



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**

**Minister for the Environment**

MC15-030501

Mr Andrew Ricketts  
Convenor  
The Environment Association Inc  
PO Box 261  
DELORAINIE TAS 7304

- 2 SEP 2015

Dear Mr Ricketts

I refer to your email of 3 August 2015 concerning the Fish River mini hydro power scheme proposed by G7 Generation, on Mersey Forest Road, Tasmania. As you are aware, the proposed location for the mini hydro power development is within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area 2013 extension.

I note your concerns regarding this proposal. I am advised that officers from the Department of the Environment have made contact with the developer, G7 Generation. As I understand it, this is one of several locations where the company considers a mini hydro power scheme could be developed. G7 Generation has been advised that, if their preference is to proceed with the proposal at Fish River within the World Heritage Area, referral for a decision under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the Act) is likely to be required.

G7 Generation has also been introduced to the Tasmanian Major Projects Approval Agency which has been established as part of the Australian Government's commitment to growing the Tasmanian economy. The role of the Agency is to identify all Commonwealth regulatory obligations that might be required when undertaking a development in Tasmania. If G7 Generation decides to proceed with the mini hydro power scheme at the Fish River location, the Agency will assist it to meet its obligations under the Act.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt