



# TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL CENTRE INC.

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20 June 2014

## **PRESS RELEASE – WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE TO VOTE TO SAVE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

### **TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY LOBBY WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

Two Tasmanian Aboriginal Community members are currently in Doha to lobby the World Heritage Committee in order to protect their sacred cultural landscape. In the next few days the WHC will vote on the Abbott government's plan to open 74,000 hectares of cultural landscape to logging operations which is currently protected under World Heritage status.

Ruth Langford, State Secretary of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and Rocky Sainty, Traditional Owner and long time campaigner for the protection of Aboriginal heritage, will ask the WHC to reiterate to the Australian Government, that a rigorous Cultural values assessment of the WHA must be undertaken in negotiation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

Ms Langford said "The Australian Government has denied our international human rights to participate in the management and protection of our tradition lands. To date, the Government has reneged on its 2013 promise to the World Heritage Committee to properly assess the Aboriginal cultural values of the WHA and to ensure that the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community be instrumental in this process."

"We have a continued relationship and custodianship of land which the global community says is of outstanding universal value. Our cries regarding our ability to add to the value of this story, is being ignored by the Australian Government. We are optimistic that the global community will support our appeal and shame the Government into action." Langford adds.

"It is shameful that the Abbott Government would seek to allow sacred burial sites and rock shelters with ochre hand stencils which are over 12 thousand years old, to be exposed to desecration by logging operations." Langford concludes

Contact whilst in Doha – Ruth Langford via email [tipruthanna@me.com](mailto:tipruthanna@me.com)

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