



TASMANIAN WORLD HERITAGE EXTENSION

A takayna/Tarkine National Park

The takayna/Tarkine is universally recognised for its beauty and a link to the ancient supercontinent of Gondwanaland. It holds natural and cultural values that have been recommended, but ignored, for National Heritage. Only The Greens will ensure this special place is protected for current and future generations.

The takayna/Tarkine is in Tasmania's wild North-West. It is also home to Australia's largest tract of temperate rainforest, which dates back to the ancient supercontinent, Gondwana.

The Greens will nominate the takayna/Tarkine for World Heritage Listing by the World Heritage Committee (WHC). It will recommend that it is included in a boundary extension to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

> THE TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

The Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area is an area that stretches from the island state's central highlands and across its south-west region. Its 1,584,000 hectares includes temperate rainforest, temperate wet forests with the tallest hardwoods in the world (eucalyptus regnans), alpine and sub-alpine regions, vast buttongrass plains, and the most extensive peatlands in the southern hemisphere. It is also listed for its outstanding Aboriginal heritage values¹.

The TWWHA is listed for three cultural heritage and four natural heritage criteria, and is one of only two properties listed under the Convention for this many criteria.

There have been several extensions to its boundary since it was first listed in 1982: one major extension in 1989 with several minor extensions after that, the most recent being 172,050 hectares added in 2013.

> takayna/TARKINE

The takayna/Tarkine is a pristine remnant of Gondwana, and of an Aboriginal culture and connection to land stretching over 40,000 years.

Of natural significance are undisturbed tracts of rare temperate rainforest, a high diversity of non-vascular plants such as

mosses and lichens, and habitation of over 60 rare, threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna.

Of cultural significance are ancient stone quarries, giant shell middens, hut depressions, and 10,000 year-old rock carvings (Petroglyphs) in an area the Australian Heritage Council described as "one of the world's great archaeological regions"².

This region was nominated for inclusion on Australia's National Heritage List in 2004, with the Australian Heritage Council concluding in 2012 that 439,000 hectares met the criteria.

It is this Australian Heritage Council report, suggesting boundary and nomination,³ that The Greens will use as the basis of our recommendation to the World Heritage Committee that the takayna/Tarkine be given National Heritage Listing.

> WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

As the area recommended for heritage listing by the Australian Heritage Council is 433,000 hectares, it would be considered a major adjustment (27%). This means that it is effectively regarded as a new nomination, and therefore requires a full 18 month assessment of heritage criteria and Outstanding Universal Value. It is through this process that a specific boundary would be determined.

This recommendation to nominate this area was ignored by the Labor Government. Only The Greens will guarantee nomination of the takayna/Tarkine for World Heritage listing, so that its outstanding natural and heritage values will be protected for current and future generations.

> WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA MET

A takayna /Tarkine extension is likely to meet the same criteria for which the rest of the TWWHA is listed (making it one of the one of only two world heritage sites in the world to be listed for 7 of the 10 criteria):

¹<https://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/tasmanian-wilderness>

²[http://tasmaniantimes.com/images/uploads/Tarkine_Place_Details_\(Aust_Heritage_Database_-_4_March_2011\).doc](http://tasmaniantimes.com/images/uploads/Tarkine_Place_Details_(Aust_Heritage_Database_-_4_March_2011).doc)

³Ibid

- Criterion (iii): 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): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.
- Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- Criterion (vii): contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.
- Criterion (viii): be outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.
- Criterion (ix): be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- Criterion (x): contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

> KEY FACETS OF THE NOMINATION PROCESS

- Participation of stakeholders (including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities and other interested parties) is considered 'essential' in the nomination process.
- Must include engagement with the Aboriginal community.
- Nominations must be 'complete' – i.e., include nine sections pertaining to identification, description, justification, state of conservation, protection and management, monitoring, documentation, contact information, and signature on behalf of the relevant government.
- An appropriate management plan or other management system 'is essential'.

> INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR LISTING

If process began immediately here is an indicative timeline:

- By September of 2016: Australia places the Tarkine TWWHA extension onto its [tentative list of WH properties](#)
- By 31st January of 2017: Australia makes a nomination for [major boundary modification](#) of the TWWHA to include the Tarkine.
- Report by May 2019: 18 months long Technical Evaluation of the State Party (Aust Govt) nomination by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Centre.
- By May 2020: If Advisory Bodies support the case for Outstanding Universal Value and support an extension of the TWWHA a report from the Advisory Bodies and a Draft Committee Decision will be published. IUCN acts as natural values advisor. ICOMOS acts as cultural heritage advisor.
- July 2021: World Heritage Committee meets to decide if area has Outstanding Universal Value for natural and /or cultural heritage and approval is given to list the WH extension.