



Hon Matthew Groom MP  
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage  
Parliament House  
Hobart 7000

By email: [matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au)

6 September 2017

Dear Minister,

The Wilderness Society welcomes the finalisation of the Recovery Plan for the Giant Freshwater Lobster (the Recovery Plan) and the Tasmanian Government's endorsement of its objectives, strategies and actions.

We note Strategy 3, to "*increase the reservation status and improve the quality of key habitat for the giant freshwater crayfish*" and highlight the specific on-ground action to "*increase the total area of giant freshwater crayfish habitat that is reserved.*"

As you are aware from our correspondence of 21 December 2016, including the request to meet and the provision of the Lobster Forests Nature Reserve Proposal, we have a keen interest in this strategy and specific action.

I write to highlight the inconsistency between current Tasmanian Government policy to reverse the reserve status of Future Potential Production Forest (FPPF) land, to allow logging, and this agreed Recovery Plan strategy and action.

Current Government policy is to reduce (not increase) the reservation status of Crown land (FPPF land), including some in catchments identified in the Plan as requiring assessment for formal reservation and '*which have previously been nominated for protection.*' This includes forests included the Lobster Forests Nature Reserve Proposal.

These forests are listed by your Department as part of the [Tasmanian Reserve Estate](#) and, while not formally reserved under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, they are currently legally protected from logging.

The stated objective of your policy is to allow industrial scale logging, which includes clearfelling and burning of native forest, into these reserves. Logging and associated activities like roadbuilding is identified in the Plan as affecting 'riparian and aquatic habitats' of the lobster.

Additionally, The Tasmanian Government has recently released a draft Special Species Management Plan. This plan foreshadows logging rainforest species in a range of reserved land tenures in the catchments identified as being part of the 'current distribution' of the species. This includes logging in Informal Reserves on Permanent Timber Production Zone Land, including riverine buffer zones and wildlife habitat strips.

It is important to note that the context in which the Plan discusses 'reservation' demonstrably relates to its formal reservation in dedicated reserves and associated protection from threatening activities like logging.

Given the publication of the Recovery Plan, its welcome recommendations regarding formal reservation of key habitat areas, and the demonstrable conflict between the Recovery Plan and current Government policy, we ask that you publicly clarify the Tasmanian Government's intention relating to implementation of Strategy 3 in the Recovery Plan and if the policy of reversing FPPF land will be amended.

I again request a meeting to discuss the plight of the lobster and government policy to delist reserves in the Tasmanian Reserve Estate so they can be logged.

Yours sincerely,



Vica Bayley,  
Tasmanian Campaign Manager,  
The Wilderness Society

cc

[josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au)  
[jason.jacobi@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:jason.jacobi@parks.tas.gov.au)