that people arrived in Tasmania much earlier, around c.150,000 BP. This is based solely on the presence of charcoal in a pollen core from a wetland in the base of the Darwin Crater that is said to indicate increased firing of the landscape of a likely anthropogenic nature (Jackson,

1999). Cosgrove (1999:363) regards this interpretation as “extravagant” arguing there is no archaeological (i.e., clearly human) evidence for this early arrival into Tasmania. Of the 140 carbon dates from the earliest occupation sites in Tasmania, none show dates older than 35,000 BP. Currently there are a small but increasing number of sites on mainland Australia that have been confirmed as being older than 45,000 BP, with evidence to suggest colonisation approximately 50,000 years ago (Allen & Hiscock, 2016), however sea level studies show no available land bridge into Tasmania at that time.

When Aboriginal people arrived in Tasmania c. 35,000 years ago, the land was far different from today. The Pleistocene paleoecology has been well described (Allen, Cosgrove & Garvey, 2016; Colhoun & Shimeld, 2012; Cosgrove, 1991, 1999; Cosgrove, Allen & Marshall, 1994a; Porch & Allen, 1995). After the arrival of people, temperatures continued to fall during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) between 26,000 – 19,000 years ago (Clark et. al., 2009). At that time, the average temperature fell to between 4.5°C and 6°C below today’s average values (Colhoun & Shimeld, 2012). The sea level was about 120 metres below the present day level, rendering Tasmania a peninsula. The initial land bridge had widened into a substantial plain with a large, shallow lake in its centre (Blom, 1988) with glaciers present in the higher mountains (Kiernan, 1990; Mackintosh, Barrows, Colhoun & Fifield, 2006). The climate was drier, with precipitation at about 50% of today’s values, much of it falling as snow. Onshore westerlies were stronger (Colhoun & Shimeld, 2012), perhaps up to 30% windier (Wasson, 1986), mobilising substantial amounts of sand and dust particularly in northeast Tasmania (Bowden, 1983).

Vegetation across the land had a substantially different distribution from today and was dominated by alpine vegetation (Colhoun & Shimeld, 2012; Kirkpatrick, 1986). Dry grasslands along the Midland Valley split Tasmania in half extending northwards to cover the Bassian Plain to the north. The tree line was lower by approximately 750 metres (Gibson, Kiernan, & Macphail, 1987) and, in the west, much of the rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest seen in the TWWHA today was less than 100 metres above sea level (a.s.l.), on land now submerged below the present day sea level, and in refugia along creek lines.

The mammal population of ice age Tasmania comprised species that are found on the island today. The dominant prey species of Aboriginal people was *Macropus rufogriseus* (Bennett’s wallaby; Cosgrove & Allen, 2001). Whether giant marsupials coexisted with Aboriginal people and were brought to extinction by them, or by climate, or a combination of both, is widely contested by archaeologists on the mainland (Wroe & Field, 2006). This debate was recently extended to Tasmania when Turney et al. (2008) claimed that megafauna and Aboriginal people coincided there. This was strongly refuted by Cosgrove et al. (2010). Cosgrove’s conclusions have been confirmed by a recent meta-analysis determining that megafauna died out 1,000 years before the arrival of Aboriginal people (Lima-Ribiero & Diniz-Filho, 2014). Moreover, no correlation between human occupation deposits and megafauna has been found in Tasmania.

Pleistocene sites of the TWWHA

Commencing in 1981, a series of archaeological expeditions was mounted to find and record Aboriginal heritage sites in the Gordon and Franklin River catchments, which are located in what is now the TWWHA (Blain et al., 1983; Jones, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1990; Jones, Ranson, Allen, & Kiernan, 1983; Ranson, Allen, & Jones, 1983). In 1982, a pilot excavation was undertaken in Fraser (now Kutikina) Cave in an attempt to understand the chronology of Aboriginal occupation of the area (Kiernan et al., 1983). The expeditions were initiated in response to an inadequate environmental impact assessment made by the then Tasmanian Hydro-Electric Commission (HEC), which was proposing to impound the river valleys. The HEC assessment had denied the possibility of the presence of Aboriginal heritage in the area (Naqvi, 1979, as cited in Jones, 1982). When the archaeological surveys discovered a rich Pleistocene Aboriginal heritage in the proposed impoundment area, the HEC countered by searching for equivalent sites outside the proposed development, in order to justify work going ahead (Baynes, 1983; Foster, Cromer, & Summons 1983; Patterson, Underwood, Tanydes, Wilson & Baynes, 1983; Wilson, 1983). In response, an investigation by archaeologists found that most of the claims by HEC were spurious, with only two sites containing Aboriginal occupation found by the HEC, along with one new site found by the archaeologists (Jones & Allen, 1984). Subsequently, the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service extended the archaeological surveys to the Maxwell River (Harris, Ranson, & Brown, 1988) and Denison River catchments (Brown et al., 1991).

Following these initial surveys and the excavation at Kutikina Cave, members of La Trobe University commenced a program of excavations of a selected number of occupation deposits in the TWWHA, to gain a better understanding of the lifeways and chronology of these Pleistocene hunter-gatherers. The excavations included Parmerpar Meethenar rock shelter (Cosgrove, 1995) as well as four excavations undertaken under the aegis of the Southern Forests Archaeological Project (Allen 1996b; McNiven, Marshall, Allen, Stern & Cosgrove, 1993; McWilliams, Allen, Cosgrove & Holdaway, 1999). These were Bone Cave (Allen, 1996b, Stone Cave (Allen & Cosgrove, 1996a), Warreen Cave (Allen, 1996a), and Pallawa Trounta Shelter (Stern & Allen, 1996). Later descriptions of the deposits in these sites have been summarised in part by Allen, Cosgrove and Garvey (2016) and Cosgrove, Pike-Tay and Roebroeks (2014).

Most of the sites are contained in limestone/dolomite caves where preservation is excellent. The researchers noted that bone preservation was so extraordinary that even minute mouse bones were found in layers older than 30,000 years (Pike-Tay, Cosgrove, & Garvey, 2008). At the time of identification



Figure 1. Archaeologists excavating a limestone cave in the TWWHA (Photo: Richard Cosgrove, Southern Forests Archaeological Project).

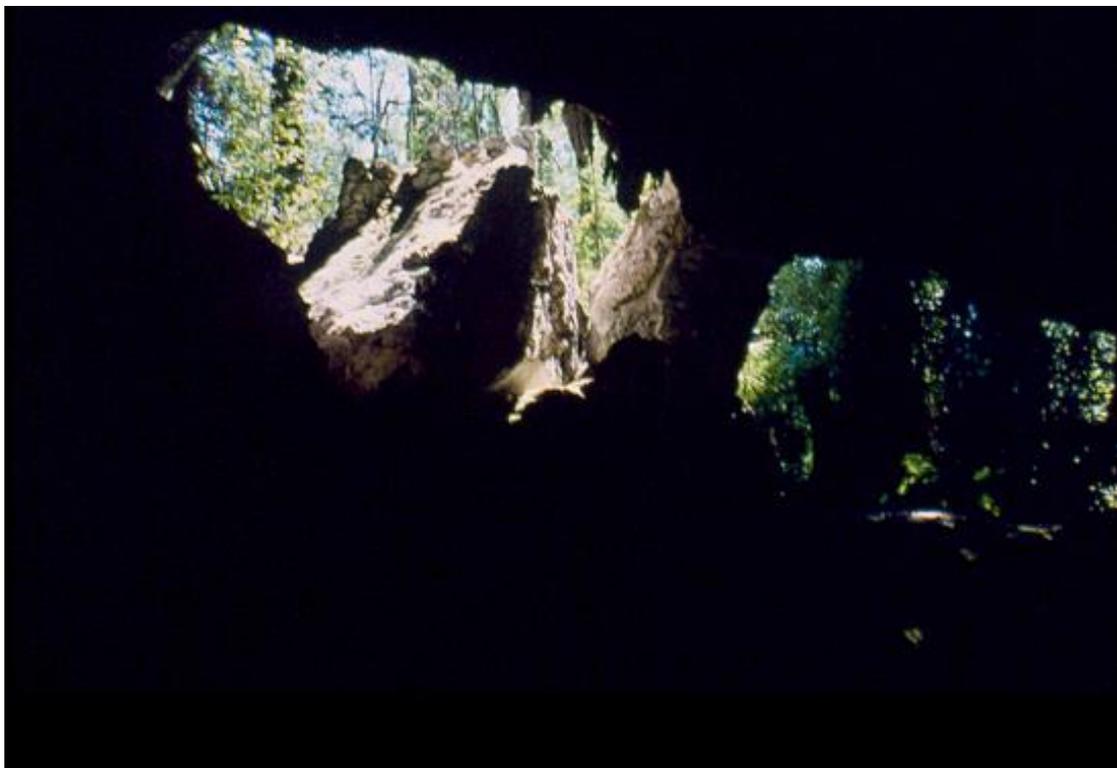


Figure 2. A number of limestone caves containing ice age occupation deposits are found in the TWWHA (Photo: Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania).

these extremely rich deposits far exceeded any on mainland Australia (Holdaway & Cosgrove, 1997), and continue to be comparable and regularly surpass the majority in Australia from the same period. The locations of all of these sites are shown in Map 4 and short descriptions of the most scientifically significant sites follow.

Kutikina (formerly Fraser) Cave (AH485)

This is the best-known Pleistocene site and the first that was found in the area now the TWWHA. Occupation in this limestone cave occurred between 19,770±850 BP and 14,840±930 BP (Kiernan et al., 1983). Over 250,000 pieces of bone and 37,000 stone artefacts were recovered in a single, small, test pit of 0.65 cubic metres excavated in 1981 (Jones, 1984,1990). The main prey species represented in the deposit was *M. rufogriseus* (Bennett's wallaby). Of special note was the discovery, for the first time in Tasmania, of small, disc-shaped 'thumbnail' scrapers. Also found for the first time in Tasmania were ancient occupation deposits, small flakes and tools of Darwin Glass, an impactite created by the collision of a meteorite with Earth, which formed the Darwin Crater, 25 kilometres to the north-west (Kiernan et al., 1983).

Warreen Cave (AH3786)

An extremely remote cave in a dolomite cliff was discovered in the Maxwell River catchment and first excavated in 1986 (Harris, Ranson & Brown, 1988; Ranson & Harris, 1986). A small test pit of 0.225 cubic metres revealed a very rich deposit containing approximately 10,000 pieces of stone and approximately 30,000 pieces of bone. The oldest date produced by the initial excavation was 22,370±470 BP (Allen, Marshall & Ranson, 1989). Ninety-three percent of the stone artefacts were milky quartz, with Darwin Glass was again present. The faunal assemblage showed, as in other sites, the dominance of *M. rufogriseus* but, in addition, had a greater presence of minor prey species such as *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* (platypus) and *Vombatus ursinus* (common wombat) than at Kutikina Cave. Owing to the wealth of the site and the fact that this excavation had not reached the bottom of the deposits, a second excavation was undertaken in 1990 (Allen, 1996a). Again, this second excavation could not reach the bottom of the deposits because of an ancient intrusive rock fall. Nevertheless a date of 34,790±510 BP was recovered at the base of the excavated layers, designating it the oldest site in Tasmania. The top of the deposit was dated to 15,960±310 BP. The range of dates indicates that Warreen Cave is one of the few sites in Tasmania that was in repeated use by Aboriginal people throughout the Last Glacial Maximum.

Parmarpar Meethenar (AH 4434)

This is a large rockshelter located above the Forth River. It was first discovered by Kee (1990) and excavated in 1992-93 by Cosgrove (1995). Parmarpar Meethenar, along with Warreen Cave, is one of the oldest sites so far found in Tasmania. The site is unique to Tasmania in demonstrating repeated, long-term occupation from 33,850±450 BP to 780±50 BP, spanning the Pleistocene pre-

LGM, LGM and post-LGM climatic periods, into the Holocene, and up to recent times. It also marks the known northern boundary of the South West archaeological province and contains elements, such as stone material, brought in from northern Tasmania.

The cultural assemblage of Parmerpar Meethenar exhibits an occupation history different from the other sites in the TWWHA, illustrating a successful human response to changing forest conditions. From 18,000 BP there is increasing discard of bone and stone material until 10,000 BP, at which point a dramatic decline occurs. This parallels the abandonment of sites such as Warreen and Kutikina Caves in the limestone/dolomite areas of the TWWHA to the south, at a time of expanding forests and a rise in sea level. Most of the stone artefacts throughout the occupation were manufactured from cobbles sourced from the nearby river. The excavation recovered many thumbnail scrapers. No Darwin Glass was present in Parmerpar Meethenar, although it was found in a nearby site on the Macintosh River 35 kilometres to the south. This suggested to Cosgrove (1995:93) that a behavioural boundary may have been operating close by during the ice age, in which Parmerpar Meethenar was not a fully integrated part of the economic system of the rest of the cave sites within the TWWHA. Parmerpar Meethenar is not as rich in faunal remains as the other sites because of poor preservation in acidic soils. No *M. rufogriseus* are present and low numbers of *V. ursinus* have been identified. The faunal assemblage consists mainly of smaller marsupials such as potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*), pademelon (*Thylogale billardierii*), and ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*). The presence of these species suggests that different ecological conditions were operating at this site than elsewhere in the TWWHA.

Bone Cave (AH1790)

Bone Cave is a small but extremely rich habitation site in a dolomite cliff on the banks of the Weld River, first excavated in 1988 (Allen, 1989). It was occupied by Aboriginal people by 29,000±500 BP. Its use remained sporadic until two main periods of occupation occurred from 24,000 to 23,000 BP and 15,500 to 14,000 BP, after which it appears to have been abandoned (Allen, 1996b). The break between the main periods of occupation occurred during the LGM, when environmental conditions were probably too extreme for the site to be easily accessed. Bone Cave has one of the highest elevations among Pleistocene sites in the TWWHA at approximately 400 metres a.s.l and, at the time, local glaciers had descended to approximately 600 metres a.s.l within a few kilometres of the cave. Densities of bone specimens recovered were approximately 340,000 per cubic metre and stone artefacts approximately 30,000 per cubic metre (Allen, 1996b). Bone points, made from sharpened ends of wallaby limb bones, were found in the deposits.

Stone Cave (AH3612)

This is a very small cave that is contiguous with Bone Cave. It was excavated in 1988-89 (Allen & Cosgrove, 1996a). Occupation commenced at 16,670±70 BP.

A very small test pit of approximately 0.13 cubic metres produced 984 stone artefacts (7,800 per cubic metre) and 10,909 bone specimens (87,000 per cubic metre). A single piece of Darwin glass was found which had been brought from the Darwin Crater 85 kilometres to the north-west.

Pallawa Trounta Shelter (AH2448)

The shelter is a large dolomite overhang on the banks of the Acheron River, part of the Franklin River catchment. It was discovered by Tasmanian Hydro-Electric Commission (HEC) geologists in 1984 (see above) but went unrecognised by them as an archaeological site. It was relocated by archaeologists (Jones & Allen, 1984) and excavated in 1991, with three small pits excavated to sample different parts of the site (Stern & Allen, 1996). One of the pits was unusual in that it comprised detailed micro-stratigraphic layers in its 1.1 metre deep deposit, which provided a well dated, fine-resolution sequence. Pallawa Trounta Shelter was occupied between 29,800±720 BP and 13,410±330 BP and thus was visited by Aboriginal people through the Last Glacial Maximum. The site had a rich faunal and lithic assemblage (Stern & Allen, 1996).

Most of the evidence for human occupation has been found inside caves and rock shelters. This highlights the difficulty of locating Pleistocene sites in open areas amongst the dense vegetation characterising the wet forests of the TWWHA. Only one open site has been discovered, serendipitously found as it eroded out of sediment on the bank of the Franklin River (Blain et al., 1983). Named the Flying Fox Site (AH 1839), it was represented by a stone artefact scatter visible in cross-section, and was dated to 17,100±1350 BP (Jones, 1990).

Pleistocene faunal assemblages

Analysis of the rich faunal assemblage from Aboriginal habitation sites in the TWWHA has enabled the reconstruction of the hunting and butchering practices of the region's hunter-gatherers as well as the timing of their seasonal visits to the valleys. Analysis of approximately 950,000 bones from the Southwest sites has created an exceptional zooarchaeological database (Allen, Cosgrove, & Garvey, 2016). Faunal analyses of four sites from the TWWHA have been published: Bone Cave, Stone Cave and Warreen Cave (Cosgrove & Allen, 2001) and Kutikina Cave (Garvey, 2006, 2007). These four sites contributed over 487,000 bones, just over half of the total assemblage.

The predominant prey species in these sites is Bennett's wallaby (*M. rufogriseus*) contributing more than 93% of identified fragments of human prey species in Bone, Warreen and Kutikina Caves (Allen et al., 2016). The remainder (just over 6%) is made up predominately of wombat (*V. ursinus*) with only the occasional

taking of the now extinct emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae diemenensis*), pademelon (*T. billardieri*), brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), ringtail possum (*P. peregrinus*), eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) and platypus (*O. anatinus*; Allen et al., 2016).

The reasons for the relative difference in the numbers of the two major species, wallaby and wombat, lie partly in their behaviour. Bennett's wallabies congregate in numbers and are predictably tethered to small, local areas of vegetation throughout their life and, being crepuscular, are comparatively easy to locate and hunt. In contrast, wombats are solitary, nocturnal, and difficult to capture as they live in deep burrows (Allen et al., 2016).

The examination of faunal remains has provided the opportunity to develop a strong understanding of the hunting strategies, resource selection and food processing of Aboriginal people in the TWWHA. With Bennett's wallaby there is a clear preference for the meat on the lower limb bones, minus tarsals, carpals and phalanges, to be taken back to the caves, suggesting that preliminary processing of a carcass commonly took place in the field (Allen et al., 2016). Thus, despite the animal being small enough to carry over the shoulders, the hunters were selective in the body parts they returned to base with (Garvey, 2010). In a study of the economic utility of Bennett's wallaby, Garvey showed that the hindquarters have the greatest amount of attached meat while the long bones of the legs held the most marrow. Wallaby long bones at these sites are often smashed to extract marrow. Since wallaby meat is very lean and high protein consumption can be deleterious to human health, supplementation with the high concentrations of essential fatty acids contained in marrow would have been essential. In a later study Garvey (2011) underlined the importance of Bennett's wallaby for its high meat ratio and unsaturated fatty acids. She showed that this species was a dependable resource varying little in meat and marrow quality throughout the year and across different environments and altitudinal regimes. This broader contextualisation further underlines the economic importance of Bennett's wallaby to the Pleistocene inhabitants of the TWWHA.

Wombats, were handled differently (Garvey, Roberts and Cosgrove, 2016). The forequarter of a wombat, that is, the forelimbs, head and pectoral region, were brought to the caves, perhaps because they contained a higher fat content. The meatier pelvic girdle and hind limbs were rarely brought back, suggesting that they may have been consumed in the field. Besides wombats being more difficult to capture than Bennett's wallaby, wombat meat was probably also less favoured. Nutritional analysis of the flesh and marrow of wombat suggest they have a lower fatty acid content than Bennett's wallaby. Meat high in fatty acids, particularly oleic acid, is more nutritious and palatable and satisfies hunger for longer. Possibly for this reason, few wombat bones were smashed for the extraction of marrow.

A very small number of bones have been found to exhibit palaeopathology. In the first record from Tasmania, Garvey and Sandy (2009) noted anomalies on



Figure 3. Bennett's Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*) was a major source of meat during the Pleistocene (Photo: Don Ranson).



Figure 4. Studies of Bennett's Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*) have helped to understand the hunting behaviour of Aboriginal people during the Pleistocene (Photo: Richard Cosgrove, Southern Forests Archaeological Project).

some wallaby metatarsals, tibiae and fibulae, as well as on wallaby and wombat ribs, from Kutikina Cave that were suggestive of bacterial osteomyelitis. Wallaby tibiae and fibulae from that site also showed evidence of osteoarthritis; this is likely to have rendered the animals lame and therefore easier to hunt.

Archaeological investigations have determined that some bones were used as tools. Webb and Allen (1990) studied thirteen bone tools recovered from Bone Cave and six from Warreen Cave and, in doing so, defined and described types new to Australia. Through microscopic examination, Webb and Allen discerned distinctive patterns of wear caused by the use to which tools were put. By comparison with tools manufactured under experimental conditions, they were able to assign functions to the tools. Four tool types were described: a 'fine point' was made from a *M. rufogriseus* fibula and sharpened at the tip; a 'non-formal' point was made by sharpening a long-bone fragment that was a by-product of marrow extraction; a 'flat-tipped' point was created by snapping the ends off a long bone fragment forming a straight chisel-like edge; and a 'spatula', a flat spoon shaped point was created by abrasion on fibulae. The polish and striations on most of the fine points suggested that they were used for puncturing of dry skin (possibly to create clothing), with the spearing of mammals seeming to be the most likely activity. Two of the nine fine points additionally showed coarse striations on the base that was suggestive of hafting. However, Cosgrove (1999) has argued that hafted bone spear points are an unlikely tool. He would expect bone point numbers to increase when hunting is more intense and more prey is brought back to a cave, but no correlation between prey animal numbers and bone points can be found. One fine bone point in Webb and Allen's study was used to pierce bark, although the purpose of this activity is unknown. One of the non-formal points was used to pierce dry skin while the other seems to have been a multi-purpose tool. One of the two flat bone points showed polish and striations consistent with the scraping of subcutaneous layers from skin. The position of the use-wear on four of the bone artefacts suggested that they were used as toggles or cloak fasteners. In a separate study, a proportion of the eleven bone points recovered from Kutikina Cave were found to have modified scooped ends that may have been used to extract marrow from long bones (Garvey, 2010).

Supporting the evidence for the possible piercing of skins and manufacture of toggles, Gilligan (2007, 2011) has suggested that cold temperatures encountered in this area during the Pleistocene and exacerbated by wind chill would have required the inhabitants to wear protective covering. Given the resources and the technology available to the Aboriginal people such clothing would have been simple, loosely draped garments made from joined skins. This is consistent with late eighteenth century European accounts that note that some Tasmanian Aboriginal people had a wallaby skin draped over their shoulders.



Figure 5. Bone points made from wallaby fibula (Photo: Richard Cosgrove, Southern Forests Archaeological Project).

One of the problems encountered in excavating cave deposits is that a significant proportion of bones in the deposits may have been introduced by non-human agency. While skeletal remains of marsupial mice (*Antechinus* sp.), pygmy possum (*Cercartetus* sp.), quolls (*Dasyurus* sp.) and swamp rat (*Rattus lutreolus*) are common in the deposits (Cosgrove, 1999), they may not have been brought in as the prey of humans. For example, the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) will have denned in caves when people were absent. The Tasmanian devil is a carrion eater with powerful jaws that can finely crush bones and thus may have introduced small fragments of bone into the cave deposits via its scats (Marshall & Cosgrove, 1990). Similarly, raptors such as owls (*Tyto* sp.) roost in caves and regurgitate bones of small animals in pellets (Marshall, 1986). The increase in small mammal remains in the deposits, particularly rodents (*Muridae*), at the end of the Pleistocene, probably reflects the change to the forested ecosystems rather than human activity. The onset of wetter and warmer conditions created an environment preferred by these animals and their predators such as owls (Cosgrove, 1999).

Hunting behaviour and the periodicity of occupation

A summary picture of the hunting behaviour and periodicity of occupation of the Pleistocene inhabitants of the TWWHA has been built up (Allen et al., 2016). Using skeletochronology, the study of growth marks and other structures of bone, selected faunal assemblages found in the TWWHA have been analysed in order to understand the age profiles of the prey animals and the seasonality of hunting visits to the region. In a pilot study, Pike-Tay and Cosgrove (2002) examined Bennett's wallaby mandibles from Warreen Cave. Using molar eruption as an age indicator they found that most animals were taken from the 1 to 2-year and the 6-year-plus age cohorts. Microscopic analysis of thin-sections of wallaby teeth has revealed annual rings in the dental cementum which permit seasonality studies (Allen et al., 2016; Pike-Tay, Cosgrove, & Garvey, 2008).

The age profile of the teeth found in the wallaby mandibles, compared to modern culls, is suggestive of a regime reflecting low hunting pressure on the wallaby populations (Pike-Tay & Cosgrove, 2002). The analysis of the rings in the dental cementum show that in Warreen and Kutikina caves 93% of wallabies were killed between autumn and spring, with most (73% of the total) in winter and spring. In the upland site of Bone Cave, 100% of kills occurred in the warmer months of spring to late summer. Bone Cave too, a greater proportion of younger animals were preyed upon. In studies of modern hunters, this suggests that comparatively higher hunting frequencies were occurring there.

Valley floors were characterised by discontinuous patches of comparatively fertile soils that were surrounded by poorer soils supporting dense scrub. The fertile soils were derived from alluvium and limestone base rock and supported *Poa* grasslands on which the economically important wallaby and wombat would have congregated and fed. Wallaby, in particular, exhibit behaviour that is 'tethered' to a particular grassy location. They tend to range over an area of only 15-20 hectares with their centres of feeding moving less than 30 metres over a 2 to 3 year period (Cosgrove, 1999). This behaviour allowed for predictable prey location and capture by Aboriginal people. Carcass processing occurred in the field with removal of wallaby hind quarters and wombat fore quarters to base camp, with the residual body parts either being consumed or abandoned in the field. While evidence of hunting from occupation sites at lower altitudes appears to have been undertaken all year round at sites such as Warreen Cave, a clear understanding of the intensity of occupation at this and other sites in the TWWHA remains unknown. Data suggests that hunting was undertaken intensively in particular months, suggesting fluctuating, short term occupation events followed by periods of limited or no occupation. Hunting from occupation sites at higher elevations occurred during late spring/summer only. Optimal foraging theory suggests

that once it became uneconomic to continue hunting a particular patch, another patch would have been selected. In this way, an Aboriginal group would move sequentially around their territory, appropriate to the season.

The argument that cave sites were not being continuously occupied is strengthened by faunal assemblages excavated from within rock shelters in the TWWHA. As mentioned above, intermingled with the remains of prey of humans are thousands of predominately small bones that were most likely sourced from owl (*Tyto* sp.) pellets and scats of the Tasmanian devil (*S. harrisii*; Marshall & Cosgrove, 1990). This natural waste indicates that the caves were abandoned from time to time and for periods of unknown length, possibly years or decades. This use may indicate variable and adaptive use of both open and rockshelter sites and their associated environments within the landscape.

At a micro-level there appears to have been an increase in rate of discard of material at these sites during the post-LGM. Cosgrove (1995) has suggested these increases in activity might be linked to 'flickers' of intense climatic change that lasted between less than five years and up to 20 years, with temperatures varying by up to 7°C above the average of the time.

Holdaway and Porch (1995) claimed that the archaeological deposits in the TWWHA and the techniques with which they have been studied, have yielded a rare opportunity to examine cyclical patterns of occupation on a regional scale which is unavailable elsewhere in Australia and in most of the rest of the world. Confounds have been minimised by the capacity to sample similar types of site within a tightly circumscribed geographical region across which the environment was broadly uniform. Likewise, the occupation sites were excavated using comparable excavation strategies and sampling procedures, with similar strategies for collecting dating material from stratigraphic features. There were 103 radiocarbon (C^{14}) dates from 12 sites, most of which were sent to one laboratory. This minimises the statistical errors or 'noise' component that inevitably arises from variations between laboratories in processing techniques and equipment.

In a first for Australia, Holdaway and Porch (1995) employed a moving-sum analysis of these radiocarbon determinations, at a 500-year resolution across the entire group of sites. This permitted the emergence of patterns among the dates that would be impossible to discern in a dating sequence from a single cave or rock-shelter site, or from a simple comparison of sequences from different sites. While there is on-going debate about the efficacy of this type of analysis both on statistical (Williams, 2012) and methodological grounds (Attenbrow & Hiscock, 2015; Smith, 2016), Holdaway and Porch (1995) claim that the occupation of the TWWHA region during the Pleistocene ebbed and flowed on a 3,000-year cycle. These cycles varied in amplitude, possibly representing differing occupation intensities at different times. The cycles appear to be correlated to known environmental changes. Holdaway and Porch suggest that the lower occupation intensities relate to periods of reduced spring discharge from the ice-fed rivers. In contrast, there appears to have been increased occupation during periods of higher spring discharge

rates. In addition, Holdaway and Porch note that the occupation intensity of the region overall increased through time. This is based on the increase through time in dateable organic material incorporated into the occupation sites and increased discard of stone artefacts. The maximum occupation took place around 15,500 BP before plummeting to close to zero when the region was abandoned as the forests displaced the hunting grounds. However, Cosgrove (1999) suggests that this scenario of site abandonment during drought was a local not a regional phenomenon. Where moisture was sufficient and reliable, such as in the Franklin-Gordon catchment, the presence of hearths in caves at the height of the glacial period point to continuing use of this smaller area during hard times.

In a separate study, Holdaway and Porch (1996) examined large-scale periodicity at Bone Cave and Pallawa Trounta along with two sites outside the TWWHA and found that bursts of occupation lasted between 700 and 1,500 years. They further suggested that reduced site use or abandonment for long periods was the norm: at Bone Cave, for instance, episodes of low or zero occupancy were longer than episodes of occupation. This may indicate adaptive use of the wider environment including occupation of a variety of both open and rockshelter sites depending on factors such as environmental conditions.

Stone artefact technology

Pleistocene sites in the TWWHA are invariably rich in stone artefacts. Only one site, Bone Cave, has been comprehensively analysed throughout its sequence (Holdaway, 2004). In an earlier study of a sample of stone artefacts from the site, McNiven (2000) noted that the vast majority, 98% of the Bone Cave assemblage, was made by free-hand percussion. In free-hand percussion, a selected rock is held in one hand and hit by a hammer-stone held in the other, in order to strike off flakes. The flakes were either used directly or further modified (retouched) to form an edge for a specialised use. The rock from which the flakes were struck is termed a 'core'. At Bone Cave 1% of the stone material were cores. From this small proportion of cores was struck a large amount of material, 92% flakes and 4% retouched flakes (McNiven, 2000).

McNiven (2000) found that the Bone Cave inhabitants selected eight different lithic materials, with the most common being quartzite (62%), followed by chert (19%) and quartz (11%). The quartzite was sourced locally from water-worn cobbles found in the Weld River that runs below the cave. The remaining lithic materials were brought in from sources located away from Bone Cave.

Tasmania is geologically complex, and locating Aboriginal stone sources is difficult. Sheppard (1997) examined chert, the second most important lithic material in Bone Cave, using thin-section petrography and neutron activation analysis. He distinguished ten chert types used by Aboriginal people and

concluded they were all sourced from extensive beds in the Ragged Range, approximately 10 kilometres to the north of the cave. Similar chert was used in smaller proportions at Warreen (1.6% of the lithic assemblage), some 15 kilometres from the source, and Pallawa Trounta (1.3% of the lithic assemblage), 45 kilometres from the source, suggesting that usage of chert decreased with distance from the source.

In Bone Cave, as at the other occupation sites, archaeologists have been intrigued by the presence of two items: a specialised tool termed a 'thumbnail' scraper and the presence of a rare material called Darwin Glass. Along with hand-stencil art (discussed below) and bone points, these artefacts seem to link the sites across the region. Thumbnail scrapers, so named for their shape and size, are small (less than 2.5 centimetres maximum dimension), disc-shaped tools, with a steep edge reminiscent of a wood-plane blade. They are unusual in being manufactured using the bipolar technique, where the core is rested on a stone or piece of wood that acts as an anvil, and then struck carefully and precisely with a hammer-stone (McNiven, 2000). The size of these thumbnail scrapers created using this technique is testament to the skill of Aboriginal knappers. Early studies based on small assemblages suggested that thumbnail scrapers appeared suddenly in the archaeological record and, therefore, could be used as a temporal marker of some major cultural or economic change in the region. For instance, Jones et al. (1988) noted that 80 were found at Kutikina Cave and concluded they were common in the upper (later) part of the deposit (Jones 1990). McNiven (1994) noted from a small sample of the Bone Cave assemblage that 95% of the scrapers were dated after 18,000 BP. However, Holdaway (2004) has shown that thumbnail scrapers are present in all levels of the Bone Cave deposits, albeit in lesser amounts pre-LGM (18,000 BP). A study of a larger sample of sites confirms that there was, overall, no sudden introduction of this technology after the LGM (Cosgrove, 1999). No evidence has been found that these tools were hafted. They appear to have been multifunctional, being used on wood, bone, skin, and plant material (Cosgrove, 1999).

Holdaway's (2004) comprehensive study of the Bone Cave assemblage concluded that there was a high degree of conservatism amongst the tool-makers represented there. While there were technological differences between tools made of different material which was probably due to the properties of the material and the use made of it, these separate technologies continued unchanged over the 20,000-year occupation. Similarly, there is no change in the types of tools found at the cave, although proportions vary at different times. The proportions of the different lithic materials also varied through time, as did the intensity at which they were worked. This led Holdaway to propose that, due to populations increasing in the region after the LGM, group mobility was reduced, resulting in sites becoming more intensively occupied.

The second signature item found in the sites is Darwin glass. Darwin glass is an 'impactite', a natural glass created by the heat generated during the collision

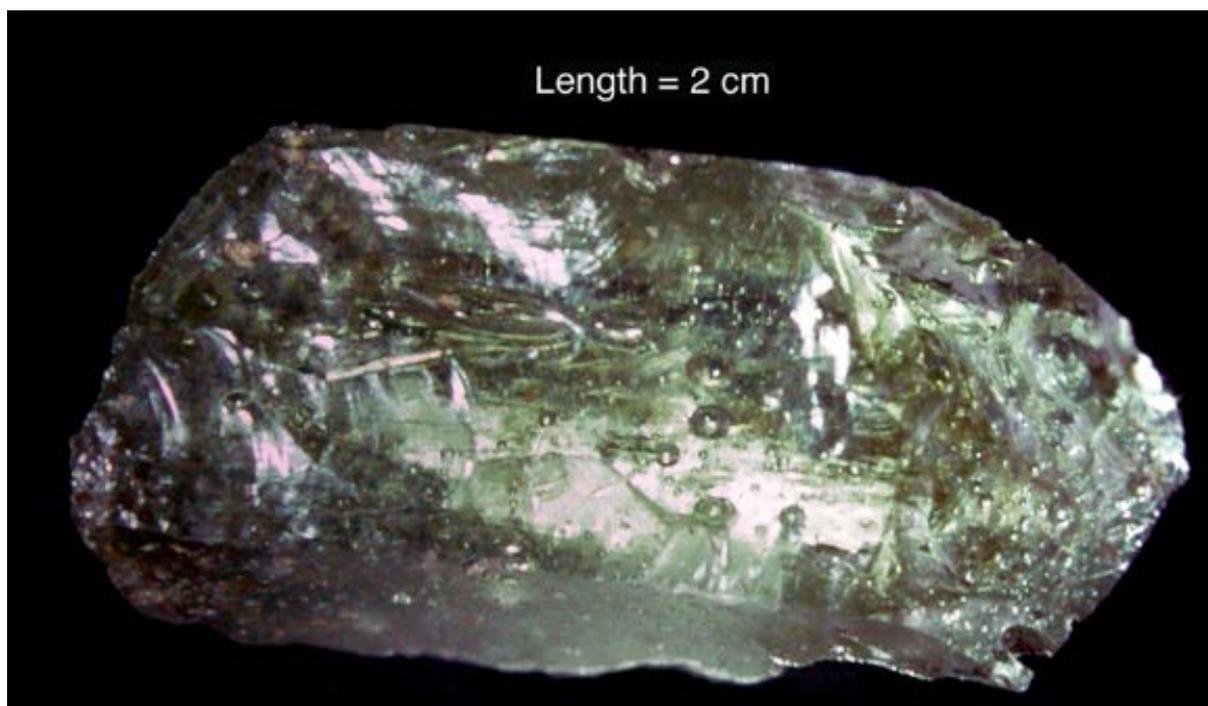


Figure 6. The favoured meteoritic impactite Darwin glass was transported over 100 kilometers (Photo: Richard Cosgrove, Southern Forests Archaeological Project).

of a meteorite with Earth. The Darwin Crater was formed 816,000 years ago by an impact that released about 20 megatons of energy. Just west of the Engineer Range and the Andrew River, within the TWWHA, the crater is a circular depression 1.2 kilometres in diameter. Now infilled with sediment, it was originally 220 metres deep (Howard & Haines, 2007). The impactite was ballistically ejected by the energy released during the collision, forming a strewn field greater than 400 square kilometres, including 22,500 tonnes of impactite landing within 50 square kilometres around the crater. Proportional to the crater size, this is the most abundant strewn field in the world. The colour of the impactite, Darwin Glass, ranges from white, to grey, light green, dark green, and black (Howard, 2009). During the Pleistocene, Aboriginal people preferentially selected the most common colour, dark green (53% of the impactite), and carried it throughout the TWWHA region for use at their living sites. No quarrying is needed, as the material can be picked up off the ground or from amongst the roots of fallen trees (Jones & Allen, 1984). Because of the small size of impactite fragments, the bipolar technique was used to manufacture tools from it. Darwin Glass is found in sites throughout the TWWHA as far away as Bone Cave 100 kilometres from the crater (Cosgrove, 1999) suggesting it was highly valued.

The conservatism and homogeneity exhibited in the stone tool assemblage over a 20,000-year period offers a salutary foil to European studies (Holdaway, 2004). In Europe, such an unchanging record would be ascribed to Archaic *Homo* (Neanderthals), rather than to modern humans, as is the case in Tasmania. Given the assumptions in Europe that a change in lithic typology

and technology from simple to complex often distinguishes the change from Archaic to modern humans, the results from the TWWHA, and other select sites in Australia, are challenging. They question the Eurocentric view that stone tool evolution equates to the evolution of behaviour from ancient to modern humans (Cosgrove, Pike-Tay & Roebroeks 2014; Holdaway & Cosgrove, 1997). European experts may need to reassess whether changes in technology might instead be a simple response to change in local environmental conditions.

Pleistocene rock marking sites

Four caves containing red ochre hand stencils and other amorphous markings are known from the area covered by the TWWHA. Most of the markings are in locations with no natural light. This implies that the locations within caves that were regarded by Aboriginal people as suitable were accessed, and the markings executed, by torchlight. None of these marking sites contain occupation deposits, suggesting deliberate separation of domestic and ritual spheres. Due to the absence of occupation deposits, it has not been possible to date the markings conclusively. However, all are considered to be Pleistocene in age. This is on the basis of their close geographical relationship with occupation sites of that date, as well as their apparent 'fixing' behind thin, protective transparent calcite layers that flowed down the cave walls, the growth of which has been dated elsewhere in Tasmania to the LGM (Goede & Harmon 1983). Descriptions of these sites follow and their locations are shown on Map 4.

Ballawinne Cave (AH3790)

Located close to the Maxwell River, Ballawinne Cave was the first site containing hand stencils found in the TWWHA (Harris, Ranson & Brown, 1988). A narrow tunnel, marked by five ochre blazes at the entrance, leads from daylight into the cave where 23 hand stencils, of both left and right hands, were executed in the pitch dark. There are also 11 ochre patches (McGowan et al., 1990). The cave with its stencils was recorded photogrammetrically in 1989 (McGowan et al., 1990 and McGowan et al. 1993).

Wargata Mina (formerly Judds Cavern; AH3525)

Red ochre markings were recorded at Wargata Mina in 1987 (Cosgrove & Jones 1989). This is the southernmost Pleistocene marking site in Tasmania. The markings comprise 15 hand stencils, as well as large patches and small smears of ochre some several metres across. In addition, six hand and arm stencils down to the elbow were found a kilometre underground (Cosgrove, Pike-Tay, & Roebroeks, 2014).

For the first time in the world and from two small samples, mammal blood was identified as mixed with the ochre, possibly as a fixative (Jones et al., 1988). Human blood was later identified as mixed with the ochre and was dated to



Figure 7. An ancient ochre hand stencil sealed behind a transparent calcite layer (Photo: Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania).

10,730±810 BP (Loy et al., 1990). However, there is doubt over the date due to the methodological problems associated with dating microscopic organic samples (Langley & Taçon 2010; Nelson, 1993; Taçon & Langley, 2012). In 1988, for the first time in Australia, cave markings were recorded photogrammetrically at Wargata Mina (McGowan, Hughes & Shreeve, 1992).

Keyhole Cavern (AH3614)

In 1988, three hand stencils and four ochre smears were found in this cavern located two kilometres south of Bone Cave (Allen, Cosgrove, & Brown, 1988; Allen & Cosgrove, 1996b). The markings were found in darkness 50 metres from the entrance. They were photogrammetrically recorded in 1991 (McGowan, Hughes & Shreeve, 1992).

Riveaux (AH9189)

This is the most recent Pleistocene ochre hand stencil site to be discovered (in 2002). It has not been studied in any detail since, for conservation reasons, access is restricted to viewing the stencils from the threshold of the cave mouth (Ranson, 2004). From the entrance can be seen, on the cave wall across a stream passage, at least ten stencils, including one with a forearm. There are two very small hands, possibly children's, as well as partial stencils, some of

which are occluded by intervening stalactites. Another ten hand stencils are known in stream passages not visible from the entrance.

Possible abandoning of the TWWHA

Around 18-19,000 BP, the Earth began to warm and by 15,000 to 14,000 BP the glaciers had retreated from the highlands of Tasmania. Precipitation climbed to double the present levels. Between 14,000 and 10,000 BP, increasing rainfall and rising temperature caused the advance of the rainforest out of its lowland refugia and up the valleys, the rise of the tree line, and the concomitant retreat of alpine vegetation. By the mid-Holocene (6,000 BP) maximum forest development had occurred (Colhoun & Shimeld, 2012; Jackson, 1999). The change in vegetation, from open grassy patches to a closed rainforest, forced the game away. Without ready access to their major prey species, it became uneconomic for Aboriginal people to remain and they too were obliged to move. On current evidence it appears likely that people abandoned the caves around 12,000 BP and do not appear to have returned (Allen et al., 2016; Cosgrove, 1999; Kiernan et al., 1983).

Thomas (1993) posed an alternative scenario. In brief, he suggested that the dry, comfortable caves of the Pleistocene became damp in the early Holocene, driving Aboriginal people in the region to live in the open. He noted that the TWWHA region is not uniformly rainforest but is, instead, a mosaic of forest and moorland that is substantially fire-dependent, with some of it possibly created by Aboriginal firestick practices of deliberate burning. Moreover, Thomas observes that Aboriginal people were seen in the area in the early 19th century. Thomas is also critical of the lack of palynological research which, he claims, would support the existence of discrete grassy patches near caves, on which prey species would have survived during the Pleistocene. Additionally, Thomas is critical of Cosgrove and others' assessment of the behaviour of the main prey species (Bennett's wallaby) and its 'tethering' to small grassy patches close to the caves. He notes that the wallaby has been seen to consume buttongrass shoots, thereby allowing it to be much more widely dispersed and more widely available for hunting than acknowledged by Cosgrove (1991).

Cosgrove, Allen, and Marshall (1994b) responded by suggesting that the 13 deposits dated by 133 radiocarbon analyses, most from the TWWHA, demonstrate that the cave sites, and possibly the region, were abandoned around 12,000 BP. While acknowledging that occupation might have switched from cave sites to open sites, there is currently no dated evidence for this. The much-reduced occupation in Parmerpar Meethaner during the Holocene, when the cave would have been in wet sclerophyll forest, supports the

suggestion that this forest type was difficult to live in. Cosgrove et al. did not deny that wallabies are able to consume food other than grass, but offered strong evidence from zoological surveys that forest and sedgeland vegetation zones support very low levels of the animals in stark contrast to their superabundance in grasslands. They point out that the historical evidence available indicates that only small populations of Aboriginal people were present in the TWWHA at the beginning of the European invasion, and they are critical of Thomas's extrapolation from this to account for the whole of the Holocene.

Thomas (1995) responded to Cosgrove et al., who felt that no further reply was necessary (Cosgrove & Allen, 1996). Fletcher and Thomas (2007, 2010a, 2010b) later suggested that fire-promoted moorland in large parts of southwestern Tasmania dating to 10,500 BP could be anthropogenic, though no archaeological sites have been dated from these areas.

On balance, until further rock shelter and open sites are identified, described and dated, and palynological studies of wetlands close to Pleistocene caves become available, the evidence currently points strongly to the abandonment of the region around 12,000 BP due to game being driven away by the encroaching forests. Considerable time elapsed before Aboriginal people reoccupied the TWWHA region, moving up the valleys into the highlands and along the west coast.

Reoccupation of the TWWHA region

With the warming of Earth at the end of the ice age, the melting of glaciers and sea-ice contributed to the rapid rise of the level of the sea. Sea levels rose 120 metres, sometimes as rapidly as 1 metre in 75 years, stabilising at their present level around 6,000 years ago. The consequences were gradual but substantial, with the flooding of thousands of square kilometres of hunting grounds on the Bassian Plain, the drowning of its large central lake, and the continuing and rapid movement of coastlines would have severely impacted on food resources. Material resources too, such as stone and ochre quarries, were flooded; camping places inundated; burials, rock marking sites and other sacred sites submerged forever. All this and, with the rising temperatures, the expansion of forests up the valleys would have created massive economic and social change, leading to a major reconfiguration of survival strategies. The flooding of the land bridge across the Bass Strait 14,000 years ago (Lambeck & Chappell, 2001) made an island of Tasmania, and brought about the longest isolation of any human group in history. The TWWHA offers interesting opportunities for conducting comparative studies in microcosm of conditions that were repeated across the globe at this time.

Reoccupation of the wet forests and valleys leading up into the highlands of what is now the TWWHA did not occur for some time. Evidence comes from Warragarra Rockshelter (AH74) in the Mersey River Valley, a fairly elevated site at around 610 metres a.s.l., and just metres outside the boundary of the TWWHA. A date of $10,910 \pm 110$ BP was obtained from the earliest levels of occupation at Warragarra. This occupation was sealed by a series of sterile layers indicating that the site was abandoned. Then further layers of occupation deposit showed that the rock-shelter was reoccupied from $3,480 \pm 90$ BP and that it continued to be visited up to 410 ± 60 BP (Allen & Porch 1996; cf. Lourandos, 1983). Thus, after a tentative foray shortly after the Mersey Valley became deglaciated, the valley was apparently not used for 7,500 years. In contrast, the TWWHA site of Parmerpar Meethaner in the Forth Valley, just 15 kilometres to the north of Warragarra, and lower in elevation by 200 metres, continued to be occupied throughout the Holocene, reaching a low point about 3,000 years ago before increasing again. Cosgrove (1995) suggests this downturn in occupation activity was due to a temporary expansion of forests in the local area associated with more humid conditions.

Compared to the detailed studies undertaken into the archaeology of the Pleistocene, the Holocene archaeology of the high country in the TWWHA region remains relatively unexplored. There have been three investigations that have touched upon the Central Highlands Plateau: a survey for sites around the Great Lake (Thomas, 1983); Cosgrove's (1990) work on Tasmanian forests which, in part, surveyed the edge of the Great Western Tiers; and a site survey along some of the rivers and lacustrine edges of the Central Highlands (Cosgrove, 1984).

This research suggests that the Highlands were not accessed until around 3,000 years ago. Billop Rockshelter (AH2564), a large, 40 metre wide shelter, is located at approximately 750 metres a.s.l. on the lip of the Great Western Tiers. The site has a date for initial occupation of $2,830 \pm 130$ BP (Cosgrove, 1990). Other shelter sites (AH 2629) dated to 2240 ± 70 BP and (AH2855) dated to $1,180 \pm 100$ BP on the Tiers to the west, point to a similar timing of occupation.

Occupation at Billop Rockshelter was fleeting at first but, on the basis of the quantity of stone and bone deposition, increased threefold from $1,380 \pm 60$ BP to 120 ± 60 BP. The majority of bone was from the ringtail possum (*P. peregrinus*), reflecting the forested environment that surrounded the cave throughout this period to the present. The stone artefact material comprised flakes, some retouched, flaked pieces and cores. The stone was mainly sourced from 'cherty-hornfels' (77% of the lithic assemblage), a metamorphosed mudstone that is found in nearby quarries in the Central Highlands at Great Lake, Arthurs Lake and Lake Sorell, as well as having various sources in the Midland Valley to the east. Of great interest, is the presence of three shells in the upper sequence of the excavation: a marine brooch shell (*Neotrigonia margaritacea*) and two freshwater mussels (*Velesunio moretonicus* and/or *Hydriddella narracanensis*). These shellfish remains, dated to between $1,380 \pm 60$ BP and 120 ± 60 BP, are the first found in an inland Tasmanian deposit that has been dated. The marine

shell must have been transported from the coast at least 80 kilometres away, while the freshwater mussel shells came from shellfish beds along the lower reaches of the northern river systems. The presence of shells points to the evolution of a complex communication system over relatively long distances, while the stone material illustrates a rich understanding of the resources available throughout the Central Highlands.

Regarding the wet forests in the southwest, there is little evidence of any reoccupation of the interior. The only site dated to this period is an open site (AH488), the first ever found in the southwest forests, with its discovery igniting the research that followed. The site is located on the top of an alluvial deposit and was revealed by a tree-fall at the mouth of the Denison River. Here a retouched core and waste flakes were dated to around 300 ± 150 BP (Kiernan et al., 1983; Jones, 1982). Since the artefacts were not directly associated with the dated carbon flecks in the sediment on which they rested, the date can be questioned. However, it is intriguing that the site was positioned at the apex of a tongue of land that had formerly been fired, as evidenced by a line of dead eucalyptus trees visible above the rainforest, leading over a nearby range and down to the river bank near the site ((Don Ranson 2016, pers. comm). If this relationship is sound, it suggests that Aboriginal people may have (at least occasionally) taken advantage of the 'green-pick' that grew in the wake of an occasional bush-fire and which would have attracted game. However, the Aboriginal people would have been unable to burn back the rainforests en masse to recreate their former hunting grounds.

As with the Highlands, there appears to have been a considerable lag before the TWWHA coastline was also occupied. While the coast would have stabilised around 6,300 to 5,800 years ago (Fletcher & Thomas 2010b), it took some millennia before it became permanently inhabited. The picture in the TWWHA is unclear because of the paucity of excavated sites, but comparisons with the southwest coast outside the TWWHA provides some clues as does the contiguous coastline to the north-west.

Tenuous at best, an early date is claimed for a midden in a tiny cave (AH4554) at Point Hibbs, outside of and to the north of the TWWHA, dated to 5380 ± 70 BP and $4,920 \pm 50$ BP (McNiven, 1996). However, although the dated deposit contains shell remains of warrener (*Turbo undulatus*), a marine species consumed by Aboriginal people, it has been reworked by natural forces, contains no stone tools, and incorporates bones of species that may or may not have been introduced by people. Tellingly, a nearby cave that is slightly larger and more comfortable contains *T. undulates* shells that exhibit damage that McNiven (1996) assigns to human agency. This site (AH4553) dates to only 1720 ± 100 BP and $1,690 \pm 70$ BP. This apparent lag in dates between the sea level stabilisation and human occupation has an analogue in the northwest coast, which has similar marine and terrestrial environments to that in the southwest. Here, the earliest date on a midden of 4050 ± 240 BP, is followed by a slow increase until 2000 years ago when a dramatic rise in the number of middens occurs (Stockton, 1983). This patterning can be glimpsed in the relatively



Figure 8. Hundreds of eroding shell middens are found along the coast of the TWWHA (Photo: Tim Jones).

unexplored archaeology of what is now the TWWHA coastline. The earliest date from what is most certainly an Aboriginal midden is $2,970 \pm 200$ BP at Louisa Bay (Vanderwal & Horton, 1984).

The remaining dates from the TWWHA coast range from 2000 years BP up to the very recent past. On present evidence, exploration of the TWWHA coast by Aboriginal people followed by permanent occupation appears not to have taken place until 3,000 years after the sea stabilised at its present level.

Little work has been carried out on the rich heritage to be found along the coast. Besides limited landings from a boat by Stockton (1976), there were two early site surveys along the coast: Sims' visits to previously reported rock art sites (Sims, 1977) and Zakharov's 1980 survey from the Mainwaring River to Port Davey (Zakharov, 1981). It was not until a series of major reconnaissance site surveys were undertaken in the late 1980s and early 1990s that the archaeological wealth of the coastline became apparent (Burke, 1991a; Prince, 1990a, 1990b, 1992a). These surveys noted rich and extensive middens and associated artefact scatters, and further discovered that many sites are actively being destroyed by wind and water erosion (Prince, 1992b). There has been just one comprehensive excavation campaign of Holocene sites along the TWWHA coast; this was carried out by Vanderwal in 1975 (Vanderwal, 1975,

1978; Vanderwal & Horton, 1984). Dunnett (1989, 1992) excavated a single rock shelter at Prion Beach, and Prince (1990c) excavated two small rockshelters in Port Davey. Burke (1991b) conducted very small 'salvage' or sampling excavations but these added little to the understanding of the archaeology of the area. Only one Holocene rock art site has been closely studied (Ranson, 2008), as discussed below.

Vanderwal excavated three middens and two cave sites at Louisa Bay, a midden at Anchorage Cove, and a midden on Maatsuyker Island (Vanderwal & Horton, 1984). Because radiocarbon dating was limited to the lowest deposits, variation through time cannot be discerned at a high resolution. The oldest date for a coastal site, 2970±200 BP, came from a midden fringing the Louisa River. The base of the deposit at Louisa River Cave 2 some 1.5 kilometres away, was 870±90 BP, while the midden at Anchorage Cove was dated to 250±80 BP. The earliest date of the midden on Maatsuyker Island, approximately 14 kilometres offshore from Louisa Bay, is 570±100 BP.

The Aboriginal economy, as revealed in these sites, fully exploited the range of marine and terrestrial zones offered along the coastline. Mammals preyed upon included Australian fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) and southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*) taken from the coast. Hunted inland among the lightly wooded country were Bennett's wallaby (*M. rufogriseus*), pademelon (*T. billardierii*), and ring-tailed possum (*P. peregrinus*). Also abundant in the sites were bird bones, particularly of mutton birds (short-tailed shearwater, *Puffinus tenuirostris*) but also of shy albatross (*Thalassarche cauta cauta*) and fairy prions (*Pachyptila turtur*). Common invertebrates were mussels (*Mytilus planulatus* and *Brachidontes rostratus*), warrener (*T. undulates*), abalone (*Notohalotis ruber*), and spiny crayfish (*Jasus lalandii*). The stone artefact industry was simple and relatively uniform, with 96% of the assemblage comprising poor quality local quartz and the remaining 4% was brought in from elsewhere.

Comparing the chronology with the seasonal evidence provided by faunal analysis, Vanderwal and Horton (1984) suggested that Aboriginal visits to the TWWHA coast was tentative and seasonal to begin with. The first visitors to arrive on the coast 3,000 years ago lived there in summer only. By 1,000 years ago, Aboriginal people had become permanent dwellers year round. They did not begin to access the offshore islands, such as Maatsuyker Island, until 500 years ago, and then they visited only in summer for the rich seal and mutton bird resources.

The small number of subsequent excavations along the coast have done little to modify Vanderwal & Horton's initial conclusions. In 1989, Dunnett (1989, 1992) excavated a large shelter at the north-western end of Prion Beach and obtained a basal date of 2,017±70 BP. Prion Beach Rockshelter is situated on a rich boundary of a number of environmental zones, including sandy and rocky coastlines, woodlands, and coastal scrub, as well as a large body of fresh water and the sea. Here, Dunnett (1992) found a similar suite of terrestrial and marine

mammals to that found by Vanderwal at Louisa Bay. He identified, however, many more species of birds brought back to this site by the Aboriginal people.

A total of 197 individual birds were identified at the Prion Beach site from the excavation of approximately 0.4 cubic metres. These included terrestrial birds: Tasmanian raven (*Corvus tasmanicus*), currawong (*Strepera* sp.) and a small parrot. Waterbirds were represented by swan (*Cygnus atratus*), a teal described as *Anas gibberifrons* an Indonesian species, pied cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*), little black cormorant (*P. sulcirostris*) and a rail. By far the most predominant were sea birds, especially fairy prions (*Pachyptila turtur*), short-tailed shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) and the common diving petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*); many were chicks or juveniles, suggesting that nesting sites were raided. Minor species were represented by Antarctic prion (*Pachyptila desolata*), shy albatross (*Thalassarche cauta cauta*), fairy penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) and, intriguingly, an extinct penguin (*Tasidyptes hunterii*). Dunnett (1992) suggests that this site represents a specialised summer sea-bird procurement site that sometimes involved a high risk procurement strategy of accessing off-shore islands, the nearest being the Ile du Golfe some 5 kilometres offshore across open water.

Few other excavations have been carried out on the TWHHA coast. Zakharov (1981) recovered a column sample from the centre of a hut depression which was dated to 740±100 BP. Such hut depressions, circular hollows approximately 5 metres in diameter and surrounded by shells, are the remains of the Tasmanian's beehive-shaped huts. Each hut was described by Robinson as a family dwelling (Plomley, 2008). The hut depressions are often found near the coastline, close to fresh water but on elevated ground. They are commonly grouped in 'villages' of five to ten huts which probably reflect residences of Aboriginal bands. The huts are restricted to the West Coast and are likely a response to the high rainfall in the area. As the representatives of the last phase of traditional Aboriginal lifeways in the area, their presence in the landscape is very significant.

Prince (1990c) excavated a deposit below rock markings (see below) at Bond Bay (AH 3511) that showed that the site was occupied between 820±60 and 320±50. Besides the typical suite of birds and mammals, occupants of this site consumed blue mussels (*M. edulis*) and southern mud oysters (*Ostrea angasi*), the latter reflecting the use of shallow, sheltered waters close by. Prince also excavated Ninene, a small cave (AH 114) on the western side of Port Davey. At the base of a 1.6 metres deposit he recovered a date of 2020±60, while the top shell layer was dated to 80±30. In the top of this layer was a fragment of bottle glass suggesting contact with Europeans. Intriguingly, there was a change in shellfish consumption through time. In the lower levels, limpets and mussels predominated in the deposit, while in the upper levels there was a preponderance of warrener (*T. undulates*) and abalone (*Haliotis* sp.). Prince suggests that a change in strategy from the consumption of littoral zone to the sub-littoral zone occurred during this time that required improved swimming and diving skills. Dunnett (1993) supports this contention, noting that while

abalone and crayfish were present in deposits in small quantities 3,500 years ago, it was not until approximately 1,000 years ago that these species dominated occupation deposits along the coast.

Holocene rock marking sites

Early reviews of Tasmanian-wide rock marking sites covered only a few of the sites that are now known from the TWWHA (Brown, 1991; Sims, 1977). There has been no systematic survey for, or detailed study of, rock marking sites in the TWWHA and little has been published on those found since the early reviews. Based on the limited number of occupation sites both within and outside of the TWWHA in which dating could be undertaken, rock marking sites along the TWWHA coast are likely to be Holocene and there are likely to be many more sites awaiting discovery. Most are on rocks or inside shelters, immediately adjacent to the high water mark and were probably executed after the sea reached its present level around 6,000 years ago. Three areas in the TWWHA are particularly significant for rock marking sites.

Bond Bay

There are five small marking sites recorded from Bond Bay within Port Davey that consist mainly of small cupules and grooves. These are designated Bond Bay 1-5. Bond Bay 1 (AH3511) is in a small overhang in a schist cliff and is the largest and most complex in the area, with 94 separate markings. It was first recorded by Reid (1954) and re-recorded by Sims (1977). There are 94 motifs in total: 91 cupules, most of which are so narrow and deep that they were most likely created by the drill-and-abrasion technique, as well as three grooves abraded along natural cracks (Don Ranson 2016, pers. comm). This is a very rare marking site in a Tasmanian context, as there is an associated, intact occupation deposit. Prince (1990c) undertook an excavation into the deposits below the markings dated to between 820 ± 60 and 320 ± 50 (see description above).

Bond Bay 2 (AH7093) is a very small sea cave with 47 small cupules, possibly formed by drilling and/or abrasion. In Bond Bay 3 (AH9906), another small sea-cave, Sims (1977) noted 23 cupules, 5 at the entrance and 18 cupules in three rows further back along the wall. Sims also noted two other sites (Bond Bay 4 and 5) but these have not been relocated in recent times.

Louisa Bay

In a former sea cave, previously excavated by Vanderwal (Vanderwal & Horton, 1984) around 20 handprints in yellow ochre were recently noted on the walls. These are positive prints not negative stencils and are presently the only known site of this type in Tasmania.

Deadmans Bay

Located along the shore of Deadmans Bay is a cluster of five marking sites containing pecked motifs in the form of human feet (Ranson, 2008; 2010). The most outstanding site is South Coast Cave (AH9450; Ranson, 2008). On the walls of this small sea cave, over 680 motifs have been executed, including 86 human footprints, some exhibiting polydactyly, as well as eight macropod tracks, nine anthropomorphic lizard-like motifs where the lizard's feet and heads are formed from human footprints, and at least 556 additional 'toe prints'. Linear, curvilinear, and other geometric designs have also been recorded. The markings lower down the main wall of the cave are heavily eroded by storm surge and are likely to date between sea level stabilisation and the current understanding of when Aboriginal people began visiting the coast (approximately 3,000 years ago).



Figure 9. A 3D laser scan of Aboriginal art at South Coast Cave (Photo: Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania).

Other marks have been created more recently using a metal tool, perhaps a 25 mm chisel, and thus post-date European exploration. These characteristics are indicative of a long tradition of marking at this site. The markings are in the Panaramitee Style, a style that is found across most of Australia except for the far northwest and in which animal and human tracks are a major component. The presence of the Panaramitee Style at this site suggests that a Pleistocene mental template was carried across the land bridge at least 14,000 years ago and was employed up until recent times. South Coast Cave has been recorded in three dimensions by laser scanning and structured light projection to sub-millimetric resolution (Ranson, 2010), a very early use of this technique in

Australia. Two other sites with human footprint motifs have been reported in the general area; however these are yet to be rediscovered. The distribution of the human foot motif appears to form a small sub-region within Tasmania, centred on the TWWHA except for two sites that are on the southwest coast at Mainwaring River. At all sites, nearly all of the human tracks seem purposefully oriented so as to appear to be exiting from the sea.

Finally, there are also other, smaller marking sites in the TWWHA, including ochre and charcoal 'tally' marks on a sandstone cliff at South Cape Rivulet (AH4169; Don Ranson 2016, pers. comm). There are fingerprints, most likely Aboriginal, in white pipe-clay on a cliff at the western end of Turua Beach (Ranson, 2010). Four cupules were noted on a low overhang at Anchorage Cove (AH11213; Don Ranson 2016, pers. comm). Burke (1991a) recorded ochre lines at Contact Cove 1 (AH5464) and Contact Cove 3 (AH5483) and ochre marks at Contact Cove 2 (AH5465). There are unconfirmed reports of ochre marks at South East Bight Cave in Port Davey (AH 7092) and possible cupules or a hand stencil at Alfild Bight (personal communication from J. Marsden-Smedley). An inland site at Mary Tarn (AH 7375) has reputed pecked markings (Anonymous, 1999; Bednarik 1999; Leaman, 2001: 316, Plates 176 & 177; Leaman, 2002: 168, Plate 63) but, after close examination, this is considered by the Ranson (2016, pers. comm) to be a natural phenomenon (see also Bednarik, 2001, Fig 5).

The recent past

The execution of rock markings with a metal tool, the presence of European bottle glass in a cave deposit, and the observation of hut depressions surrounded by middens, are timely reminders that archaeological surveys and excavations directly link to the occupation of the region by Aboriginal people within the very recent past. The early nineteenth century British forays into the region are summarised in Binks (1980). The ethnography of the Aboriginal people living in the TWWHA garnered from these early accounts is concisely described by Jones (1974). Unfortunately, these records are mere glimpses of a traditional Aboriginal society that was being destroyed by British incursions at the same time as they were being recognised and described. A summary of British expansion into Aboriginal lands can be found in Ryan (1996, 2012).

Tasmanian Aboriginal society was based on bands of approximately 30-40 people (Jones 1974). These bands are thought to be loosely associated in larger groups of 200 to 400 individuals. These larger groups have been called 'tribes', the Aboriginal names for which have not come down to us. The British recognised three 'tribes', (now referred to as nations by contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal people) in the TWWHA region: the North, the Big River and the South West. During their annual round, the nations moved over large ranges that incorporated areas outside what is now the TWWHA.

Little is known of the North nation as many members had been killed and the group's social cohesion destroyed by the late 1820s, by pastoralists expanding out along the coastal plain from Launceston, interactions with European sealers and through European disease. It is thought that the North nation moved seasonally into the Highlands, as evidenced by still-existing open plains that were most likely created by Aboriginal firesticks.

The Big River nation, many of its members also killed by the 1820s, moved from the East Coast where it had wintered up into the highlands along the major access route, the River Ouse or 'Big River'. They ventured into the highlands in spring to access, amongst other resources, the sweet sap of the cider gum (*Eucalyptus gunnii*) that flows in November (Plomley, 2008). Many members of the Big River Nation were also killed in the 1820s.

The South West nation is the best known from the TWWHA region. Many details have been collected through observations and conversations with Aboriginal people by the government representative George Augustus Robinson who walked the southwest coastline in 1830 (Plomley, 2008). The South West nation appears to have had the largest seasonal movement of all Tasmanian nations, having reciprocal visiting rights to the northwest coast as far as Cape Grim and the southeast coast as far as Bruny Island. There is evidence that they also raided colonists in the interior behind New Norfolk in 1829 (Plomley, 2008).

In 1815, James Kelly, merchant explorer, was the first to describe a (peaceful) encounter with the inhabitants of Louisa Bay. Kelly claimed to have discovered Port Davey and, soon afterwards Huon pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*) was being logged there (Binks, 1980). However, it was the establishment, in 1822, of a penal station at Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour that most likely disrupted the traditional lifeways of the Aboriginal people in the South West nation. The penal institution and its outlying pilot station and signal station at Macquarie Heads lay across the migration route of the South West Nation in their travels to their northern hunting grounds. Over 1,100 convicts were incarcerated there during the eleven years of its operation and over 100 escaped, many pursued by military guards (Maxwell-Stewart, 2008). It is likely that these desperate escapees, their pursuers, and the armed guards stationed at the Heads and elsewhere, sowed the final destruction of the tribe through violence and disease.

Throughout his travels in the South West nation's territory in the 1830s, Robinson remarked on the many empty huts he observed and puzzled as to where the inhabitants could be. It is likely that this was the end result of introduced British diseases as well as unrecorded murder perpetuated over the previous fifteen years.

By 1834, the last of the southwest coast Aboriginal people were rounded up for incarceration on Flinders Island (Plomley, 2008). However, a small family escaped notice. In 1840, the explorer James Calder was crossing the Painters Plains, in the high country near the northern boundary of the TWWHA, when he

noticed a recently built Aboriginal hut, the interior surface covered with art. Calder recounted:

I left these rude specimens of the arts to the mercy of the elements, which I afterwards found had respected them less than I had done, for on a visit some months after, I found the rude wig-wam of these last aborigines of Tasmania were blown down, and their sketches obliterated (Calder, 1849:419).

Conclusion

Archeological research in the past thirty-five years has provided a wealth of information on the lives of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the TWWHA during the last 35,000 years. This research highlights the long and important relationship, management and interaction with the landscape by Tasmanian Aboriginal people, which is made all the more remarkable by the adaptation that was required to live within the environment that was subject to extreme climatic change. Research has shown that for at least 20,000 years Tasmanian Aboriginal people were geographically the southernmost people on earth and practiced complex cultural beliefs. This cultural practice and the unique adaptation and resourcefulness required for their ongoing occupation of the area is evidenced by the archaeological record. This reveals hunting and butchering strategies, use and transportation of available raw material, modification of the landscape through targeted firing regimes, glimpses into their spiritual life through artistic representations within rock shelters and utilisation of seasonal and coastal resources

In terms of its scientific value, the archaeological sites and assemblages in the TWWHA are an invaluable and rare resource that has contributed to our understanding of the ongoing cultural tradition and lifeways of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Further investigation and research of this resource will provide the possibility to answer research questions that increase our understanding about people, places and cultural practices within the TWWHA. Research questions could include a focus on coastal and inland sites to determine the nature of human occupation in the TWWHA, the identification and recording of Holocene rock art sites to strengthen our knowledge of aspects such as cultural practices, further investigation on coastal sites such as middens to better understand coastal occupation and resource use and comparison with other archaeological regions including those in the northern hemisphere, which could fill current knowledge gaps in relation to our understanding of the activities, land use and broader occupation of the area through time.

The scientific value of the archaeological sites and assemblages contribute to the cultural significance of the TWWHA and are a fundamental part of the

TWWHA meeting three criteria used to assess the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a place for inclusion on the World Heritage List. These criteria are:

Criterion (iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

Criterion (iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; and,

Criterion (vi) to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

Importantly, the scientific values complement rather than compete with other values, and are a testimony to the importance and significance of the TWWHA as a World Heritage property.

The most important contribution of the archaeological research in the TWWHA has been the wealth of information it has provided to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. This information, when combined with cultural knowledge, provides the opportunity for current and future generations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people to engage and connect with rich traditions and cultural practices of their ancestral past both now and into the future. Future cooperation and collaboration between the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and researchers on current projects such as the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) project, the Comprehensive Cultural Values Assessment (including development of future survey plans for the TWWHA) and Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 TWWHA extension area provide the potential to extend the knowledge and understanding of this unique World Heritage place and further highlight its value to the world.

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Further reading

Other material, not cited in this review, is available to researchers. This includes correspondence in the records of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and its antecedent departments, particularly dealing with the response to proposals of the Hydro-Electric Commission to flood archaeological sites. The records of the HEC on these matters would also bear investigation. Articles by cavers who earlier investigated many of these caves in the area are not included, but appear in a number of speleological journals. Additionally, there are memoranda held by DPIPWE dealing with the later archaeological projects of discovery undertaken in the now TWWHA. The Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania Site Register contains reports created from mitigation surveys and management works throughout the area.

The list below is of academic works and reports stemming from or referencing the Aboriginal archaeology of the TWWHA, and which were not used in this review. It does not include preliminary reports on surveys and excavations when later publications on the subjects are available. Entries of unpublished theses is not exhaustive.

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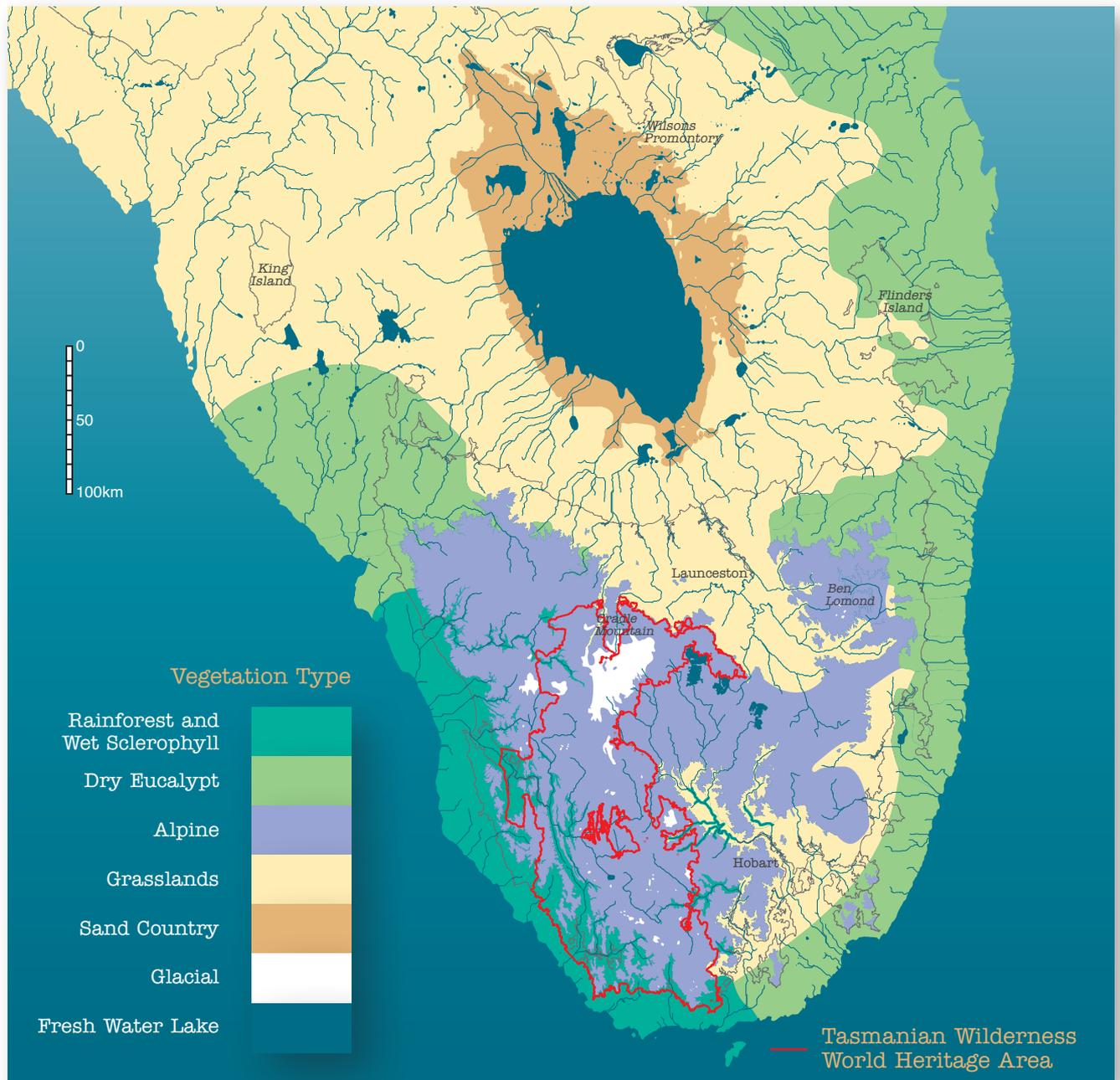
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Appendix A - Maps

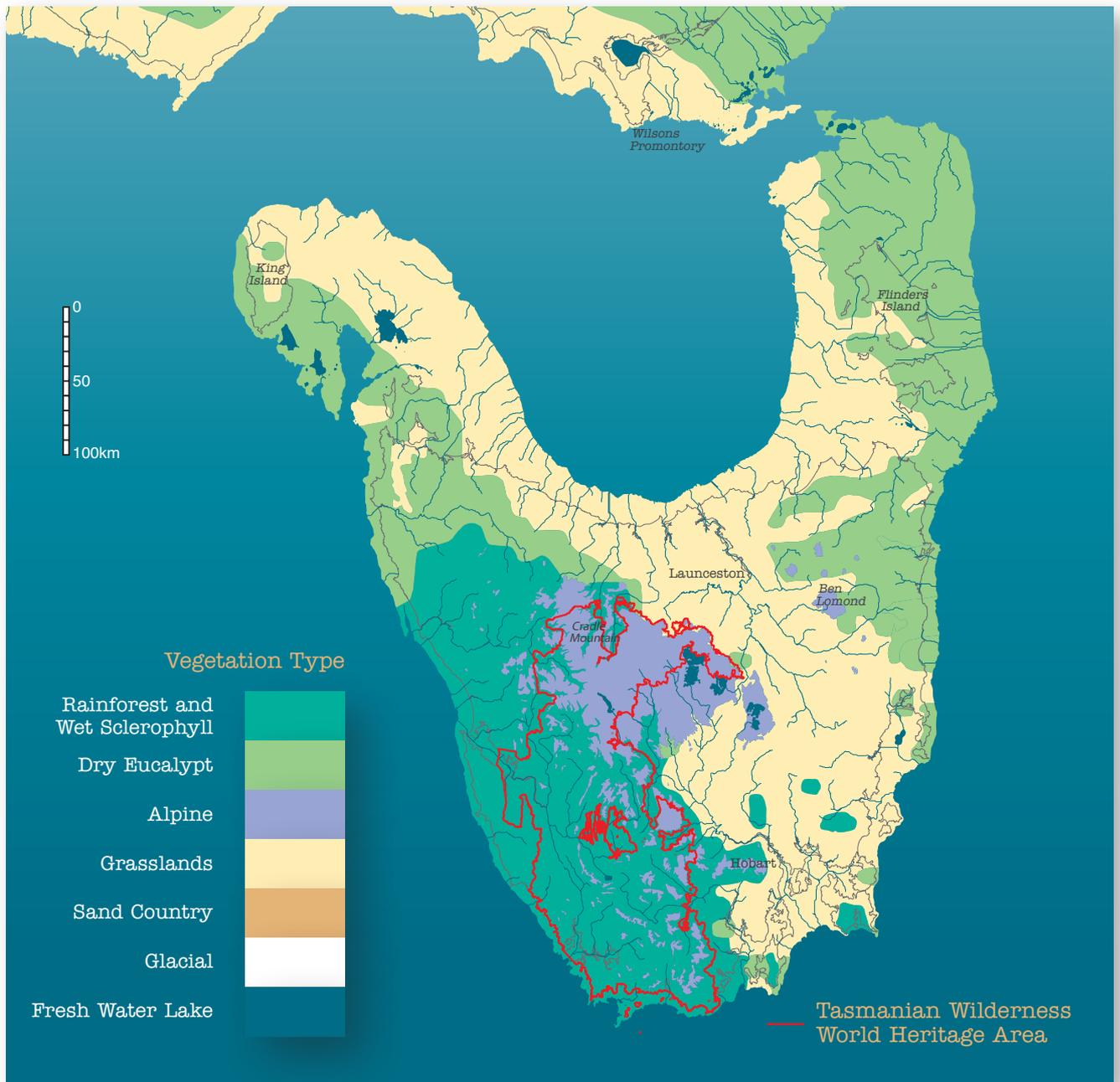
- Map 1.** The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area showing the rivers, lakes, coastal and upland features mentioned in the text.
- Map 2.** The land mass of Tasmania at the height of the ice age, c. 18,000 years ago. The red bounded area shows the position of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area today.
- Map 3.** The land mass of Tasmania at the point of separation when the land bridge was flooded, c. 14,000 years ago. The red bounded area shows the position of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area today.
- Map 4.** (North) and (South) Distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. (Those mentioned in the text are labelled).



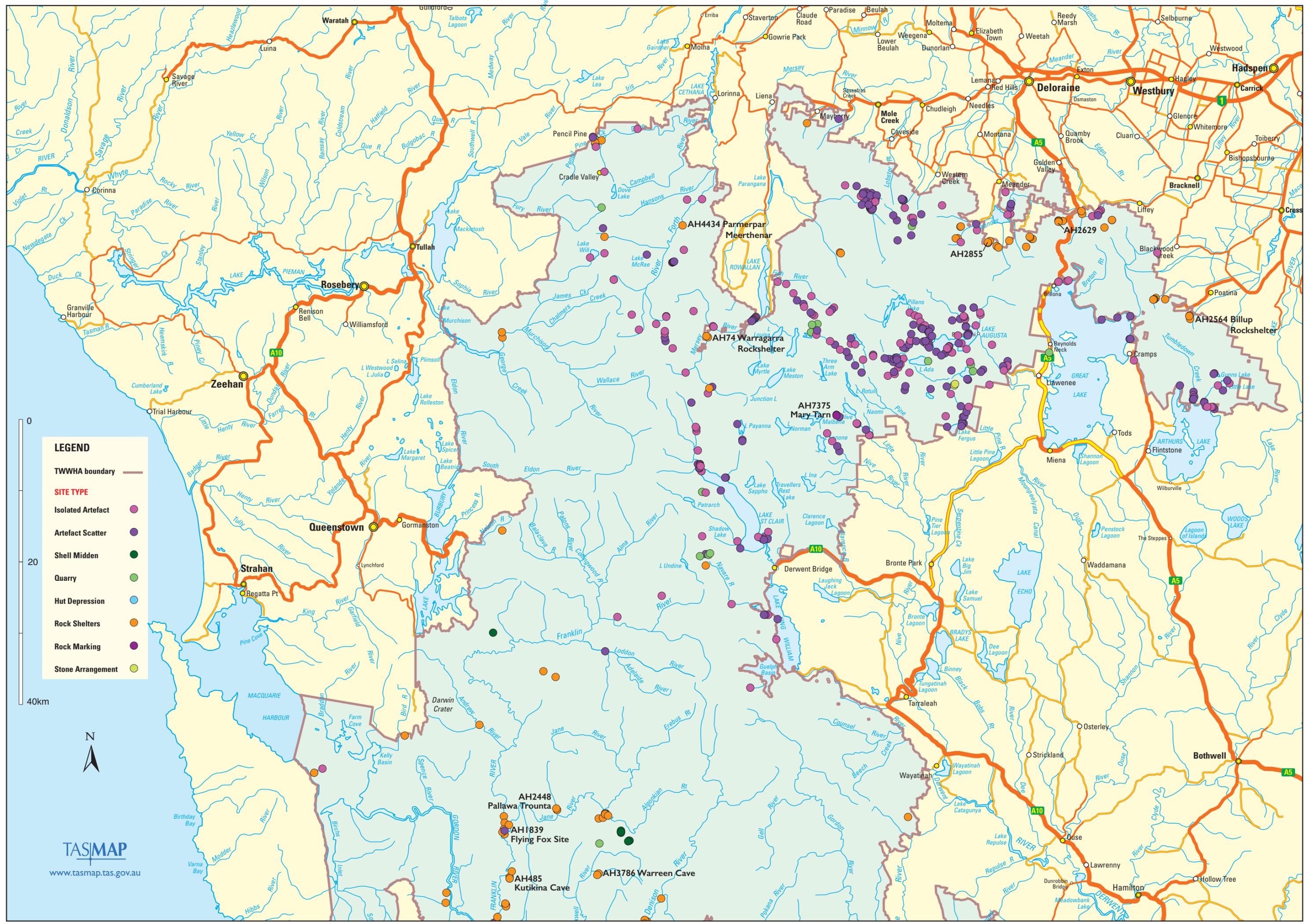
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Map 2. The land mass of Tasmania at the height of the ice age, c. 18,000 years ago. The red bounded area shows the position of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area today.



Map 3. The land mass of Tasmania at the point of separation when the land bridge was flooded, c. 14,000 years ago. The red bounded area shows the position of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area today.

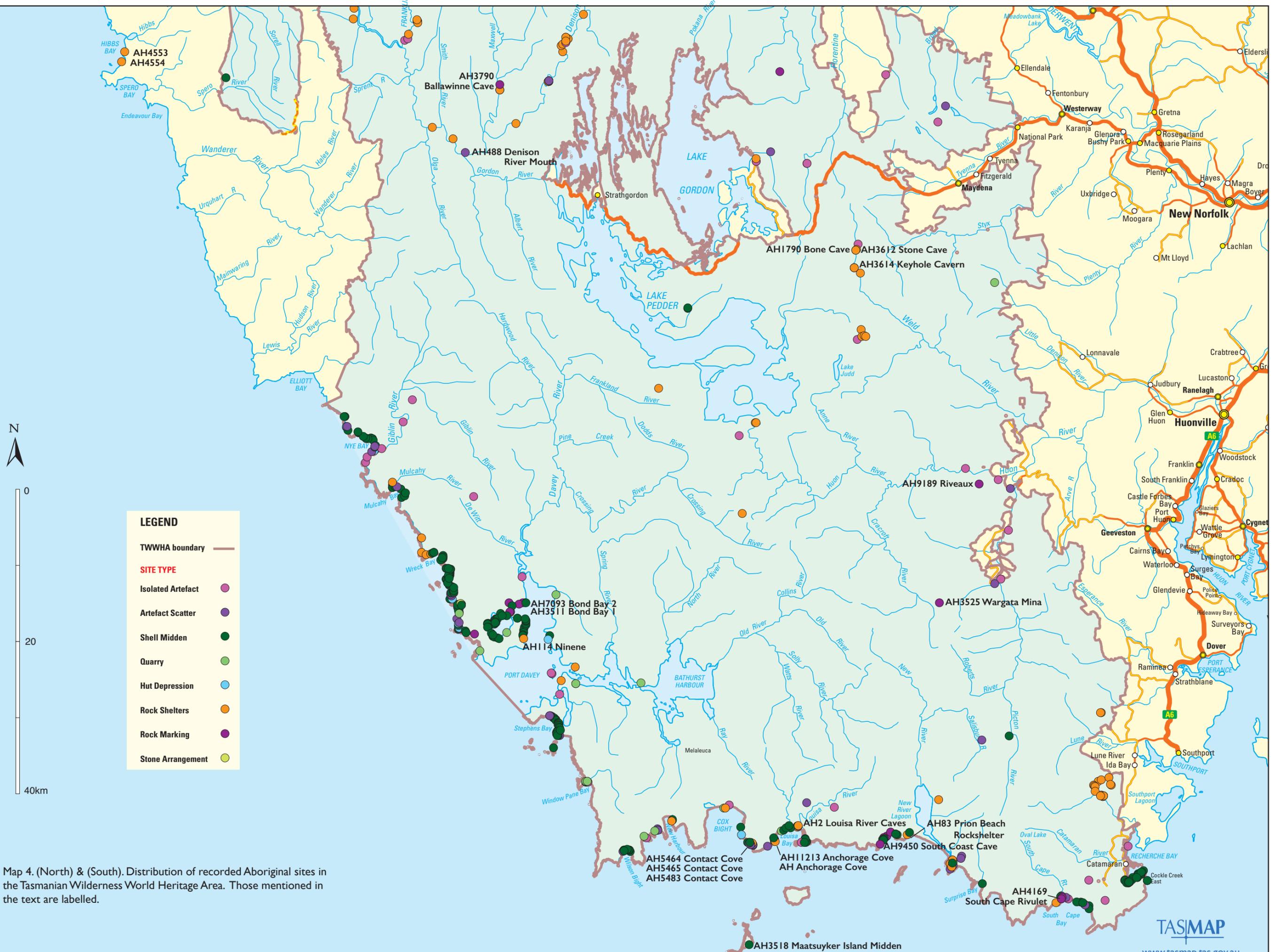


LEGEND

- TWWHA boundary
- SITE TYPE**
- Isolated Artefact
- Artefact Scatter
- Shell Midden
- Quarry
- Hut Depression
- Rock Shelters
- Rock Marking
- Stone Arrangement

0
20
40km





Map 4. (North) & (South). Distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Those mentioned in the text are labelled.

Appendix B – Glossary

AH. An abbreviation for Aboriginal Heritage. Preceding numerals used in designating sites, eg. AH1234.

Anthropogenic. Caused by humans.

Anthropomorphic. Exhibiting human characteristics.

Assemblage. A collection of different artefacts found in association with each other.

Bacterial osteomyelitis. Infection and inflammation of bone caused by bacteria, sometimes seen as a changed shapes and deformities in the bone as new bone is created to combat the disease.

Blaze. A mark placed on an object such as a rock or tree.

BP. Before Present. Used in radiocarbon dating, where 'present' is fixed at a standard reference sample dated to 1950 AD. The abbreviations are capitalised to signify estimated 'radiocarbon' years before the present. Radiocarbon years differ slightly from calendar years because they are derived from organic material that has interacted with differing concentrations of atmospheric carbon in the past.

Chert. A fine grained, silica rich metamorphic rock that often contains small fossils. It is excellent for making stone tools.

Confound. A factor, known or unknown, that has not been recognised or measured but that may influence the outcome of a study in unknown ways.

Crepuscular. An animal that is active during twilight at dawn or dusk.

Cupules. A cup-shaped hollow made in rocks by humans.

Ethnography. The study of a people, their behaviour and their culture at first hand.

Hafting. Attaching a tool to a haft or handle to achieve a better leverage.

Holocene. The geological period that began after the Pleistocene around 11,700 years ago and that continues up to the present. It is an interglacial stage, a warm period between ice ages.

Knapper. A person who shapes stone to make a tool.

Last Glacial Maximum or LGM. The last cold period in the Earth's climate history when glaciers were present in Tasmania. The coldest point was about 22,000 years ago.

Metamorphosed mudstone. A rock, first laid down as a sediment, and then subjected to high temperatures and pressures to form a fine grained material that can be knapped into tools.

Neutron Activation Analysis. Bombarding material with neutrons to create radioactive isotopes of the elements present. These can then be identified and their concentration measured.

Osteoarthritis. A disease of the joints caused by breakdown of bone and cartilage that results in pain and stiffness.

Palaeopathology. The study of ancient diseases in humans and other animals.

Paleoecology. The study of past ecosystems using plant and animal fossils.

Palynology. The reconstruction of past environments by studying plant pollen trapped in wetlands.

Petrography. The study of the composition of rocks.

Photogrammetry. Using photographs to take measurements in order to aid survey and mapping.

Pleistocene. The geological period before the present, which lasted between 2.6 million years ago to around 11,700 years ago. It is characterised by a series of ice ages. In this report it specifically means from approximately 40,000 years to 11,700 years ago.

Quartz. One of the commonest rocks, made of crystals. It is easily fractured when struck.

Quartzite. Sandstone changed by geological heat to form a hard material, a metamorphic rock.

Scat. Animal droppings; faeces.

Stratigraphy. Layers of rock and sediment, including layers of debris arising from human occupation.

Thin-section. A very thin piece of material prepared for viewing under a microscope.

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Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)

November 2017

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Foreword from the Aboriginal Heritage Council

The Aboriginal Heritage Council welcomes the 'Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)'. The Plan was developed with extensive guidance and advice from the previous Aboriginal Heritage Council and I acknowledge their important input and contribution to the final document.

The Council acknowledges that current awareness and knowledge of the Aboriginal cultural values of the TWWHA has developed through a relatively small number of Aboriginal community visits, archaeological research and cultural heritage projects, and as such it relates to a small proportion of the Aboriginal cultural values of the TWWHA. A great deal remains to be learnt, and there is significant potential for projects to benefit the Aboriginal community and visitors in managing, interpreting and engaging with our cultural values in the TWWHA.

The Plan has been established to assess existing and identify new Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA while acknowledging the strategic importance of ensuring ongoing co-management of these values for future generations. The Council looks forward to the development of the 'packages' and the benefits, including employment and training, these can provide to Aboriginal people and the wider Tasmanian, Australian and international community.



Rodney Dillion
Chair – Aboriginal Heritage Council

List of Abbreviations

AACV Project	Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values Project
AHC	Aboriginal Heritage Council (Tasmania)
AHO	Aboriginal Heritage Officer
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
CMG	Cultural Management Group (TWWHA)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (Commonwealth)
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tasmania)
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service (Tasmania)
TWWHA	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Executive Summary

The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), has commissioned the 'Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)' (hereafter 'the Plan') to outline a proposed multi-year comprehensive cultural assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). The Plan is based on a version developed by the cultural heritage consultancy Extent¹ in collaboration with the Cultural Management Group (CMG) within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT).

Throughout the preparation of the Plan Tasmanian Aboriginal community organisations and individuals were engaged and consulted and the Plan was guided and supported by the Aboriginal Heritage Council (AHC). While consultation and engagement were undertaken, it is recognised that any future implementation of the Plan will require additional engagement with, and the involvement of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The Plan was prepared as one component of the 'Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values (AACV) Project' for the TWWHA and is funded by the Australian Government.

Overview of the Plan

This Plan for a comprehensive cultural assessment of the TWWHA responds to the 2016 decision of the World Heritage Committee requesting a detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural survey (Decision 40 COM 7B.66) (UNESCO 2016) and Recommendation 13 of the 2015 ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission report (Jaeger & Sand 2015) that requested 'A detailed proposal for a comprehensive cultural survey, a longer term initiative' in that it sets out a plan for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural values across the whole of the TWWHA.

The structure of the Plan is as follows:

- Part 1 - The Plan - overview of the Plan and the relationship to the AACV Project.
- Part 2 – The Packages – ten 'proposed packages' of work designed to improve the understanding and management of Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA.
- Part 3 – Steps required to implement the Plan - Aboriginal stakeholder engagement and consultation, timing and resourcing and project management.
- Part 4 – Conclusion.

Proposed packages of work

The Plan includes ten proposed packages of work. This includes six proposed 'understanding values' packages that are designed to discover and better understand the Aboriginal cultural values of the TWWHA (and in particular those aspects that contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)) and four proposed 'managing

¹ Details on Extent are available at - <http://extent.com.au/>

values' packages that are directed at improving the management and appreciation of Aboriginal cultural values.

The six proposed 'understanding values' packages are as follows:

1. The Southern Lacuna: Aboriginal occupation in the southern valleys

This package addresses a significant geographical gap in the knowledge of Aboriginal values of the TWWHA and has the potential to contribute to a better understanding of the OUV of the TWWHA as an area which is linked to the Pleistocene history of humankind. This multidisciplinary package has two key aims: firstly, to characterise the nature of Aboriginal settlement within the southernmost river valleys of the TWWHA, and secondly, to provide a dataset with which to contextualise and inform the present value of the existing Pleistocene record, as well as the less well-expressed, mid to late-Holocene coastal record.

2. Holocene seascapes and coastal settlement

This package compiles and synthesises previous work, and delivers a comprehensive, multi-regional excavation and dating program to understand and articulate the scale and complexity of these marine engagements – the cultural seascapes and coastal settlement during the Holocene in the TWWHA.

3. From the Highlands to the Lakes (Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem)

This package addresses the cultural values of the northernmost parts of the TWWHA. It is considered likely that the outcomes of the survey will document Tasmanian Aboriginal people's creative social responses to climatic change and the resultant shifts in their environment throughout time from the deep past until today.

4. People and the button grass

This package explores people-environment interactions in the button grass moorlands of the TWWHA. Moorlands comprise a considerable portion of the TWWHA landscape, but few archaeological studies have been undertaken in these areas and their cultural values are almost entirely unknown, especially for the extensive button grass moorland systems in the far southwest.

5. Rock art in the landscape and seascape: recording, conservation and management

Rock art sites² are cited specifically in the justification of OUV for the TWWHA, and they are known to be of high significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Despite this, few have been comprehensively recorded, investigated or interpreted and there remains no synthesis of the rock art sites (i.e. all humanly created painting, engravings, tally marks, cupules etc.) within the TWWHA. This package addresses the specific need to improve present understandings of rock art within the TWWHA through the delivery of a comprehensive and systematic regional rock art recording program of all sites within the TWWHA (both engravings and paintings).

² Although this Plan refers to 'Rock art', 'Rock markings' is regularly used to define this site type in Tasmania. 'Rock art' has been used here as it is considered to be a widely used and universal term for the site type and recognisable for intended audience.

6. Post-contact Aboriginal heritage and shared values

This package examines the post-contact heritage of the TWWHA to determine to what extent it may reflect continued Aboriginal connections with the area in the historic period, and whether there are places that have shared significance for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Places that attest to the recent historical past may have significance for Aboriginal people as sites of contact, dispossession, historic employment, subsistence, recreation or activism.

The four proposed 'managing values' packages are as follows:

7. Strategic responses to predictive and unexpected natural disasters and climatic events

This theme and package acknowledges that, with increasingly variable climatic conditions, more unplanned events will occur through time, and it recognises the need for flexible land management responses to events such as bushfire, floods, cave or cliff collapse, storm surges, but also that they present opportunistic windows for research.

8. Reviewing, building and integrating robust systems for the management of cultural values in the TWWHA

This package is focused on strengthening existing management systems, guidelines and protocols that relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage in the TWWHA. It acknowledges that there are already a range of relevant systems that exist within DPIW into which heritage may be integrated to varying degrees, but many of these systems require substantial work to fully integrate cultural values into day-to-day management activities in order to achieve long-term and robust management of the values.

9. Training for Aboriginal people working in the TWWHA - managing cultural values

The need for Cultural Heritage Management training has been raised consistently, including by the AHC, Aboriginal people within the Tasmanian community, AHT and Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania (PWS) staff. Accordingly, two training-orientated packages have been devised: one for Aboriginal people and another for departmental staff and land managers (who are currently mainly non-Aboriginal people). Proposed package 9 targets training for Aboriginal people who currently work or aspire to work in Aboriginal cultural heritage management within the TWWHA (and elsewhere) along with potential TWWHA related employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. It will contribute not only to the better management of cultural heritage but also to capacity building in order to facilitate the flow of social and economic benefits to the Aboriginal community from the TWWHA.

10. Cultural Heritage training for in-house Government personnel involved in managing the cultural values of the TWWHA

This second training package focuses on the cultural heritage training needs of the people within the agencies that have a management responsibility for the TWWHA. There are two components of this package. The first is the development of a cultural awareness program and training for Aboriginal people to deliver in a 'Train the Trainer'

model. The second component is cultural heritage management training for PWS and other relevant staff and/or contractors working in the TWWHA.

Next steps

Part 3 of this Plan sets out the next stages required for the implementation of the Plan for the Cultural Heritage Assessment. The Plan will be implemented with reference to the management framework established by the TWWHA Management Plan (DPIPWE 2016).

Importantly, the CMG within AHT, with the support and guidance of the AHC, will prepare a ‘stand-alone Community Engagement Agreement’ as part of the commitments of the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016, p.161). It is envisaged that this agreement will provide guidance and direction from the Aboriginal community on how they wish to be consulted on and involved in projects associated with the TWWHA Management Plan and the implementation of this Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA.

The Tasmanian and Australian governments are discussing the resourcing required to implement the Plan and the priorities. The timing and phasing of implementation of the Plan will need to be agreed through further consultation and engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and Tasmanian Government agencies.

It is proposed that the delivery of the packages will be carried out in stages if possible, over the 10-year duration of the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (Table 1).

Table 1. Understanding and managing values packages and proposed priority schedule

PRIORITY	PACKAGE NUMBER	PACKAGE NAME
1	8	Reviewing, building and integrating robust systems for the management of cultural values in the TWWHA
2	1	The Southern Lacuna: Aboriginal occupation in the southern valleys.
	2	Holocene seascapes and coastal settlement.
	3	From the Highlands to the Lakes (Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem).
	4	People and the button grass.
3	9	Training for Aboriginal people working in the TWWHA - managing cultural values.
	10	Cultural Heritage training for in-house Government personnel involved in managing the cultural values of the TWWHA
4	5	Rock art in the landscape and seascape: recording, conservation and management.
5	6	Post-contact Aboriginal heritage and shared values
	7	Strategic responses to predictive and unexpected natural disasters and climatic events

This delivery is subject to a number of factors including funding and resource availability (including human resources/personnel). Importantly, the aspirations and priorities of the Aboriginal community are a fundamental consideration, with the need

for additional engagement and consultation with the community prior to implementation recognised as important to its success.

Part 1. The Plan

The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) has commissioned the 'Detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)' (hereafter 'the Plan') to outline a multi-year comprehensive cultural assessment of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). A map of the TWWHA, including the 2013 extension, is provided in Figure 1.

The Plan is based on an earlier version developed by the cultural heritage consultancy Extent in collaboration with the Cultural Management Group (CMG) within Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) in DPIPWE. Details of how the Plan was developed including the community engagement undertaken, the use of predictive models and other details can be provided by AHT on request³.

Tasmanian Aboriginal community organisations and individuals were engaged and consulted during the development of the Plan, with the Aboriginal Heritage Council (AHC) providing guidance and support to the project. A list of Aboriginal organisations and individuals contacted and involved during the preparation of the Plan is included in Appendix 1 and written responses received from Aboriginal organisations are included as Appendix 2.

Although consultation and engagement were undertaken, it is recognised that any future implementation of the Plan will require additional engagement with and the involvement of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. The Tasmanian and Australian Governments recognise that it is vitally important that work towards a stronger understanding of the Aboriginal values of the TWWHA is undertaken in close cooperation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. This requires extensive, meaningful and respectful consultation and engagement, as 'the Indigenous cultural heritage significance of places can only be determined by the Indigenous community themselves' (Australia ICOMOS 2001). The Plan makes provisions for both the further identification of Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA and for their improved management through the involvement of Tasmania's Aboriginal community.

1.1 The Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values (AACV) Project

The Plan is one component of the Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values (AACV) Project for the TWWHA, implemented by AHT and funded by the Australian Government.

The AACV Project derives from four key requirements. These are:

1. the recognition that the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the TWWHA and its values are currently not sufficiently understood (Jaeger & Sand 2015);
2. that the Aboriginal values in the TWWHA have not been identified to the same

³ Contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

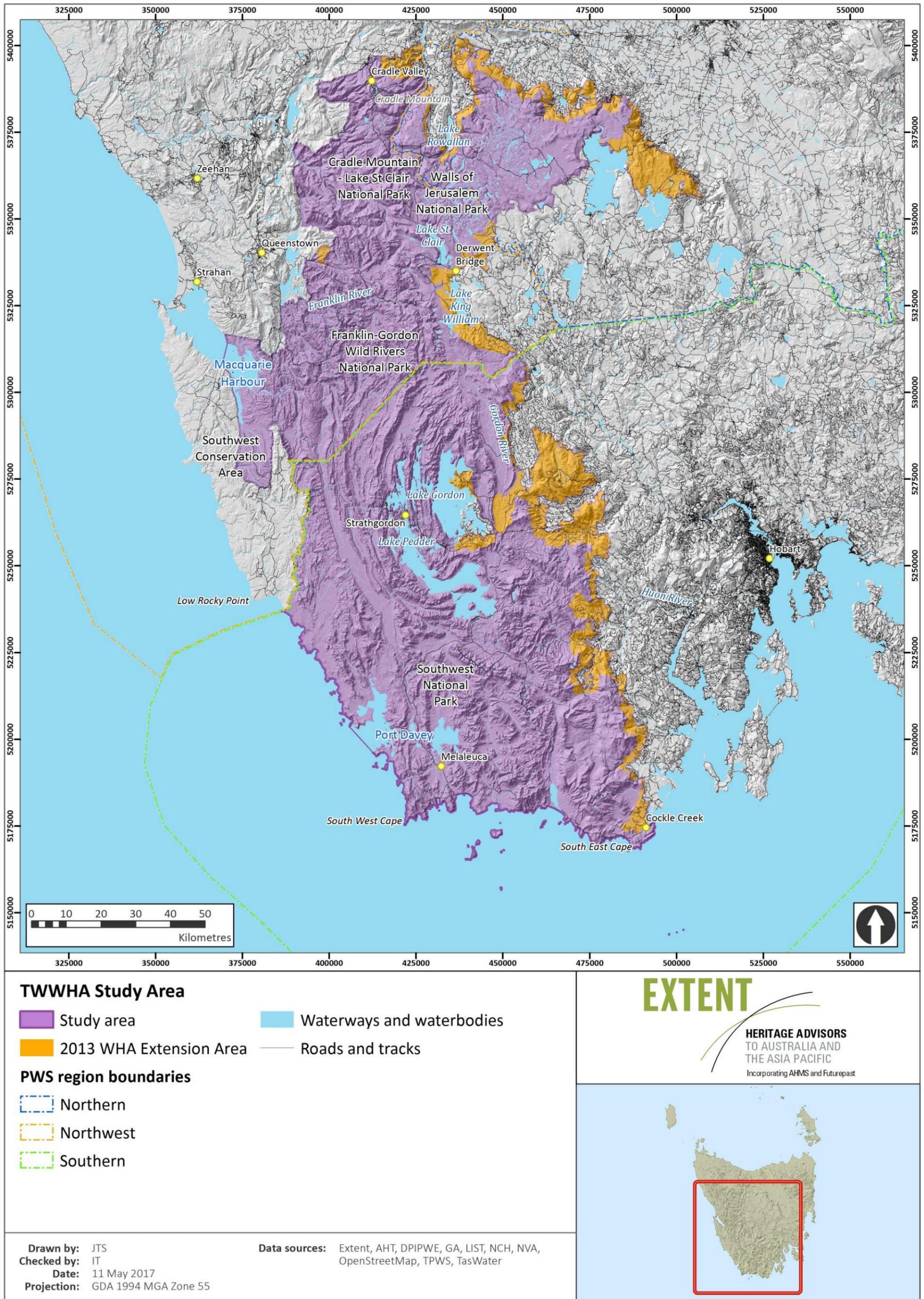


Figure 1. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) including the 2013 extension area.

extent as the area's natural values (see DPIPWE 2016);

3. that the lack of understanding about those values and their place in the landscape is a key threat to their effective management (DPIPWE 2016); and
4. that there is a need for the Aboriginal cultural values of the TWWHA to be adequately reflected in its Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (see Jaeger & Sand 2015).

The AACV Project comprises three components:

1. the preparation of the 'Synthesis Report' (DPIPWE 2017) as a contribution towards preparing a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the TWWHA;
2. the Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the TWWHA⁴; and
3. the preparation of a detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA (this Plan).

The approach taken to develop this Plan has been designed to best contribute to the seven desired outcomes of the AACV Project, which are as follows:

1. All Tasmanian Aboriginal people have an equitable opportunity to have a voice in the identification, assessment, and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the cultural values of the property as a whole.
2. The timely provision of information regarding the OUV to inform the draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), including additional on-ground surveys and consultation, as requested by the World Heritage Committee.
3. Improved opportunities for Aboriginal people to engage with the TWWHA estate, through involvement in the AACV Project.
4. To create better understanding across the community of the significant Aboriginal values of the TWWHA.
5. To further inform legal protection for Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA.
6. Identify the threats to the OUV and ensure that it is managed in a way that recognizes its significance and ensures its protection.
7. Improved opportunities for Tasmanian Aboriginal people to participate in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of management actions focused on Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA.

The AACV Project is being carried out in accordance with the management framework established by the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016).

⁴ This assessment has commenced and is scheduled for completion in late 2018.

1.2 Overview of the detailed Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA (the Plan)

This Plan responds to the 2016 decision of the World Heritage Committee requesting a detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural survey (Decision 40 COM 7B.66) (UNESCO 2016) and Recommendation 13 of the 2015 ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission report (Jaeger & Sand 2015) that requested 'A detailed proposal for a comprehensive cultural survey, a longer term initiative' in that it sets out a plan for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural values across the whole of the World Heritage Area.

Importantly, the Plan is more than a 'survey' – it is a comprehensive cultural 'assessment' that includes consultation, engagement, training, research as well as field surveys. The Plan includes ten proposed packages of work designed to improve the understanding and management of Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA.

As noted above, the Cultural Values Assessment of the 2013 Extension Area of the TWWHA has commenced and includes both planning and survey of the 2013 Extension Area. This Plan prepares for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment for the balance of the TWWHA.

1.2.1 Development of the Plan

The Plan was developed in three stages:

- Stage 1 – Development of the draft survey plan.
- Stage 2 – Consultation and engagement.
- Stage 3 – Completion of the detailed Plan for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment.

Further details of how the Plan was developed including the community engagement undertaken, the use of predictive models and other details can be provided by AHT on request⁵.

1.2.2 The Plan is a 'comprehensive' assessment

The Plan presents a comprehensive assessment that is thematic rather than geographical. As acknowledged by the ICOMOS representative for the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission, the TWWHA's massive size, rugged terrain and often dense and inhospitable vegetation are significant challenges, and cultural surveys are highly expensive and time-consuming, especially considering the harsh climatic conditions and the short field season. Actual ground survey of the whole TWWHA is inconceivable, especially if more intensive investigation (such as excavation or detailed recording) is also required.

The Plan therefore necessarily envisages that investigations, and related fieldwork, or management improvement actions are targeted to the core values contributing to the TWWHA's OUV, other Aboriginal cultural values, and management goals. These

⁵ Contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

various thematic investigations have been translated into proposed 'packages' in the Plan (see Part 2 of this Plan).

1.2.3 Response from Aboriginal community and organisations

Comprehensive engagement and consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community is vital for the success of the implementation of the Plan and it should be carried out in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. To date the response from the Aboriginal community organisations contacted has been supportive of the Plan and its objectives however has not been sufficient to confirm how each would wish to be engaged and consulted during implementation of the Plan.

Importantly, the CMG within AHT, with the support and guidance of the AHC, will prepare a 'stand-alone Community Engagement Agreement' as part of the commitments of the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016, p.161). It is envisaged that this agreement will provide guidance and direction from the Aboriginal community on how they wish to be consulted on and involved in projects associated with the TWWHA Management Plan and the implementation of this Plan for a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA.

1.3 Scope and structure of the Plan

As noted above, rather than preparing a 'Plan' or 'Survey' for one single and large project, this Plan for the detailed Comprehensive Cultural Assessment divides the project into proposed 'packages' of work. This division has been employed to:

- facilitate planning by enabling a stronger appreciation of the scale of individual parts of the project, and therefore the resourcing required;
- allow for each of the key major areas for investigation to be addressed, and allow for this to be done by a team with skills specifically appropriate to that area;
- provide some flexibility in the size and scope of each package – not all need be the same 'size', and, if necessary, some can be more easily expanded and others reduced to match resourcing; and
- allow for a more equitable division of work – potentially between government agencies, Aboriginal organisations, other institutions and the private sector.

As a result the Plan is structured as follows:

- Part 1 - The Plan - overview of the Plan and it's relationship to the AACV Project.
- Part 2 – The Proposed Packages – ten 'proposed packages' of work designed to improve the understanding and management of Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA.
- Part 3 – Steps required to implement the Plan - Aboriginal stakeholder engagement and consultation, timing and resourcing and project management.
- Part 4 – Conclusion.

1.4 Relationship to the TWWHA Management Plan

The Plan for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment will be implemented with reference to the management framework established by the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016).

Reference has been made to the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 throughout this document, including where aspects of the Plan for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment address, contribute to or relate to its Key Desired Outcomes.

Part 2. The Proposed Packages

This part of the Plan sets out the ten proposed packages that comprise the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA — six ‘understanding values’ packages and four ‘managing values’ packages — and proposed sequencing for their implementation.

Importantly, while all packages are designed as proposals for work that could be completed, their implementation and format is subject to further engagement, consultation and the agreement of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the Aboriginal Heritage Council and key Tasmanian Government agencies including AHT, DPIWWE and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). Furthermore, while the proposed packages provide targeted areas in which fieldwork could be undertaken, these locations should be viewed as proposals and could be modified and adapted depending on factors including the interests, wishes and knowledge of the Aboriginal community and input from key Tasmanian Government agencies.

2.1 Proposed ‘Understanding Values’ Packages

The six proposed ‘understanding values’ packages (packages 1-6) are directed at discovering and better understanding the Aboriginal cultural values of the TWWHA, including aspects that contribute to its OUV. The packages target thematic ‘gaps’ that have been identified through the Synthesis Report (DPIWWE 2017), by predictive modelling prepared to inform the Plan and input from consultation undertaken with the Aboriginal community. Further information on the development of the packages can be provided by AHT on request⁶. The proposed packages are as follows:

1. The Southern Lacuna: Aboriginal occupation in the southern valleys.
2. Holocene seascapes and coastal settlement.
3. From the Highlands to the Lakes (Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem).
4. People and the button grass.
5. Rock art⁷ in the landscape and seascape: recording, conservation and management.
6. Post-contact Aboriginal heritage and shared values.

Geographically, the proposed packages cover the southern, northern and inland regions of the TWWHA, and address not only the Pleistocene⁸ but also the Holocene⁹ values. This is undertaken through a focus on cave sites and a range of coastal open sites. Recognising the fragility and the relative scarcity of rock art sites and their significance to Aboriginal people, the Plan also seeks to more comprehensively record

⁶ Contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

⁷ Although this Plan refers to ‘Rock art’, ‘Rock markings’ is regularly used to define this site type in Tasmania. ‘Rock art’ has been used here as it is considered to be a widely used and universal term for the site type and recognisable for intended audience.

⁸ In this context, the Pleistocene relates to the time period from approximately 35,000 BP until approximately 10,000 BP (Before Present).

⁹ In this context, the Holocene refers to the time period from 10,000 BP (Before Present) until the present day.

the known sites and provide a basis for off-site interpretation and a baseline for future condition reporting.

As the major cost in all proposed packages is related to accessing such remote areas (involving helicopters, boats, canoes and trekking), field teams will need to be multidisciplinary in composition and provision will be made to sample and test sites when found as part of a detailed recording program. This may involve test excavations and/or coring, recording of rock art/rock markings and pigment sampling where relevant. Similarly, all teams will involve Aboriginal participants, and will include recording of intangible values where relevant.

All proposed packages include post fieldwork workshops with the Aboriginal community that provide not only a chance for the survey team to report on findings but also for the Aboriginal community to provide further input and to discuss the meaning and implications of the findings including intangible values.

The details of the six proposed 'understanding values' packages are provided below.

2.1.1 Package 1 - The Southern Lacuna – Aboriginal occupation in the southern valleys

Description

This proposed package focuses on the cave-bearing karst landscapes within the southernmost river valleys of the TWWHA (Figure 2). These areas are among the most remote and poorly characterised valley systems within the TWWHA. South of Lake Pedder, only a handful of sites are known to occur within inland systems (~20 sites); and yet many of these valley systems share attributes broadly comparable to the internationally regarded Franklin-Gordon complex of Pleistocene sites. A range of different cave-bearing karst systems are present, especially in the south-eastern portions of the park. Here there is evidence of Pleistocene settlement and art (e.g. *Wargata Mina* in the Cracroft Valley, and the Riveaux art site in the Riveaux valley). To the southwest, other valley systems, such as the Giblyn River Valley are yet to be systematically investigated by archaeologists, and with a relatively open passage linking the west coast with areas inland, this valley, and others like it, have potential to clarify important questions raised by earlier archaeological research. These questions relate to the nature, longevity, and possible abandonment of the southwest inland during the late Pleistocene.

This multidisciplinary package therefore seeks to address two key aims: firstly, to characterise the nature of Aboriginal settlement within the southernmost river valleys of the TWWHA, and secondly, to provide a dataset with which to contextualise and inform the present value of the existing Pleistocene record, as well as the less well-expressed, mid to late-Holocene coastal record.

Value of proposed package

The proposed package and associated theme addresses a major gap in current knowledge and explores Aboriginal cultural values of some of the most rugged and remote regions in the TWWHA. How did people interact with this landscape? One interpretation is that these places were too rugged and too marginal to sustain a human presence, and yet this interpretation is based on an ‘absence of evidence’ which may be a product of the lack of survey undertaken in these areas.

This proposed package and associated theme explores Aboriginal cultural values of the southwest region of the TWWHA. Current archaeological evidence suggests that the inland southwest of the TWWHA was abandoned by people following encroachment of the rainforests in the late Pleistocene. Very little is known, however, about similar cave-bearing karst areas in river valleys in the southern portions of the TWWHA. Did people venture so far south? Might inland areas have been used by people venturing in off the coast during this period of possible “abandonment”? This theme therefore is open in intent – it is proposed to examine the potentially southernmost extent of people into Tasmania during the Pleistocene, but also to consider whether there is another more recent history to these regions.

Specifically, it could:

- addresses a major geographical gap in the data relating to Aboriginal occupation of the TWWHA;

- addresses a specific knowledge gap to address the OUV of this dimension of the TWWHA;
- seeks to expand the existing Pleistocene record of the TWWHA and explore relationships between inland sites and the mid to late-Holocene coastal record;
- furnishes a deeper and richer understanding of the broader cultural landscape;
- provides a rare opportunity to note the condition of any cave located within the survey areas in this remote part of the TWWHA;
- provides Aboriginal organisations, land managers and site custodians results that will feed directly into existing management systems and site records, including GIS survey coverage records; and
- provides cultural heritage field training opportunities for Aboriginal people and departmental staff.

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- packages 2-6 in that information that is recovered may contribute to our understanding of the values targeted in 2-6 and/or may require an adjustment in the selection of survey areas in 2-6; and
- packages 9 and 10 training in that the principle of involving Aboriginal representatives and departmental staff to provide in field training should be allowed for.

Locations in the TWWHA

The proposed fieldwork locations for Package 1 southern valleys surveys are provided in Figure 3 and include:

1. Hardwood Davey and Giblin River areas;
2. Precipitous Bluff area and Ile de Golfe; and
3. Cracroft and Lower Cracroft valleys.

The fieldwork areas are proposed only, and are to be decided in consultation with the AHC and DPIPWE staff and following a review of the generalised predictive model and the background literature. The work program may be changed following further consultation with the Aboriginal community who may, for example, provide important knowledge on areas and sites not previously known or considered.

These particular field locations are proposed based on the results from the inner east predictive model developed by the cultural heritage consultancy Extent¹⁰, results of previous regional or karst area studies and with qualitative readings for each locales capacity to address questions of the nature and depth of inland use by Aboriginal people in the past (e.g. river valley passageways to and from the coast, for example the source to sea river Giblin River catchment and Precipitous Bluff areas).

¹⁰ Details of this predictive model are available from AHT on request by contacting 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

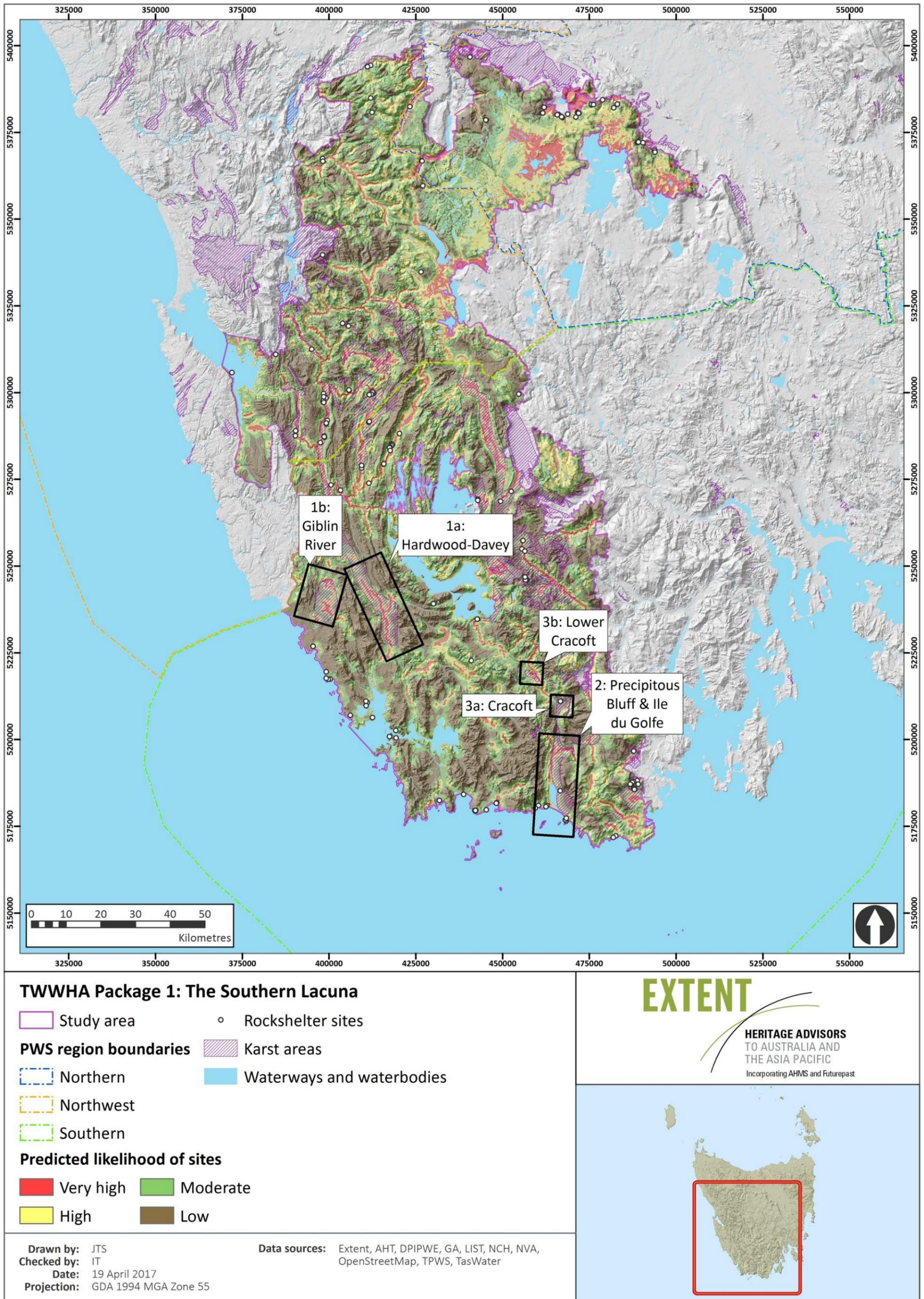


Figure 2. Karst systems and sites in the TWWHA and proposed fieldwork locations for package 1: 'The Southern Lacuna'.

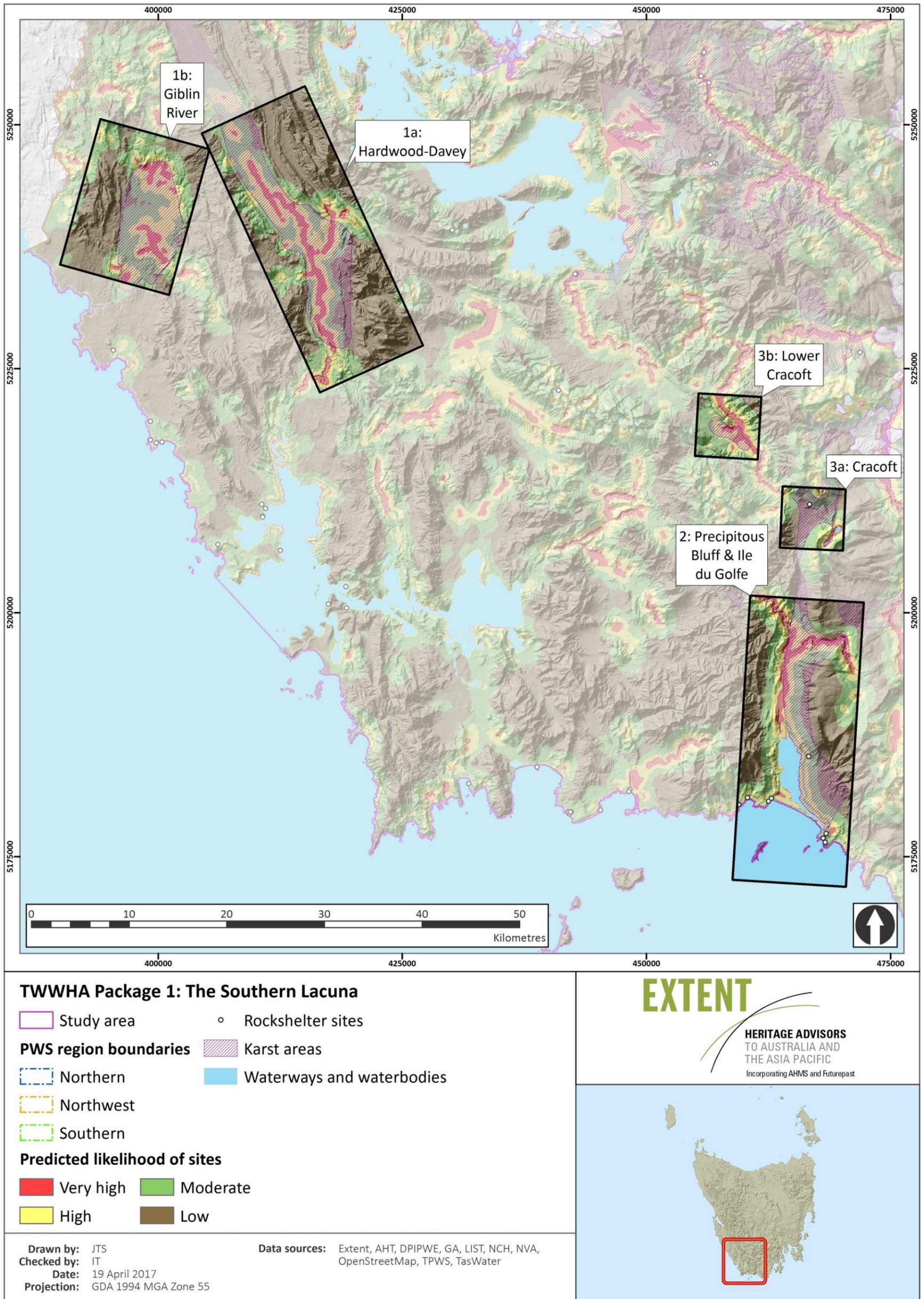


Figure 3. Detail of proposed locations for fieldwork for package 1: 'The Southern Lacuna'.

Some areas, such as the wide valley floor of the Hardwood-Olga area, suggested here on the strength of the predictive model, may prove unsuitable given the low-relief expression of the karst system in this locale and the limited potential for the development of cave-systems (the predictive model, generalised TWWHA-wide, did not discriminate at the level of karst area types).

2.1.2 Package 2 - Holocene seascapes and coastal settlement

Description

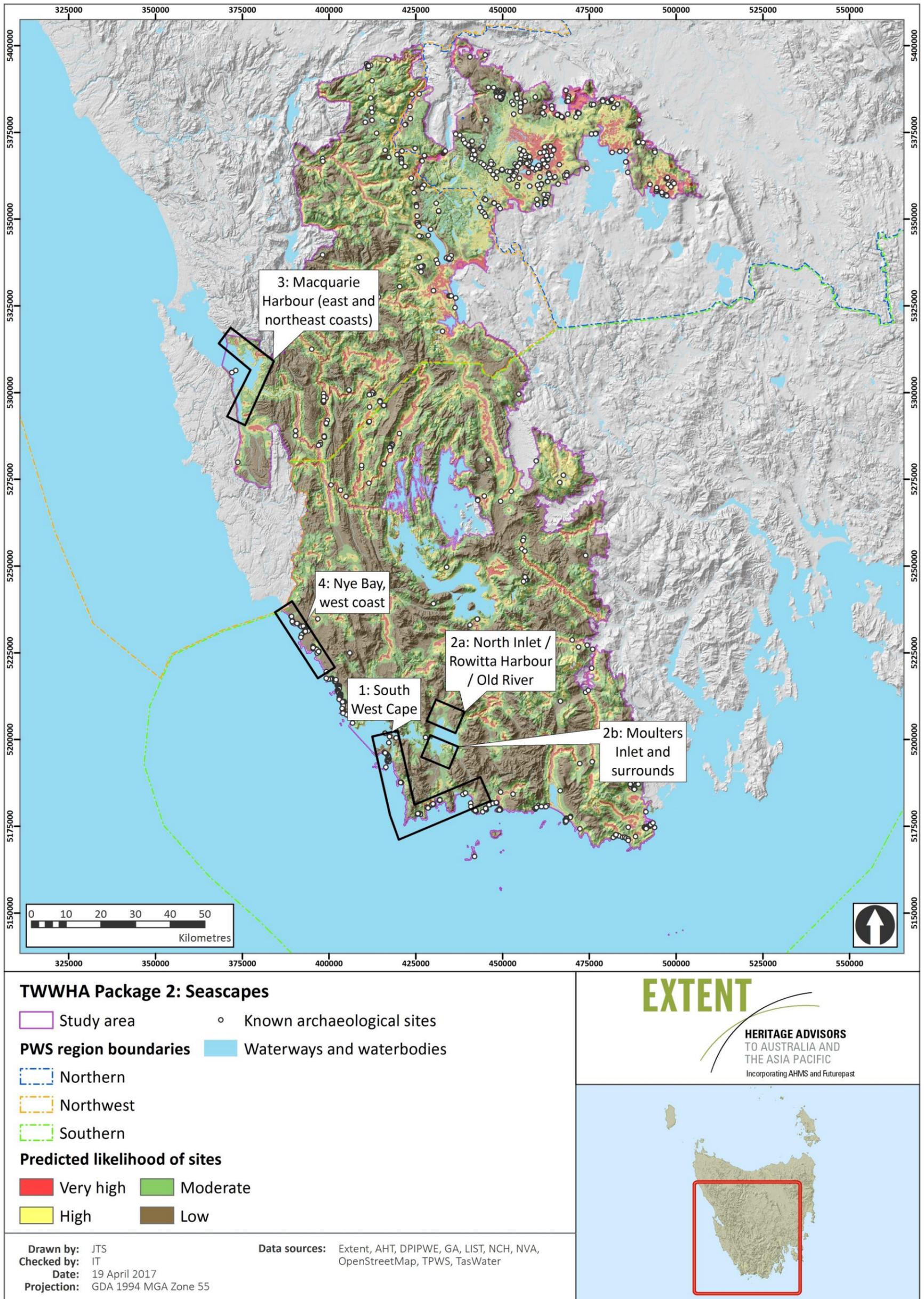
The archaeological evidence from the southern and western coasts and off-shore islands of the TWWHA is exceptional by any measure. The peoples of the coast were a sea-going people, known to have travelled up to 16km across the open water from the mainland to visit off-shore islands. The complexity, array, composition and regional variability of shell middens are remarkable, and several of the latter possess the depressions of Tasmanian Aboriginal people's huts. Several rock art sites adjacent to the intertidal zone depict engraved human footprints, seemingly oriented in tracks as though emerging out of the sea. Whereas the understanding of the cultural values of the TWWHA is dominated by the ancient Pleistocene archaeological landscape, the southern Tasmanian seascape provides a continuous history of at least a 3,000-year engagement with the coast, sea and islands that continues in several respects today.

Building on the work of a handful of previous studies, this proposed package examines the cultural values of 'one of the richest coastal regions in Australia' (DPIPWE 2017, p.7). This proposed package compiles this previous work, as well as proposing a comprehensive, multi-regional excavation and dating program to understand and articulate the scale and complexity of these marine engagements (see Figure 4).

Value of the proposed package

This proposed package will contribute to a greater understanding of the cultural values of the TWWHA and their effective management by:

- addressing the specific need to take a more expansive and holistic appreciation of the cultural attributes of the TWWHA;
- providing a detailed and comprehensive summary of the southernmost seascape in Australia;
- establishing a direct and continuous link between Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples and the coast, sea and islands of the TWWHA, extending back at least 3,000 years, and almost certainly more;
- implementing a comprehensive conservation project that connects with existing systems, and provides critical baseline data to monitor the effects of erosion upon the fabric of highly significant sites (e.g. hut depressions);
- enhancing the wellbeing of the Aboriginal community and individuals involved in cultural heritage management by furnishing more information and deeper engagements with this part of the TWWHA landscape; and
- incorporating cultural heritage field training opportunities for Aboriginal people and DPIPWE staff.



Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- package 8 in that it should contribute to and rely on systems operated by PWS, AHT and DPIPWE;
- packages 1 and 3-6 as information that is recovered may contribute to our understanding of the values targeted in 1 and 3-6 and/or may require an adjustment in the selection of survey areas in 1 and 3-6; and
- packages 9 and 10 training in that the principle of involving Aboriginal representatives and departmental staff to provide in field training should be allowed for.

Locations in the TWWHA

This proposed package targets areas on both the south and west coasts of the TWWHA in PWS' north-western and southern regions (Figure 5). The proposed areas include:

1. South West Cape;
2. North Inlet / Rowitta Harbour / Old River;
3. Moulters Inlet and surrounds;
4. Macquarie Harbour (east and northeast shores); and
5. Nye Bay.

The fieldwork areas are proposed only, and are to be decided in consultation with the AHC and DPIPWE staff and following a review of the generalised predictive model and the background literature. The work program may be changed following further consultation with the Aboriginal community who may, for example, provide important knowledge on areas and sites not previously known or considered.

The proposed locations for fieldwork are based predominately on the predictive model¹¹. The model is general in content, and groups data from both the southern and western coasts, including embayment's and off-shore islands, and inland to 500m. Local-area predictive models specific to each fieldwork location or region may be required; differences in site type, composition, shellfish exploitation, and numbers of sites and so on can be further delineated at the package-level. These locations are a guide only.

¹¹ Details of this predictive model are available from AHT on request by contacting 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

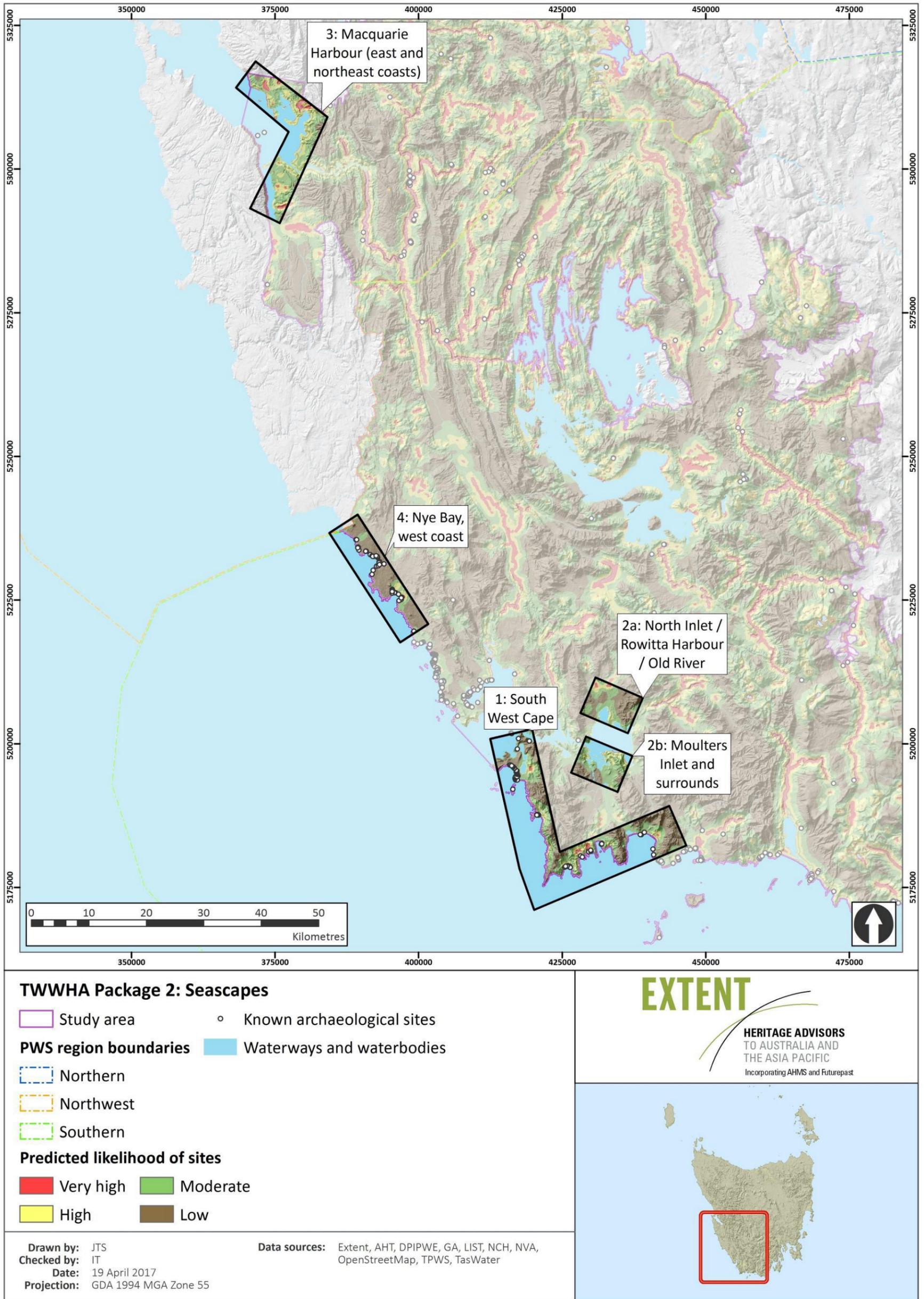


Figure 5. Detail of proposed locations for fieldwork for package 2: 'Holocene Seascapes'

2.1.3 Package 3 - From the Highlands to the Lakes (Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem)

Description

This proposed package addresses the cultural values of the northernmost parts of the TWWHA, and will aim to document Tasmanian Aboriginal people's creative social responses to climatic change and the resultant shifts in their environment throughout time from the deep past until today (Figure 6). The Central Plateau areas in the eastern part of the area represent the richest cultural landscape within the inland TWWHA. Although several archaeological studies have been undertaken in these areas, and despite the region's potential to shed light on the major social changes occurring into the ethnographic, and post-contact periods, the archaeology of the region remains generally under-researched. To the west, in the previously glaciated Mersey Valley system south of Cradle Mountain, excavations reveal tantalising clues as to how people negotiated the retreat of the glaciers. To the north of this area, in the Forth River Valley, excavations at *Parmerpar Meethaner* reveal the continuous occupation of the region from the Pleistocene into the present, which contrasts strongly with the possible abandonment of the inland southwest at the end of the Pleistocene.

This proposed package acknowledges the apparent distinctiveness of Aboriginal settlement in these northern parts of the TWWHA (and indeed the variation between the eastern and western parts of the northern region) and it seeks to better articulate and understand this variation. It also serves to complement the geographic spread of the suggested focal areas for the work packages across the TWWHA.

Value of proposed package

This proposed study seeks to characterise the regional and temporal variability of occupation in the northernmost parts of the TWWHA. The value of this study is to:

- delineate major regional differences in use of different landforms over the past 3,000 to 4,000 years (from river valleys to lacustrine environments);
- trace the expression of changing social practices in the late-Holocene following climatic amelioration (movement into upland areas following deglaciation, burning and hunting of button grass environments);
- establish direct connections between the archaeology and the ethnographically-known past (not possible elsewhere, except to some degree with the coastal theme);
- contribute to the training of in-house staff in AHT and PWS by providing targeted cultural heritage field opportunities;
- feed results of the fieldwork directly into existing management systems and site records, GIS survey coverage records etc.;
- opportunistically test predictive cultural heritage models for the TWWHA; and
- enhance the wellbeing of the Aboriginal community and individuals involved in cultural heritage management given the packages focus on the recent past.



Figure 6. Sites and karst systems and proposed fieldwork locations for package 3: 'From the Highlands to the Lakes'

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- package 8 in that it should contribute to and rely on systems operated by PWS, AHT and DPIPWE;
- packages 1-2 and 4-7 in that information that is recovered may contribute to our understanding of the values targeted in 1-2 and 4-7 and or may require an adjustment in the selection of survey areas in 1-2 and 4-7; and
- packages 9 and 10 training in that the principle of involving Aboriginal representatives and departmental staff to provide in field training should be allowed for.

Locations in the TWWHA

This proposed package focuses on several locations in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem National Park (Figure 7). Proposed fieldwork locations are in PWS' Northern and North-western Regions and include sections of the:

1. Collingwood Plain and the Plain of the Mists;
2. River Forth / Hansons River;
3. Lightning Plains / Staff Hill (karst systems); and
4. Areas north of Nineteen Lagoons.

The fieldwork locations are proposed only, and are to be decided in consultation with the AHC and DPIPWE staff and following a review of the generalised predictive model¹² and the background literature. The work program may be changed following further consultation with the Aboriginal community who may, for example, provide important knowledge on areas and sites not previously known or considered.

These nominated field locations are based on the combination of the results from the inner east (Cradle Mountain region) and inner west (Walls of Jerusalem) predictive model results of published and unpublished archaeological studies in regards to the likely capacity for each area to achieve the overarching aims of the package.

¹² Details of this predictive model are available from AHT on request by contacting 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

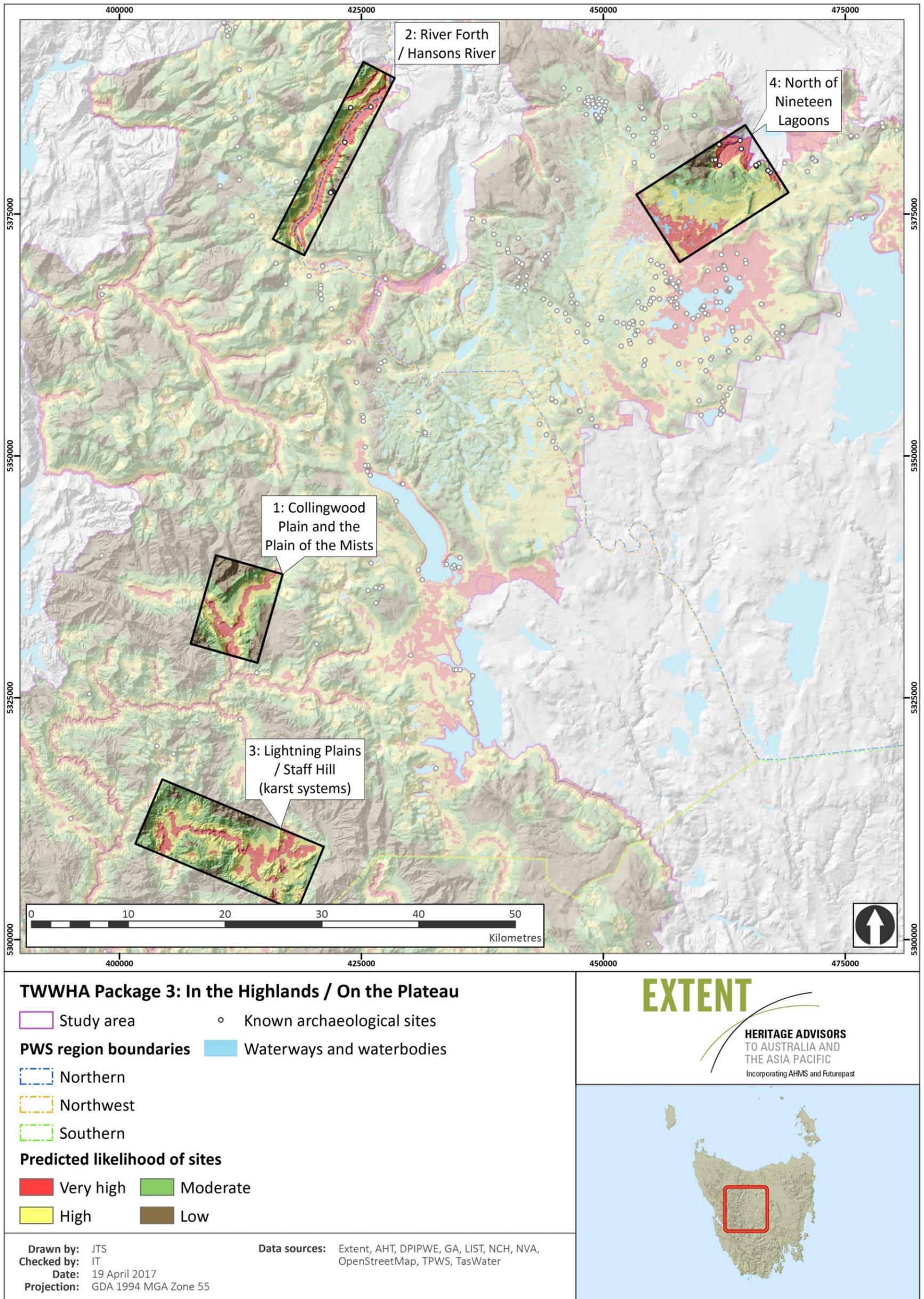


Figure 7. Detail of proposed locations for fieldwork for package 3: 'From the Highlands to the Lakes'.

2.1.4 Package 4 – People of the button grass

Description

This proposed package and theme explores people-environment interactions in the button grass moorlands of the TWWHA (Figure 8). Moorlands comprise a considerable portion of the TWWHA landscape, but the cultural values of these areas are almost entirely unknown in any direct sense. Few archaeological studies have been undertaken in these areas, especially in the extensive button grass moorland systems in the far southwest. Indirectly, there is some limited evidence that might indicate that the burning regime of ancestral Tasmanian Aboriginal people influenced the mosaic of vegetation communities (e.g. in burning of forest and the subsequent expansion of button grass communities). Overall, however, the relative influence of anthropogenic burning practices upon the evolution and composition of button grass moorlands and blanket bog soil environments remains a significant research question (Sharples 2003, p.185), albeit one with considerable implications for assessing the outstanding cultural and natural heritage values of the south west.

This proposed multidisciplinary package is designed to address two interrelated questions: firstly, how did Aboriginal people interact with the button grasses through time and secondly, did anthropogenic burning significantly influence the distribution of the button grass?

Value of proposed package

This proposed package jointly aims to address the need to clarify the extent and nature of Aboriginal settlement in button grass moorlands, and the dynamics of human-environment interactions in the evolution and ecology of button grass moorlands within the TWWHA. This study will contribute important information and opportunities for improved management of Aboriginal cultural values including:

- understanding the processes underpinning the formation and development of the environment of the TWWHA through time;
- the influence of people on the formation and development of environments or ecological niches or processes in the TWWHA through time;
- how people shaped, responded and or strategically adapted or altered their life-ways in response to the natural environment;
- a deeper understanding of the relationships between the 'natural' and 'cultural' Outstanding Universal Value of the southwest, and a deeper appreciation of the relationships between Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their cultural landscapes;
- cross-disciplinary work and collaborations within the TWWHA, including in generating community engagement and dialogues around natural and cultural values between and amongst land managers, scientists, archaeologists and Aboriginal people; and
- providing Aboriginal organisations, land managers and site custodians archaeological results that will feed directly into existing management systems

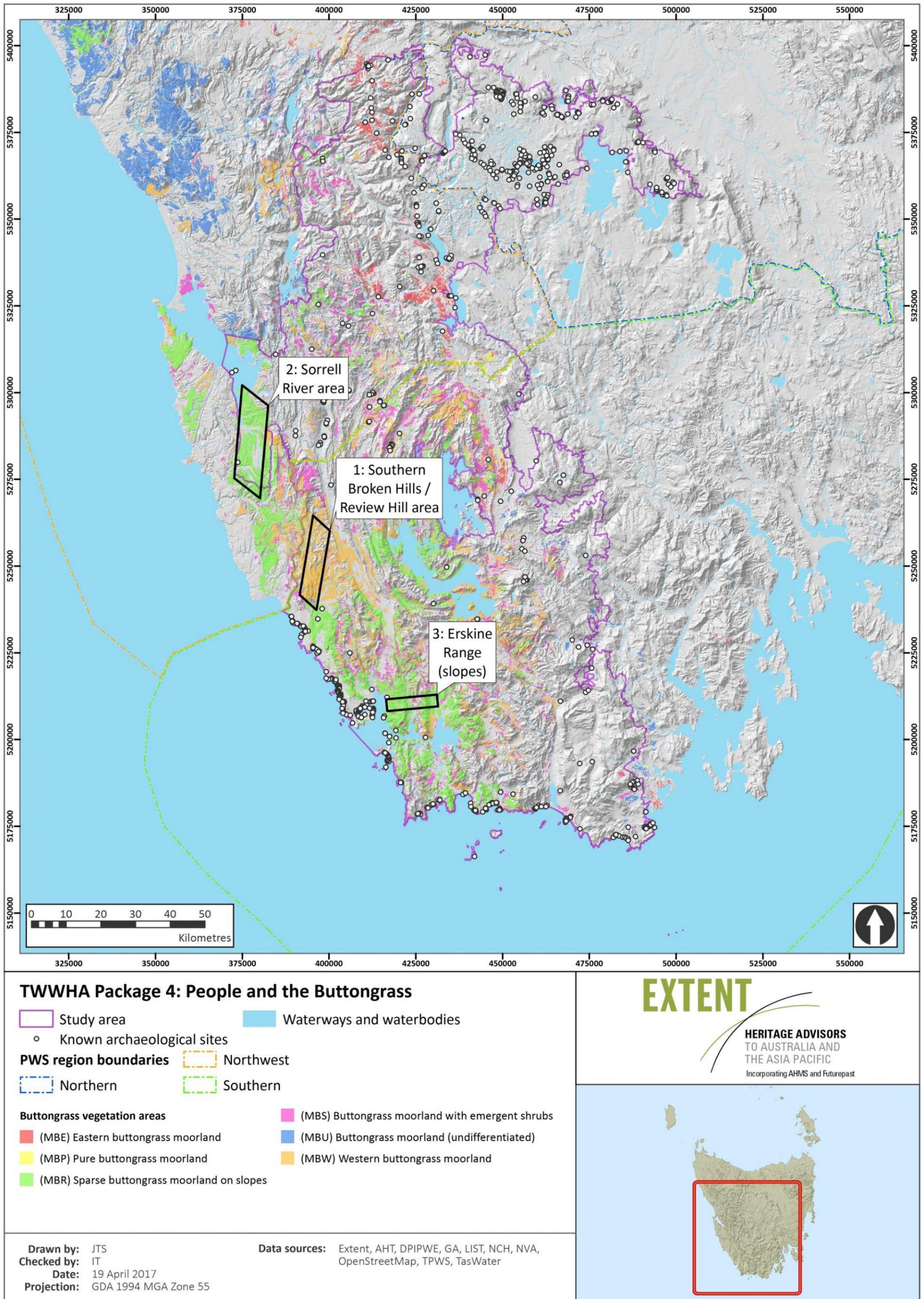


Figure 8. Buttongrass moorlands and sites in the TWWHA and proposed fieldwork locations for 'package 4: People and the Buttongrass'.

and site records, GIS survey coverage records etc., and influence management considerations.

This proposed package will enhance the wellbeing of the Aboriginal community and individuals involved in cultural heritage management by providing information on the nature of the relationship between people and the past, and the opportunity to explore how this relationship might continue. It will also provide a practical opportunity for cultural heritage field training for Aboriginal people and DPIPWE staff.

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- package 8 in that it should contribute to and rely on systems operated by PWS, AHT and DPIPWE;
- packages 1-4 and 6 in that information that is recovered may contribute to our understanding of the values targeted in 1-4 and 6 and/or may require an adjustment in the selection of survey areas in 1-4 and 6; and
- packages 9 and 10 training in that the principle of involving Aboriginal representatives and departmental staff to provide in-field training should be allowed for.

Locations in the TWWHA

The proposed fieldwork survey locations for package 4 are shown in Figure 9 and comprise a cross-section of button grass moorland types in the TWWHA. These include the western button grass moorland type in the Southern Broken Hills and Review Hill area, sparse button grass moorland on slopes in the Sorrell River area and the mosaic of button grass types in the Erskine Ranges area (see Figure 9).

However, while these areas are suggested as possibilities for investigation, there is insufficient archaeological data available to generate a robust predictive model in these locales. It is recommended that to maximise the potential for results, the final fieldwork locations for this package be decided by the multidisciplinary team of researchers, collaboratively with ecologists and field staff from PWS and in consultation with the AHC and DPIPWE staff. The work program may be changed following further consultation with the Aboriginal community who may, for example, provide important knowledge on areas and sites not previously known or considered. For example, at the time of developing this Plan some areas of button grass had recently been burnt by bushfires which would have optimised survey potential. It is therefore suggested that the location of any recent fires in button grass areas be determined prior to finalising the survey plan.

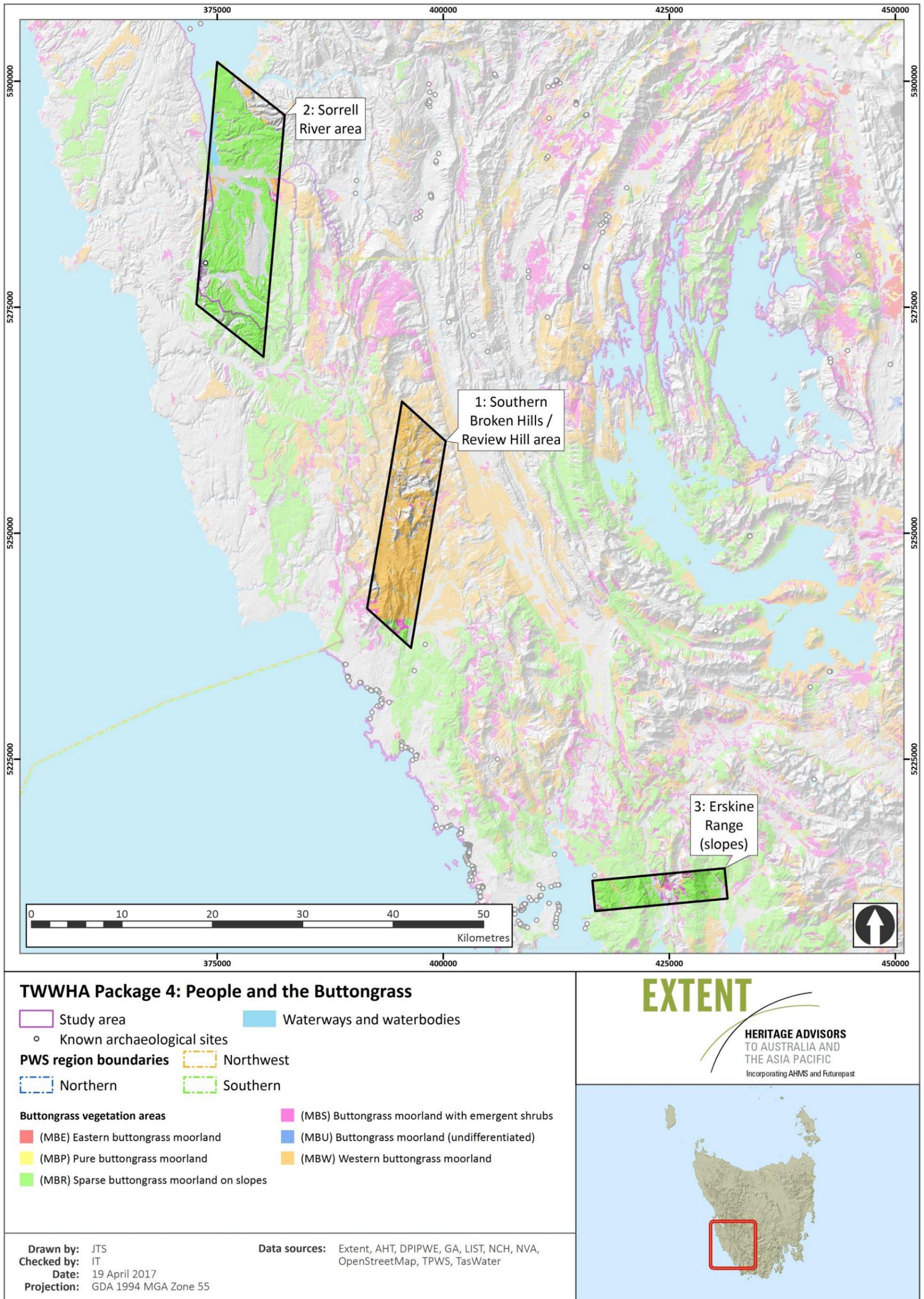


Figure 9. Detail of proposed locations for fieldwork for package 4: 'People and the Button Grass'.

2.1.5 Package 5 – Rock art in the landscape and seascape: recording, conservation and management

Description

This proposed package addresses the specific need to improve current understandings of rock art within the TWWHA¹³. This proposed package acknowledges limitations in our understanding of the cultural and scientific values of rock art in the TWWHA and seeks to address these, in collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, through the delivery of a comprehensive and systematic regional rock art recording program of all sites within the TWWHA (both engravings and paintings).

The OUV of the almost certainly Pleistocene-aged hand stencil sites, notably *Wargata Mina* and *Ballawinne Cave*, is recognised under World Heritage criterion (iii) as they form part of the constellation of Pleistocene-aged sites documenting an ice-age human occupation in the high-latitudes, as well as under World Heritage criterion (vi) as a tangible link to understanding the symbolic language of people during the last ice-age. The rock art places are of especial cultural, spiritual, and historical value to Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the hand prints themselves connecting people with long-distant ancestors (DPIPWE 2017).

Nevertheless, both the cultural and scientific values of these places are very poorly understood, especially in terms of assessing these values regionally and through time. At present, rock art (i.e. all humanly created painting, engravings, tally marks, cupules etc.) has not been comprehensively recorded within the TWWHA. In part this reflects the very small subset of rock art sites which have been well-documented within the wilderness area. Information on most other sites is rudimentary, and insufficient to answer questions around antiquity, regional distinctiveness or uniqueness, and how the rock art might have changed through time and space. This fragmentary knowledge base is also at odds with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community's attachment to these sites which emphasise the artistic, spiritual, cultural and/or historical value as forming part of their cultural landscapes and seascapes (Jaegar & Sand 2015. p24; Smith 2014; Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council 2001).

This proposed package also addresses the requirement to ensure the ongoing protection of the OUV of the rock art. A second component of this package is to identify threats or risks to the fabric of each site, to offer management recommendations and management systems for land managers and custodians. Most sites have not been systematically monitored for condition and visitor and natural impacts. However, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Caves Monitoring project was funded through the Australian Government's Working on Country program for several years. This covered the three caves in the TWWHA which were handed back to the Aboriginal community in 1995: *Kuti Kina*, *Ballawinne* and *Wargata Mina*, and the last monitoring trip was in 2010, at which time an excessive increase in visitor (cavers and bushwalkers) activity was reported, especially for *Kuti Kina* and *Wargata Mina*. An important aspect of this package, as with all of packages 1-7, is condition reporting.

¹³ Although this Plan refers to 'Rock art', 'Rock markings' is regularly used to define this site type in Tasmania. 'Rock art' has been used here as it is considered to be a widely used and universal term for the site type and recognisable for intended audience.

For any new rock art sites discovered through this program current condition and recommendations for management should be included.

Value of proposed package

This proposed package addresses the need to improve our understanding of rock art within the TWWHA. Specifically, it:

- provides a comprehensive synthesis of known rock art within the TWWHA;
- addresses gaps in the present body of studies via a best-practice, comprehensive and systematic rock art recording and interpretation program;
- provides a synthesis of the known spatial and temporal qualities of the rock art in the TWWHA;
- addresses a specific knowledge gap to address the OUV of this dimension of the TWWHA;
- furnishes a deeper and richer understanding of the broader cultural landscape;
- provides Aboriginal organisations, land managers and site custodians sub-millimeter 3-dimensional digital information that may be incorporated into future monitoring works and management systems and recreations/reconstructions (e.g. '4D' digital frameworks);
- will collect condition data on known sites;
- provides Aboriginal organisations, land managers and site custodians results that will feed directly into existing management systems and site records, GIS survey coverage records etc.;
- enhances the wellbeing of the Aboriginal community and individuals involved in cultural heritage management by providing remote access to their rock art sites (e.g. 3D renderings); and
- provides cultural heritage field training opportunities for Aboriginal people and DPIPWE staff.

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- package 8 in that it should contribute to and rely on systems operated by PWS, AHT and DPIPWE;
- packages 1-4 in that those packages may identify previously unrecorded rock art sites that should be included in this package;
- packages 1-4 and 6-7 in that information that is recovered may contribute to our understanding of the values targeted in 1-4 and 6-7 and/or may require an adjustment in the selection of survey areas in 1-4 and 6-7; and
- packages 9 and 10 training in that the principle of involving Aboriginal representatives and departmental staff to provide in-field training should be allowed for.

Locations within the TWWHA

All known rock art places within the TWWHA, as well as any newly discovered rock art places identified during the cultural survey works in other field packages. In total, 25 rock marking sites (nine painted sites and 16 engraved sites) are currently known. Except for a cluster of rock marking sites at Deadman's Bay on the south coast and another at Bond Bay within Port Davey, most of the sites are singularly dispersed across the TWWHA possibly due to surveys completed rather than archaeological patterning (Figure 10). The level and quality of the recordings of currently registered sites is highly variable, and some of these may not need to be re-visited (e.g. South Coast Cave has been 3D-laser scanned).

Fieldwork to record any newly-identified rock art sites discovered during other fieldwork undertaken as part of the AACV Project may also be necessary. This would be decided in consultation with the AHC and DPIPWE staff and following a review of the generalised predictive model¹⁴ and the background literature. The work program may be changed following further consultation with the Aboriginal community who may, for example, provide important knowledge on areas and sites not previously known or considered.

Taking into account the intention to build as complete a record a possible of rock art sites in the TWWHA and understanding that new and significant sites may emerge from the initial field seasons of other packages especially 1, 2 and 3, it is considered best to commence this package later than the others. It will be necessary to consider all known sites and develop a survey plan that prioritises the sites to be recorded if it is not possible to record all.

¹⁴ Details of this predictive model are available from AHT on request by contacting 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.



Figure 10. Rock art sites in the TWWHA for package 5.

2.1.6 Package 6 - Post-contact Aboriginal heritage and shared values of the TWWHA

Description

This proposed package examines the post-contact heritage of the TWWHA to determine to what extent it may reflect continued Aboriginal connections with the area, and whether there are places that have shared significance for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people (Figure 11).

As the report from the 2015 ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission notes, 'The cultural heritage of the TWWHA includes the Aboriginal heritage across the property and the more recent European heritage in selected places, such as exploration, whaling, penal settlement, mining, grazing, hydropower development and environmental protests' (Jaeger & Sand 2015, p.23). Any of these places could have significance for Aboriginal people, as they are related to their contact with Europeans and dispossession, but also possibly their historic employment, subsistence or even recreation, and especially relating to the more recent history of campaigns relating to the return of cultural and civil rights. The report for the Reactive Monitoring Mission records that some of the Aboriginal representatives consulted 'plausibly argued that the coverage of the Aboriginal history of the TWWHA could not possibly ignore the painful recent past following European arrival', and that 'it was suggested that eventually the whole Aboriginal chronology should be reflected in the World Heritage documentation and presentation as opposed to a focus on selected periods long before European arrival' (Jaeger and Sand 2015, p.24).

This proposed package will draw insights and direction from similar investigations and initiatives that are progressing elsewhere in Australia, in particular those that are being undertaken by the Heritage Council of Victoria, working with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council. In addition to identifying the extent and nature of post-contact Aboriginal and shared heritage in the TWWHA, this package will explore ways that this heritage can be acknowledged using legislation and heritage registers. For example, the primary mechanism examined by the Victorian study is through the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) which lists places that have been assessed to be of heritage significance at a State level. The VHR has generally been regarded as a register of 'non-Indigenous' heritage places, but the study recognises that places of cultural significance on the Register may have unrecognised Aboriginal histories, connections and additional values.

It is understood that Heritage Tasmania (under the Tasmanian Heritage Council) is also conducting work in this area. In relation to Shared Heritage Values, Key Strategy 10 of the *Historic Heritage Strategy for the TWWHA* commissioned by the PWS prescribes that 'In consultation with Aboriginal representatives a protocol should be established for situations where new sites are noted as possibly having shared Aboriginal and historic heritage values, including when identifying and assessing cultural landscapes' (Knaggs & Maitri 2006, p.8).

Value of proposed package

Whilst it is likely that much is known about the post-contact activities of Aboriginal people in the TWWHA, the more recent history of the area has received relatively little attention, and the continuity of Aboriginal connection to the TWWHA is under-appreciated.

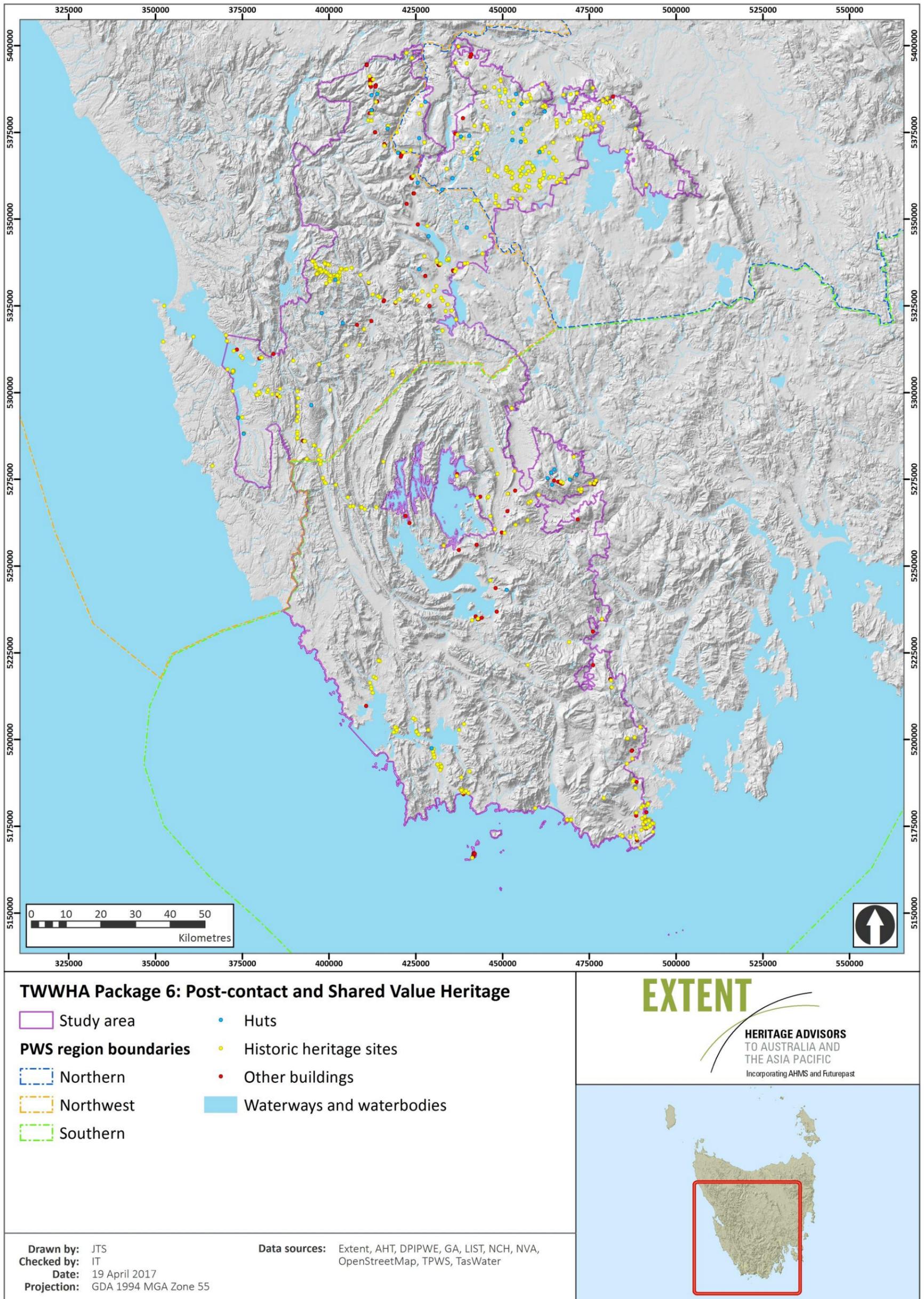


Figure 11. Post-contact and shared heritage sites in the TWWHA for package 6.

Best practice heritage approaches are recognising the 'shared values' of historical places - that these places can be significant to different groups, and that this significance can transcend individual 'Aboriginal' and 'non-Aboriginal' heritage listings.

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package of work is linked to:

- package 8, in that places of shared heritage value will likely need greater recognition in the management framework;
- package 9, in that it will provide experience in the assessment of historic heritage places for members of the Aboriginal community; and
- package 10, in that the principle of involving departmental staff to provide in field training has been allowed for.

Locations in the TWWHA

Across the TWWHA, and in bordering areas which share related historical themes (Figure 11). The fieldwork locations will be decided in consultation with the AHC and DPIPWE staff and following a review of the generalised predictive model¹⁵ and the background literature. The work program may be changed following consultation with the Aboriginal community who may, for example, provide important knowledge on areas and sites not previously known or considered.

¹⁵ Details of this predictive model are available from AHT on request by contacting 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

2.2 Proposed Managing Values Packages

The four proposed 'managing values' packages are intended to supplement and strengthen existing management mechanisms of the TWWHA, it being best practice for a World Heritage property to be supported by a robust management framework. It is expected that they will result in outcomes of benefit to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage across Tasmania more broadly, along with their management and appreciation.

It is recognised that the implementation of the Plan for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment will constitute a relatively major episode of resourcing both in terms of financial and human resources in relation to the TWWHA. There is therefore a corresponding desire to ensure that the works achieve an appropriately beneficial legacy to the long-term management of the TWWHA.

The need for the management-orientated packages was identified through consultation with Aboriginal organisations and Tasmanian Government agencies. This discussion has also indicated that improving Aboriginal input to the management of the TWWHA will enable further discovery and understanding of Aboriginal cultural values in the longer term.

The inclusion of packages which are less directly focused on the assessment of values is supported by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission report that states:

The overdue integration of indigenous views in the management of the property is a matter of reconciliation and fairness but can also be expected to result in a more holistic understanding of the cultural and natural heritage of the property and Tasmania more broadly (Jaeger & Sand 2015, p.30).

The details of the four proposed 'managing values' packages are provided below.

2.2.1 Package 7 - Strategic responses to predictive and unexpected natural disasters and climatic events

Description

This proposed package and theme acknowledge that, with increasingly variable climatic conditions, more unplanned events will occur through time, and it recognises the need for flexible land management responses to events such as bushfire, floods, cave or cliff collapse, storm surges, but also that they present opportunistic windows for research (see <http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/editorials/the-impacts-of-climate-change> and <http://soer.justice.tas.gov.au/2009/ppl/5/issue/39/>). A comprehensive review and gap analysis of research and activities relating to bushfires in the TWWHA has been completed and is directly relevant to this proposed package of work (Press 2016).

Value of proposed package

This proposed package addresses the need to manage cultural heritage in disaster situations and to prepare for inevitable change by maximising our ability to exploit and respond to climatic change and natural disasters in the recovery of information and development of better more robust disaster response systems.

The TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016) recognises the threat to cultural heritage sites due to climate change, natural processes and some anthropogenic activities, and that recording of destroyed, damaged or at-risk sites may be the management priority if more active intervention is not appropriate. Amongst a series of related management actions, the TWWHA Management Plan notes that a set of agreed protocols is needed for the recording of these sites and the possible relocation of their material, and it includes the following Key Desired Outcomes (KDOs):

- KDO 4.4 - Aboriginal cultural heritage sites at greatest risk are identified, protective measures implemented and their effectiveness monitored; and
- KDO 4.5 - Aboriginal cultural values are adequately accounted for in fire planning in the TWWHA.

Management Actions that have already been identified and which can be incorporated partially into this package are:

- identify at-risk sites. Develop and implement a program of prioritised management actions for these sites; and
- develop protocols to guide appropriate responses to the imminent loss of sites to erosion and other processes, and to the exposure of material at these sites.

Specifically, this proposed package will:

- ensure that there are programs ready to roll-out to address urgent managed issues and opportunities for access and visibility;
- integrate with disaster management plans and preparedness;
- integrate disaster management, new discovery and long term cultural asset management systems;

- contribute to the training of in-house staff in AHT and PWS by providing targeted cultural heritage field opportunities;
- enable opportunistic testing of predictive cultural heritage models for the TWWHA;
- enhance the wellbeing of the Aboriginal community and individuals involved in cultural heritage management by increasing their ability to respond to disaster and manage its consequences; and
- generate results that will:
 - feed directly into existing management systems and site records, GIS survey coverage records etc.;
 - be integrated into bushfire management plans. This may require working closely with AHT staff to ensure that the results are understood; and
 - be integrated into asset management systems so that insurance coverage and remediation works take into account conservation heritage needs of Aboriginal and historic sites and infrastructure.

Linkages with other packages

This proposed package of work is linked to:

- package 8 in that it should contribute to and rely on systems operating in PWS, AHT and DPIPWE;
- packages 1-6 in that information that is recovered may contribute to our understanding of the values targeted in 1-6 and or may require an adjustment in the selection of survey areas in 1-6; and
- package 10 training in that the principle of involving Aboriginal people and departmental staff to provide in field training has been allowed for in the costing.

Locations in the TWWHA

The locations will vary based on events. However, where prioritisation is required (such as when the area affected is vast) then areas identified by the predictive modelling as having high archaeological potential should be targeted¹⁶.

In years where no major incident occurs the decision may be made to focus the fieldwork on survey/salvage or mitigation works on sites identified as being at risk from climatic change and /or natural processes (currently being developed by AHT) e.g. salvage excavation of sites at risk of loss from storm surge.

¹⁶ Details of this predictive model are available from AHT on request by contacting 1300 487 045 or at aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au.

2.2.2 Package 8 - Reviewing, building and integrating robust systems for the management of cultural values in the TWWHA

Description

This proposed package will focus on strengthening existing management systems, guidelines and protocols that relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage (including evidence of prehistoric activity, historic places of shared value, places of contemporary interest and use and intangible cultural heritage values) in the TWWHA.

This proposed package and theme acknowledge that there are already a range of systems within DPIPWE that relate to the management of the TWWHA into which cultural heritage may be integrated to varying degrees. The intent of this package is not to reinvent or duplicate existing systems where these prove adequate to accommodate heritage values, but it recognises that many of these systems require substantial work to fully integrate the cultural values into the day to day management of the TWWHA to achieve long term and robust management of the values.

In addition to the current systems for recording and assessment of Aboriginal sites and impacts on them (see AHT 2017), this project will consider other systems that are central to the day-to-day management of the TWWHA, such as the fire management system and the asset management system.

Value of proposed package

This proposed package would ensure that Aboriginal cultural heritage receives full recognition and robust protection through all of the relevant management systems. Fire management in the TWWHA has been recognised (see DPIPWE 2016, p.110, p.113 & p.169) as something that can have a major impact on Aboriginal cultural values and places:

Fire Management is based upon a well-developed strategic risk-management approach that assesses, identifies, prioritises and manages the risk posed to reserve values. Operational strategies and tactics are implemented that take into account those values for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery at a regional level. Cultural values are recognised by this framework, but are not currently fully accounted for in operational implementation, as is the case for natural values, as the required cultural values data is currently unavailable for input into the Bushfire Risk Assessment Model (BRAM), a landscape-scale risk assessment tool. The data has been unavailable to date due to cultural sensitivities arising from the release and use of this information. Identifying cultural values for use in the BRAM requires appropriate input from Aboriginal people, so that those values can be properly determined, particularly for landscape scale values that relate to past Aboriginal burning practices, and protocols developed for the use of cultural information. Without this input Aboriginal cultural values may be at risk from planned burn-offs, uncontrolled bush res and some emergency response measures, such as the use of earth-moving machinery during re suppression. Cultural

values may also be placed at risk when a lack of controlled burn-offs leads to the alteration of the Aboriginal cultural landscape and a corresponding reduction in access to Country' (DPIPWE 2016, p.100).

This proposed package will contribute to achieving KDO 4.5 - Aboriginal cultural values are adequately accounted for in fire planning in the TWWHA (DPIPWE 2016, p.100 & p.106). The corresponding Management Action that has been identified is to Identify and implement measures that will fully incorporate Aboriginal cultural values in the BRAM and produce a resourced implementation plan for those measures (DPIPWE 2016, p.100 & p.106).

There are other systems that are important to the day to day operation of the TWWHA and this proposed package would identify and prioritise these to ensure that cultural values are fully integrated into them. This proposed package would provide significant opportunities for capacity building in the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, and could create a market for Aboriginal employees in a potentially diverse range of disciplines.

Specifically, this proposed package could:

- audit the nature and purpose of systems across DPIPWE as they currently relate to Aboriginal cultural values, and develop an agreed work program that prioritises systems to be reviewed (including the following);
- ensure that the Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) is up to date;
- establish or add to an existing approved data licensing system that means PWS staff involved in developing and implementing asset management and fire management plans and emergency response have access to the system and the training required to understand the data;
- review processes and systems for existing and future fire management plans, including reviewing the processes as they extend to outside agencies that have a role in managing fire in the TWWHA (recognising that PWS is one of the three statutory firefighting agencies in the State);
- review the PWS management database to ensure that cultural heritage places are included, particularly in relation to access facilities and infrastructure that relates to cultural places but also to include significant sites in their own right so that they may be managed appropriately into the future;
- review environmental assessment processes so that they are 'best practice' in relation to the assessment of cultural values;
- review staff training needs in relation to cultural heritage to include not only cultural awareness but practical and applied cultural heritage management training;
- review and update the Cultural Heritage Management Manual of PWS; and
- recognise the important potential role of field staff and rangers in the discovery of new cultural places and monitoring of their condition – establish suitable systems, forms etc. for rangers and field staff to record cultural heritage places

and values and report on site condition in the course of their day to day duties - similar to processes around contributions to the wildlife atlas.

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- package 7 in that it will relate to systems that guide disaster response and fire planning amongst others; and
- package 10 in that it will highlight internal departmental training needs.

Locations in the TWWHA

Hobart, with travel and/or placement for set durations in regional PWS offices to be determined.

2.2.3 Package 9 - Training for Aboriginal people working in the TWWHA – managing cultural values

Description

There are three components of this proposed package:

- Aboriginal Heritage Officer (AHO) training: Providing training in cultural heritage management to members of the Aboriginal community, including in particular representatives of Aboriginal community organisations, to undertake management activities within and around the TWWHA;
- identification of pathways and barriers to Tasmanian Aboriginal people who aspire to relevant Cultural heritage degrees i.e. anthropology and archaeology and recommendations for maximising incentives and opportunities; and
- specialised cultural tourism small business training for Aboriginal individuals and organisations that aspire to establishing micro/small businesses related to cultural or natural tourism in the TWWHA – this could be potentially incorporated into an TWWHA accredited operator system.

Value of proposed packages

This proposed package would focus on training in Aboriginal cultural heritage management within the TWWHA and avenues of employment for Aboriginal people arising from the TWWHA.

Part A – AHO Training: Certificate IV in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management

Currently there is no specific training available for current or aspiring AHOs in Tasmania. The AHC has commenced investigations into the viability of developing a partnership with La Trobe University to deliver this training - La Trobe University is the nearest Registered Training Organisations offering training to a similar level via their Certificate IV (Cert IV) in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management (Course Code: 22222VIC). However, the course is specific to the Victorian Aboriginal situation. It is a 10-month course delivered in nine intensive blocks, each of 5 days approximately one month apart, at locations in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The Certificate IV in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management is a nationally accredited qualification which provides training in the skills and knowledge required to work in the cultural heritage industry. It also provides training to enable Registered Aboriginal Parties and other land managers to meet their cultural heritage management obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. La Trobe University, as a Registered Training Organisation (TOID 3899), delivers this course in partnership with Aboriginal Victoria (AV) (La Trobe University 2017).

There is a Cert IV in Conservation and Land Management offered at TasTAFE (Course Code: AHC40910) but this does not focus on cultural heritage. The AHO cultural heritage management training part of this package would focus on developing components/modules and teaching materials that would allow the Cert IV in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management to be adapted to the Tasmanian context in general, and for specific material relevant to the TWWHA to be developed. These modules would

require the input of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and relevant specialists to ensure that the course meets the needs of Aboriginal cultural heritage managers working in the TWWHA, as well as other end users/ employers of skilled AHOs. The course would be delivered in partnership with AHT (DPIPWE) and the AHC. If possible, La Trobe University could work with a local provider or campus to deliver the course in Tasmania. This might involve, for instance, flying specialist training staff to Tasmania rather than requiring the students to travel to Victoria.

Part B – Pathways, barriers and opportunities for Aboriginal people to attain degrees in archaeology, anthropology and cultural heritage management

This work could be conducted as a separate project from the remainder of this package. It is aimed at getting a clear understanding of the current and future likely demand for access by Tasmanian Aboriginal people to degrees and higher degrees in the relevant disciplines of archaeology, anthropology, and cross-discipline cultural heritage management. This issue was raised in consultation meetings regarding the draft suite of packages proposed for the Plan. One organisation in particular was concerned that Aboriginal people's aspirations regarding cultural heritage training were varied, and yet they seemed to inevitably be reduced to certificate level qualifications. Anecdotally it was reported that several young Aboriginal people had strong aspirations to university-level qualifications in archaeology and anthropology.

The University of Tasmania does not offer honours-level degrees in archaeology and/or anthropology, and it does not offer a Master of Arts in cultural heritage. The closest universities that offer relevant studies are based in Victoria, with degrees also offered at universities in other mainland states. While some Commonwealth assistance is available for Aboriginal people going on to higher degree study, more information is needed on what other assistance might be beneficial and how useful incentives would be.

The outcomes of this project may be a combination of:

- development of integrated advice or assistance already available for school leavers or other Aboriginal people interested in pursuing degrees in archaeology, anthropology and cultural heritage management;
- development of a pathway to degree scenarios for prospective students to consider; and
- development of recommendations for additional assistance that is needed to overcome barriers.

Part C – Specialised cultural tourism small business training for Aboriginal individuals and organisations that aspire to establishing micro/small businesses related to cultural or natural tourism in the TWWHA

This component of the proposed package relates directly to Aboriginal people's feedback that they are not all looking for government jobs in the TWWHA, but many want to see opportunities for family or community based cultural tourism. A review of training opportunities in Tasmania suggests that this is a new training niche. Cultural tourism courses at TasTAFE do include an optional module on tour guiding (see <https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/courses/industry/tourism-hospitality/>), but it is not

tailored to Aboriginal cultural heritage and a short course or Cert IV level course combining micro/small business set up and management and cultural tourism is lacking.

It is possible that by developing some specific modules that focus on cultural tourism in the TWWHA and combining these with existing tourism and small business modules a targeted course could be developed. The development of this course could ensure Aboriginal participation in the industry. For example, tour operators visiting Aboriginal sites might be required to include a trained Aboriginal tour guide employee or, alternatively, partner with an Aboriginal cultural tourism operator. There are existing parallels e.g. cruise operators in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are required to include an Aboriginal Heritage Officer from Hopevale when visiting Aboriginal sites in the Fitzroy Island group.

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package is linked to:

- packages 1-6 in that those packages might provide training opportunities to complement Part A of the package if their timing overlaps;
- package 8 in that the updating of management systems through that package may identify and perhaps create new roles for Aboriginal people; and
- package 10 in that it addresses an identified gap in training needs to deliver sustainable management of cultural values in the TWWHA.

Locations in the TWWHA

Unspecified.

2.2.4 Package 10 – Cultural heritage training reviewing, building and integrating robust systems for the management of cultural values in the TWWHA

Description

There are two components of this proposed package:

- a) Part A - development of a Cultural Awareness package and training of those to deliver it in a Train the Trainer model; and
- b) Part B - Cultural Heritage Management training for PWS and other relevant staff and/or contractors.

Value of proposed packages

This proposed package would focus on working on Aboriginal cultural heritage management within the TWWHA. It responds to two needs:

- cultural awareness training for all staff of all organisations and contractors with responsibilities that involve the TWWHA; and
- cultural heritage management training for all PWS (and other agencies as appropriate) staff involved in land, facilities or cultural heritage management.

The TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (section 4.3 Cultural Understanding and Protection) recognises that:

Protection of Aboriginal cultural values requires greater levels of understanding by land managers, scientific staff and other individuals and organisations in the TWWHA. Insufficient understanding increases the risk of adverse outcomes, such as inappropriate intrusion into culturally sensitive areas, or impact on cultural resources. Such outcomes detract from cultural activities and point to the need for better integration and management of natural and cultural values. Therefore, management strategies for natural values need to fully consider cultural perspectives and build on the achievement of the DPIPWE Natural Heritage Strategy 2013-2030 in considering cultural management perspectives. Protection and conservation of cultural and natural values must increasingly be understood as intertwined and complementary activities.

Greater cultural awareness will underpin more co-operative practices and improve relationships between Aboriginal people and the staff and agencies that help to manage the TWWHA. The progressive rollout of appropriate cultural awareness training for all of these staff and agencies is essential for the successful protection of Aboriginal cultural values. The training package should also be provided to volunteer organisations that conduct activities in the TWWHA, and then extended to other groups such as tourist operators (DPIPWE 2016, p.99).

This proposed package will directly contribute to the realisation of KDO 4.3:

All DPIPWE staff who have responsibility for and/or undertake regular management activities in the TWWHA have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the area's Aboriginal cultural values (DPIPWE 2016, p.106).

Management Actions identified for this KDO include:

- develop and deliver an Aboriginal cultural awareness training package to all DPIPWE staff who undertake regular management, research or other activities in the TWWHA (DPIPWE 2016, p.106).

However, this proposed package will go beyond this and also develop a cultural heritage management course which will provide specific training to assist land managers and others to effectively manage sites.

Currently there is no internal staff training that focuses on Aboriginal cultural values and sites. PWS staff have been offered cultural awareness training on an irregular basis by an external Aboriginal provider. Anecdotal feedback during the development of this Plan was that this course, which was tailored to the needs of the organisation, varied in effectiveness. Part A of this proposed package responds to this need by developing an agreed course that can be delivered using a Train the Trainer model.

There is currently no cultural heritage management training for staff working in the TWWHA or PWS generally. It is possible that dissatisfaction expressed with past cultural awareness training stems from an expectation that the training would have covered cultural heritage management. However, these are two distinct training needs. Cultural heritage management training will improve the management of cultural values and places within the TWWHA and will lead to a better integration of the management of cultural values and places that embody them in the day to day management of the TWWHA. This training module will provide a practical means of introducing and ensuring appropriate use of an upgraded Cultural Heritage Management Manual (see package 8).

Linkages with other proposed packages

This proposed package of work is linked to:

- package 8 with the link to the development/or upgrade of a Cultural Heritage Management Manual and the integration of cultural heritage management into existing systems; and
- package 9 in that it addresses an identified gap in training needs to deliver sustainable management of cultural values in the TWWHA.

Locations in the TWWHA

Throughout Tasmania.

Part 3. Steps required to implement the Plan

3.1 Introduction

This Part sets out the steps required to implement the Plan for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA. Included is a discussion on Aboriginal stakeholder engagement and consultation, timing, resourcing and the future project management.

3.2 Aboriginal stakeholder engagement and consultation

A fundamental aspect of the implementation of the Plan is the development and implementation of an appropriate Aboriginal stakeholder engagement and consultation process and strategy. Engagement with Aboriginal people as part of the Plan should recognise that they are traditional owners and also knowledge holders, and that their full involvement is vital in both respects.

Importantly however, and as previously noted in Part 1, during the development of the Plan the response from Aboriginal community organisations contacted has not been sufficient to confirm how each would wish to be consulted during the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment. As such a detailed methodology for how to consult with each of the organisations and individuals remains to be agreed.

3.3 The TWWHA Management Plan 2016

The TWWHA Management Plan (DPIPWE 2016) provides for a range of opportunities, including through the management of cultural heritage, for Tasmanian Aboriginal people to access the TWWHA, conduct cultural activities and be involved in the area's management. Section 7.2 of the Management Plan – 'Engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal People', states that facilitation of these opportunities will require effective, ongoing engagement processes that are specifically developed for Aboriginal people.

Importantly, under the TWWHA Management Plan, the CMG will develop a 'stand-alone Community Engagement Agreement' which will reflect what Aboriginal people have identified as the culturally appropriate way to be engaged with the TWWHA' (DPIPWE 2016:161). The agreement is to be developed with reference to relevant ethical guidelines, including the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies 2012* (AIATSIS 2012). The stand-alone Community Engagement Agreement will provide the basis and guidance for future engagement and consultation on a wide variety of projects in the TWWHA, including the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment. The Community Engagement Agreement will be prepared by the CMG (DPIPWE 2016,

p.161)¹⁷ and will align with the wider framework to be followed under the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016).

3.4 Timing and resources

Recommendation 13 of the 2015 ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission Report requires that the proposal for a comprehensive cultural survey of the TWWHA 'should include a calendar on survey stages over a multi-year period (Jaeger & Sand 2015). This is important considering the level of organisation and resourcing, not least within DPIPWE, which will be necessary to manage the ten packages proposed by this Plan. However, staging will also be desirable to better achieve connectivity between the proposed packages, with some benefitting from the results of others.

It is proposed that the delivery of the packages will be carried out, if possible, over the 10-year duration of the TWWHA Management Plan 2016. This delivery is subject to a number of factors including funding and resource availability (including human resources/personnel). Importantly, the aspirations and priorities of the Aboriginal community are a fundamental consideration, with the need for additional engagement and consultation with the community prior to implementation recognised as important to its success.

The Tasmanian and Australian governments will discuss the resourcing required to implement the Plan and the priorities while the timing and phasing of implementation of the Plan will need to be agreed through further engagement and consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and Tasmanian Government agencies.

While the proposed packages could be delivered in any order, with the possibility of multiple packages being undertaken simultaneously, there are benefits in prioritising particular packages. Table 2 below provides a list of packages and their proposed priority schedule. This is based on the following considerations:

- all of the packages will need to be completed over a number of years – especially those requiring fieldwork;
- package 5: 'Rock art in the landscape and seascape: recording, conservation and management' will particularly benefit from the work undertaken in packages 1-4, especially with regards to identifying other possible rock art sites, and so should be commenced after those packages;
- it is suggested that package 6 start later than the other 'understanding values' packages, to reduce the work level for DPIPWE managers;
- package 8 should begin first, in order to identify and query the systems employed in all of the other packages; and
- packages 9 and 10 (training) would benefit from the opportunity for participants to gain experience in the field (on Country), and so should overlap with the 'understanding values' packages. The degree of overlap should be determined by the amount of opportunity provided by the various field seasons compared

¹⁷ The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) suggested the Wet Tropics Management Authority's *Rainforest Aboriginal Strategic Framework 2016-2018* as a useful model

to the demand created by the training packages – i.e. if greater demand, more overlap would be advantageous.

Table 2. Understanding and managing values packages and proposed priority schedule

PRIORITY	PACKAGE NUMBER	PACKAGE NAME
1	8	Reviewing, building and integrating robust systems for the management of cultural values in the TWWHA
2	1	The Southern Lacuna: Aboriginal occupation in the southern valleys
	2	Holocene seascapes and coastal settlement
	3	From the Highlands to the Lakes (Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Walls of Jerusalem)
	4	People and the button grass
3	9	Training for Aboriginal people working in the TWWHA - managing cultural values
	10	Cultural Heritage training for in-house Government personnel involved in managing the cultural values of the TWWHA
4	5	Rock art in the landscape and seascape: recording, conservation and management
5	6	Post-contact Aboriginal heritage and shared values
	7	Strategic responses to predictive and unexpected natural disasters and climatic events

3.5 Project management for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment

The Plan provides the basis for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment which will be overseen by the CMG, together with support and guidance from the AHC. The CMG has been established within AHT and DPIPWE as a dedicated body to oversee implementation of the 2016 Management Plan, and its carriage of the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment is consistent with the new Management Plan’s goal of establishing ongoing and systematic assessment of cultural values to underpin its cultural management objectives.

The Management Plan envisages that the role of the CMG will be to establish links between the natural and cultural heritage aspects of Aboriginal interests, provide advice on matters pertaining to Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA, and oversee project and policy development while working closely with Aboriginal people and organisations. In addition, the CMG will have responsibility for facilitating research, monitoring and evaluation in the TWWHA and coordinating and facilitating engagement with Aboriginal people. The Management Plan states that the TWWHA CMG will also establish a governance framework that provides a role for a non-government Aboriginal organisation in the management of Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA (KDO 4.1) (DPIPWE 2016, p.97 & p.106).

The AHC was established to provide a consolidated Aboriginal community view to the Tasmanian Government on the preservation and protection of Tasmania’s Aboriginal

heritage. The AHC is comprised of members from the Tasmanian Aboriginal community who have extensive knowledge and experience in Aboriginal heritage management. The AHC provides advice on the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage on matters including the review and development of policy and procedures, research studies and education and interpretation awareness. The AHC plays a key role in the consultation process with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, with a major aspect of its role being to promote the participation of Aboriginal people in the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage. The Tasmanian Government recently introduced the *Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill 1975* (the Act), with the amendment enacted on 16 August 2017. A key element in the Act is the establishment of the AHC as a permanent statutory body.

The role and extent of involvement of these bodies in the proposed packages to be implemented under this Plan is yet to be determined. Further discussions will be undertaken to clarify the roles and responsibilities of these bodies prior to the implementation of the Plan and associated packages.

Part 4. Conclusion

The Plan presented in this document is for a multi-year comprehensive cultural assessment of the TWWHA. The Plan responds to requests from the World Heritage Committee for a detailed plan for a comprehensive cultural survey of the TWWHA to be prepared (UNESCO 2016) and Recommendation 13 of the 2015 ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission report (Jaeger & Sand 2015) for 'A detailed proposal for a comprehensive cultural survey, a longer term initiative' in that it sets out a plan for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural values across the whole of the TWWHA.

The implementation of the Plan is proposed to be completed over the 10-year duration of the TWWHA Management Plan (DPIPWE 2016). This delivery schedule is subject to a number of factors including human resources, funding, the timing and complexity of engagement and importantly the aspirations and priorities of the Aboriginal community, with the need for additional engagement and consultation with the community prior to implementation recognised as important to its success. This engagement and consultation will be ongoing throughout the duration of the project with the stand-alone Community Engagement Agreement, a key deliverable of the TWWHA Management Plan 2016, to provide the basis for future engagement and consultation on the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment. Importantly, the stand alone Community Engagement Agreement will align with the wider framework to be followed under the TWWHA Management Plan 2016 (DPIPWE 2016).

The implementation of the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment will contribute to a stronger appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA. Furthermore, work on the proposed 'understanding values' and 'managing values' packages will provide opportunities to forge strong, collaborative partnerships between Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key Tasmanian Government agencies. It is also expected to provide ongoing opportunities for Tasmanian Aboriginal people to benefit from the World Heritage listing of the TWWHA through engagement and consultation, research, fieldwork, training and potential employment.

Acknowledgements

DPIPWE would like to sincerely thank all the members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community who provided valuable advice, guidance and input towards the development of the Plan.

This Plan was prepared with financial support from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) as part of the AACV Project. The Plan is based on an earlier version developed by the cultural heritage consultancy Extent. DPIPWE would like to acknowledge all members of the Extent project team who developed this plan and in particular the two primary authors – Ian Travers and Dr. Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy. Thank you also to Melissa Marshall who completed a peer review as a member of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (AACAI) — her comments and input helped to strengthen the final version.

DPIPWE would also like to acknowledge and thank all the members of the AHC for their guidance throughout the project and reviewing of the document. Thank you also to Mr. John Harkin (DPIPWE Project Manager) who established and managed the initial stages of the project. Thank you also to members of the AHT team who assisted with aspects of the project management, arranged the completion of peer and AHC reviews, and the compilation of the final version of the Plan along with colleagues from the Heritage Branch in the Australian Government DoEE.

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Appendix 1 – List of Aboriginal organisations and individuals contacted during engagement and consultation of the Plan.

ORGANISATION	FORM OF CONTACT				COMMENTS
	Letter	Email	Phone Call	Meeting	
Aboriginal Elders Council of Tasmania	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting between consultant and organisation on 7/12/2017.
Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting between consultant and organisation CHAC offices in Smithton 16/03/2017.
Flinders Island Aboriginal Association	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting between consultant and organisation as part of TRACA presentation – 5/4/2017.
<i>Karadi</i> Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting between consultant and organisation at Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress offices 17/03/2017
<i>melythina tiakana warrana</i> (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting between consultant and organisation as part of TRACA presentation – 5/4/2017.
<i>Palawa</i> Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	NO	
<i>Parrdarrama Pungenna</i> Aboriginal Community	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting between consultant and organisation as part of TRACA presentation – 5/4/2017.
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC)	YES	YES	YES	YES	Meeting held at SETAC Offices in Cygnet on 17/3/2017.
Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA)	YES	YES	YES	YES	Consultants attended TRACA meeting and presented to representatives from the following organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation. - Flinders Island Aboriginal Corporation. - <i>Melythina tiakana warrana</i> Aboriginal Corporation - <i>Parrdarrama Pungenna</i> Aboriginal Corporation - Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation - South East Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation

ORGANISATION	FORM OF CONTACT				COMMENTS
	Letter	Email	Phone Call	Meeting	
					- <i>Weetapooona</i> Aboriginal Corporation
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Leprena	YES	YES	YES	NO	
<i>Weetapooona</i> Aboriginal Corporation	YES	YES	YES	NO	Meeting between consultant and organisation as part of TRACA presentation – 5/4/2017.
ADDITIONAL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS					
	Letter	Email	Phone Call	Meeting	Comments
Fiona Hamilton	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Emma Lee	NO	YES	YES	NO	

Appendix 2 – Written responses on the Plan from Aboriginal organisations.

Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc.

16 West Street, Lady Barron,
Tasmania, Australia, 7255.

Phone: (03) 63 593532

Fax: (03) 63 593622

Email: info@fiaai.org.au



20th April 2017

Ian Travers
Senior Associate
Extent Heritage Advisors

Dear Ian ,

I am writing in response to your request for feedback on the **Comprehensive Cultural Assessment Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)** consultation presentation.

Whilst we are disappointed regarding the inadequate timelines and resources for meaningful engagement and we don't have the time or resources to consider *the benefits and likely limitations of the various approaches* in a meaningful way within your timelines, we do believe the plan heads in the right direction in terms of valuing Aboriginal culture, heritage and expertise.

FIAAI is broadly supportive of the packages and especially keen to ensure that the *Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* and the packages directed at "managing values" are given due (overdue) emphasis.

We look forward to hearing from you about how we can meaningfully participate into the future and about adequate timelines and resourcing to do so.

Yours sincerely

Maxine Roughley
Chief Executive Officer



ICN: 7165

Ms Nannette Shaw,
MTWAC Contact Person
Unit 2/163 Peel Street,
Summerhill, 7250

Ian Travers,
Senior Associate,
Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

Dear Ian,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your proposed plan for the Cultural Assessment of the TWWHA.

As a small regional organisation relying on the voluntary assistance of a Board of Directors we have found it difficult to meet your timeline for community consultation feedback. MTWAC is extremely interested in the TWWHA Country and all the significant tangible and intangible Aboriginal Heritage values contained within its boundaries. We are supportive of plan and have attached a brief response.

We apologise for the delay.

Kind regards,

Patsy Cameron and Rob Anders

Melythina Tiakana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC) Response to Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

Melythina Tiakana Warrana (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC) is a small Aboriginal organisation that has a major focus in the northeast of Tasmania. MTWAC operates with a Board of Directors all of whom volunteer their time without the assistance of a secretariat.

Our directors and members are passionate about the revival and maintenance of our cultural practices and precious cultural heritage all over the state, and in particular, have a deep connection to the area known as the TWWHA.

MTWAC is committed to being involved in the future management of the TWWHA Plan to ensure that its unique Tasmanian landscape is preserved for our future generations.

MTWAC identifies the following points to ensure engagement and consultation opportunities are realized for our members.

That the Plan:

- Enables participation by our members in community, historic and scientific research and surveys that will identify and further inform us about the range of significant tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the TWWHA Country.
- Offers further understanding of the cultural values of sites and cultural landmarks located in the area.
- Allows MTWAC members to understand and participate in discussions about threats and management issues related to the TWWHA. For example compatibility economic development

- Provides assistance for capacity building opportunities to enable MTWAC members to participate in the implementation of the Plan.
- Insures a safe environment for MTWAC members to engage, learn and share views and knowledge about the TWWHA.
- Facilitates our involvement in the effective management of the TWWHA

Patsy Cameron and Rob Anders on behalf of the MTWAC Board of Directors

24 April, 2017

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PO BOX 147 LATROBE 7307

ABN 31 369 253 061 ICN: 1511



18th April 2017

TWWHA Comprehensive Cultural Assessment Plan

Comments on the *Consultation Presentation* from Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation

This document sets out '*principles*' and a proposed '*direction for a program of works*' that will go some way towards addressing gaps in the TWWHA Management Plan 2016. The implementation of this final Plan will require detailed and ongoing consultation with Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation (SRAC) so that members gain a better understanding of cultural heritage and its management particularly where it applies to this region of the TWWHA.

Whilst the response required to this detailed document is vital, more time for discussions with and input from members should have occurred. Within these constraints, we have given much thought to this document and consider that it does seem to follow a responsible and much deserving emphasis for the identification and understanding of cultural values. The implementation of such a proposed program should be aimed for the long term with suggested time lines included in the final Plan.

Emphasis should be on the need for support to SRAC for involvement towards:

- * identification of the cultural heritage found in this part of the TWWHA;
- * an understanding of the values of these cultural sites and their place;
- * an understanding of threats and management;
- * building members capacity for better understanding and the implementation of the Plan;
- * members being comfortable to learn and share views and knowledge; and
- * assurances for a strong stated commitment by both the State and Federal Governments for adequate funds to implement this Plan and for appropriate legislative direction to protect and manage cultural assets.

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Package 1.

This relates to the karst systems in the river valleys of SW Tasmania and is out of our particular area. However, it is noted that the interaction with the coast during “abandonment” of these inland sites should not be overlooked.

Package 2.

It is noted that archaeological evidence of the western coasts of the TWWHA is “exceptional” and the target area should not overlook that part of the West Coast, north of Port Davey (Elliott Bay to Cape Sorell). Another part of the West Coast in our area that also has similar cultural values has been identified with National Heritage Listing as the *Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape*.

Aboriginal places on the coast from Elliott Bay to Cape Sorell are vulnerable and could add to a better understanding of this cultural seascape. This particular area should not be excluded from its influence on the TWWHA.

Package 3.

This relates to the area that’s well known by members of SRAC with lakes and river fishing, camping and visits. As this part of the TWWHA “*has the highest concentration of Aboriginal places*” and “*very little is known*”, SRAC could play an import part in gaining knowledge and understanding of these many river and highland sites. SRAC members could also contribute much towards first-hand local stories and experiences during post-European times.

Package 4.

The adaption by Aboriginal people to the buttongrass and highland moorland grasslands within and adjoining the TWWHA have the potential to provide a better understanding. In addition SRAC members could assist with the advancement of knowledge of cultural values within this local landscape.

Package 5.

Apart from systematic recording of known rock art sites in the TWWHA, it should be noted that only two petroglyph (rock engraving) sites are known to exist and these are at Mary Tarn and Bond Bay (Port Davey). As all of the remaining petroglyph sites exist outside of the TWWHA, these should also be systematically surveyed so as to better understand their symbolic language.

Package 6.

SRAC members can assist with the advancement of knowledge of post-contact cultural values within this local landscape of the TWWHA and its bordering areas.

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Package 7.

SRAC members need to be encouraged to contribute to knowledge about of past events such as fires, floods, storm surges and coastal erosion which could add to this "Reactive Survey".

Package 8.

Perhaps this package should bring about an updated, robust and comprehensive Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation, with suitable funding. Coupled with this basic legislative management tool is the recognition by the Government and the protection of cultural sites within the National Heritage Listed Tarkine Coast, known as the *Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape*.

Package 9.

Suitable training by experienced and knowledgeable Aboriginal Heritage Officers as well as upgrading (with appropriate funding) for Government cultural heritage management is necessary to achieving this goal. Funding for Aboriginal people to participate in awareness and management activities is a worthy consideration.

Package 10.

Partnership arrangements for this level of training and support for targeted projects directed at the management of the TWWHA would be welcomed by members of SRAC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacinta Vanderfeen'.

Jacinta Vanderfeen

Secretary

Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation



South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation

Head Office

19 Mary Street
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Phone: (03) 62950004
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Primary Health Care & Well-being Centre

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Phone: (03) 62951125
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Email: health@setac.org.au

The South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC) welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation exercise currently conducted on the TWWHA.

The SETAC was established in 1992 and is an Aboriginal community controlled organisation dedicated to empowering and advancing the health and well-being of Aboriginal people of our community in SE Tasmania; and ensuring its cultural identity is valued. SETAC provides primary health services, aged care, education and culture and heritage programs for Aboriginal people of South East Tasmania.

SETAC has a key role on behalf of the community in the ongoing protection of its culture and heritage. It acknowledges that there are many special places and their associated Aboriginal cultural landscapes in SE Tasmania remain as testimony to the survival of Aboriginal culture. It is our vision that these places are protected and managed in a culturally appropriate way to ensure that they are there for our children and their children's children.

We believe that in order to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive body of work all Aboriginal communities in Tasmania should be involved in the early stages in the development of a plan to the World Heritage Centre for review. SETAC is a member of a state-wide alliance – the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance and would like to identified here also as part of that alliance that wants to be engaged ongoing. As part of this group it would like implemented a transparent and comprehensive selection criteria to identify a strong stakeholder group whose focus is on the establishment of practices that sustain the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), that also incorporates cultural values as it would be reflected in the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for Tasmania.

SETAC's values are on respect, meaningful engagement and participation. It also wants all stakeholders who are involved in accessing its lands to be respectful and working collaboratively about knowledge transfer. SETAC wants to exercise its basic human rights as this countries first nations people through the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Human Rights

Human Rights are basic human rights and all people including Aboriginal people have proper access to our culture, to practice, to understand what is happening within the TWWHA.

The UN's Development Group Guidelines highlight the importance of recognising Indigenous peoples' collective rights. International human rights instruments are not enough to guarantee the survival, wellbeing and dignity of Indigenous peoples. Most international human rights instruments protect the rights of the individual. Indigenous peoples need the recognition of specific collective rights for their survival as human groups. These rights include:

- indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, territories and resources
- right to maintain their cultures
- right to recognition of their distinct identities
- right to self-government and self - determination
- right to be asked for their free, prior and informed consent in decisions that may affect them.

© Australian Human Rights Commission 2012.p.20.

Including Aboriginal organisation's across Tasmania in the governance framework will also strengthen the plan and will be responsive to the UN Declaration of Indigenous People, especially Article 19 whereby States should consult in

good faith in order to obtain free, prior and informed consent before implementing any administrative measures, which aids in the self determination of Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities.

In reply to the Extent consultation SETAC request that the Government's plan must involve Aboriginal organisations at an early stage in the development of policy and processes for the Comprehensive Cultural Assessment Plan for the TWWHA to easily access and utilise established key contacts of SETAC and its extensive Aboriginal networks to assist in the delivery of future plans and adopt engagement protocols consistent with Aboriginal communities and organisations views across Tasmania.

The natural, environment has always been regarded as important to Aboriginal peoples and is directly related to our physical and spiritual wellbeing. Traditionally land was managed to ensure sustainability and current generations or caretakers exercised responsibilities in respect to previous and future generations. In contemporary times Aboriginal peoples connection to the land aided in healing and the promotion of traditional ways of doing and being, the ability to practice culture and positive social impacts.

The natural, physical, and spiritual environment has always been regarded as an important Aboriginal resource and traditionally were governed by a set of rules to ensure the current generation or caretakers exercised responsibilities in respect to previous and future generations. The formal recognition in 1982 of the World Heritage property through the World Heritage Convention, on the basis of three cultural heritage and four natural heritage criteria was an important step towards the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage. This introduced specific obligations for those exercising functions and powers under the convention to provide for the special relationship of Aboriginal peoples, their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, and other spiritual connections.

SETAC wants to ensure that in the development and protection of natural and physical resources, the views and interests of SETAC are fully represented especially when it relates to the TWWHA.

It is important for the right of all Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to maintain an interest in traditional areas and of the tribe/clan/group to maintain its connection or interest in an area formerly occupied for generations, and from which they have moved; and the right to speak at a place on account of ancestral land connections.

Although Tasmania has not obtained Native Title rights it is important to note that this government has acknowledged Aboriginal association/customary rights via the *Apology to Aboriginal People (1997)* and commitments made by organisation's and businesses to acknowledge Reconciliation practices such as Welcomes to Country and RAPs.

It is important that TRACA and the Commonwealth Government Department of Environment reach and implement an understanding of the relationship between the Aboriginal customary/ association rights and the TWWHA.

The integration of Aboriginal views in the management of the area must be from a grass roots perspective and not from a top down approach which currently is listed in the TWWHA Management Plan 2016. From the management plan it was accepted that it would *'establish a group within DPIPWE to oversee the implementation of the Management plan and the cultural management group to establish links between natural and cultural heritage aspects of Aboriginal interests, provide advice on matters pertaining to Aboriginal cultural values in the TWWHA and oversee project and policy development whilst working closely with Aboriginal people and organisations'*.

Accessed 12/042017 www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/TWWHA_Management_Plan_2016.pdf

SETAC can demonstrate continuing connections to the TWWHA region and this is the reason it is important that the people from this area must be fully engaged and also part of the decision-making when it comes to Aboriginal artefacts, culture and knowledge.

With the plans for Extent to undertake a Comprehensive Cultural Assessment Plan it was welcoming to hear that there are considerations to develop a stakeholder register along with a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy; and to put in place consultation agreements. Again it is important to build the capacity of communities to assist and to provide training opportunities in the management of the TWWHA. This must include consultations with local Aboriginal groups to ensure full comprehensive consultation and participation. This plan requires a grass roots approach that is driven by Aboriginal Communities.

The implementation of comprehensive consultation and participation is supported by the following principles:

Stakeholder Engagement

Principle 1: Respect and acknowledge all Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural groups. Acknowledge that Aboriginal people have a unique part to play in all planning, policy, management, decision-making and projects. Establish the will to be effectively engaged in communication and collaborative work.

Principle 2: Identifying the right group of people to work with depends on the nature of the collaborative or consultative work. It is important with resource commitments and consultative work, particularly when responding to specific geographic and cultural issues, that the correct Aboriginal groups, are engaged. Most local and state authorities have dramatically improved the confirmation of Aboriginality processes and the acknowledgement of Aboriginal groups since 2014 – 2016 and most have comprehensive networks and contacts in place and have strengthened those. Identifying the right group requires expert knowledge of Aboriginal history and politics, tribal/clan boundaries, and past and present relationships in defined geographic administrative areas. It also requires an understanding of the Aboriginal constituency (e.g., population, demographics) and legitimate Aboriginal governance in an area. This will determine whether the correct Aboriginal group is being consulted.

Most often, in line with legislative requirements, the AHC/ALCT is contacted; although on specific environmental and cultural issues another Aboriginal group may be appropriate. SETAC believe that they possess many of the characteristics and cultural permissions. SETAC has the ability to understand the legislation and recognise that they can deliver expert or technical advice of a high professional standard, e.g., cultural impact assessments; obtaining information on cultural issues, perspectives on key issues, for planning and policy – sometimes requiring a cross-section of views, e.g., especially liaising with each other for those oral histories, or Aboriginal knowledge.

SETAC must develop an agreement or arrangement between government bodies to define the roles of each party, and the expectations on both sides, to formalise the relationship and help it progress. This must include statements of intent and responsibilities by including a set of protocols, identifying key contacts on both sides, and clarifying the exact nature and purpose of the arrangement in the TWWHA.

Principle 3: SETAC will align Aboriginal issues with other stakeholder issues, and objectives. Identify areas of common interests, agreed goals.

Principle 4: SETAC recognises that government and other stakeholders will take part in research in the TWWHA and don't want this research to be generalised. SETAC want the transfer of knowledge to be meaningful for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people all the while protecting its intellectual property. It also important to build the capacity of local people to strengthen their knowledge transfer.

Principle 5: SETAC will proactively engage other parts of the community with clearly defined and articulated sets of values and goals to address how to relate to and treat Aboriginal issues that impact on the cultural assessments of the TWWHA.

Method:

- Employ a liaison officer to liaise with SETAC to develop the Stakeholder Engagement Plan in conjunction with government.
- SETAC to participate in the recruitment in conjunction with Commonwealth to engage appropriate person.

Consultation Agreement

Principle 6: SETAC expects that collaboratively with the government it will acknowledge and recognise the importance of incorporating an Aboriginal perspective into future TWWHA plans as it relates to Aboriginal matters, along with any policy, management, decision-making and development of new projects. SETAC will expect to collaboratively define outcomes, as well as measure the success of outcomes.

Principle 7: In the consultation agreement it is expected that all parties have an open mind and respect for other forms of knowledge, such as local knowledge, community knowledge in the work, and demonstrate this through incorporation of 'other' knowledge into plans, policy, management, decision-making and the development of new projects, and in the way we might measure the success of outcomes.

Principle 8: SETAC would expect best practice guidelines for stakeholder engagement to be developed jointly.

Principle 9: Identify, define and clarify general and specific issues with SETAC and understanding of Aboriginal values.

Principle 10: Determine areas of common interest with common purpose; determine and articulate benefits back to the wider community; identify strategies, projects and actions that contribute to local, district and national goals (e.g., national biodiversity strategy).

- Determine goals, objectives and outcomes with SETAC.
- Determine goals, objectives and outcomes with community and stakeholder groups.

Method:

- Consultant to be engaged to work closely with SETAC and other Aboriginal groups to draft Consultation Agreement
- Consultant to identify an understanding of Aboriginal values and the protocols for sharing such knowledge
- Consultant to liaise with all stakeholders to define expected outcomes as well as how to measure success

Capacity Building

Principle 11: Identify capacity needs for effective engagement. Support SETAC to strengthen its current skills base, such as skills/expertise, knowledge, and resources to participate and collaborate effectively, and to identify what strategies and actions are needed to be implemented. The following strategies to be resourced:

- development of Aboriginal management plans, and provide assistance to the development of these plans
- development and use of Aboriginal environmental and cultural indicators, and provide assistance for the development of these indicators
- development of Aboriginal state of the environment (SOE) reports, and provide assistance for preparation of these reports
- Assist SETAC to develop high-quality plans, and become involved in all aspects of decision-making

Method:

- Identify a resource allocation for all the activity that is associated with the above principles.
- Field workers to be engaged and trained

Aboriginal staff to assist in the field

Conclusion

SETAC want to ensure that for any short and long term plans relating to Aboriginal engagement and decision-making around the TWWHA there must be an investment to involve local people.

In applying the above principles it is important to involve local communities in order to identify appropriate stakeholders and engagement strategies that maintain, protect and develop intangible heritage. As well as cultural heritage, traditional knowledge with an emphasis on considerations of intellectual property rights principles.



20th April 2017

Ian Travers
Senior Associate
Extent Heritage Advisors

Dear Ian

Feedback from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) regarding the TWWHA Comprehensive Cultural Assessment Plan.

I am writing on behalf of TRACA firstly to strongly object to the rushed timelines for consultation on such a detailed and important document, especially with a number of members reporting not receiving a copy until last week.

However despite this, TRACA does believe it can, and should have a pivotal role in ongoing consultation over the longer term.

TRACA has experience and commitment in ensuring Tasmanian Aboriginal voices are heard and our members have consistently demonstrated their ability to establish relationships with local, state and national bodies. We believe that with adequate timelines and resourcing we can ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with our member communities on the matters that concern them.

Within the constraints of poor timelines and resourcing, we believe the document goes some way to addressing the identified gaps in the TWWHA Management Plan 2016, especially in relation to the emphasis on the tangible and intangible identification and understanding of cultural values and heritage.

TRACA recognises that some of our members have been disadvantaged regarding the TWWHA plan due to the Aboriginal Heritage Council having consistently excluded some members by failing to consult and engage, or acknowledge and respect, our connections to the land and our individual and varied sets of expertise.

TRACA requests that we are involved in the TWWHA and with adequate resourcing for inclusive, meaningful and respectful consultation and engagement we will contribute to aligning mutually beneficial outcomes in the identification and protection of our communities cultural values.

We look forward to having conversations about how we can actively participate in the next steps.

Yours sincerely

Patsy Cameron

TRACA CoChair on behalf of:

Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation

Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc

Melythina tiakana warrana Aboriginal Corporation

Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation

Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation

South East Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation

Weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation

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