



## Greens in bid to stop mini-hydro scheme in Tasmania's World Heritage Area

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**Greens Senator Nick McKim has appealed to the Federal Government to intervene in a hydro-electric scheme approved for Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area (WWHA).**

The Meander Valley Council gave the Fish River mini-hydro power station conditional approval in July.

A renewable energy proponent, G7 Generation Pty Ltd, is behind the project which will comprise six 1.5 megawatt pelton turbines connected to the Aurora power grid.

The project falls within the WWHA boundaries set in 2013.

Senator McKim has written to the Federal Environment Minister, Greg Hunt, asking him to assess the proposal.

He believes it will impact on values for which it was listed by the United Nations and which are protected under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act.

"In those circumstances it's really important that the Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt actually call in this project and subject it to a high-level assessment.

"On the face of it, any proposal to generate electricity within the World Heritage Area would, by its very nature, be likely to have an impact on the World Heritage values of the property.

"Whether it's access, whether that be by road or any other means, any potential clearing that may occur as part of this project or any other impact."

Senator McKim believes the council was unaware of the World Heritage status of this site when the decision was made and that the development application did not include reference to the WWHA.

Senator McKim said he wrote to the Minister a couple of days ago, but had yet to receive a reply.

Mr Hunt and the council have been contacted for comment.

**Topics:** environmental-management, environmental-impact national-parks, tas