

**TAKAYNA  
/TARKINE  
NEEDS WORLD  
HERITAGE  
PROTECTION**



**BOB BROWN**  
FOUNDATION

**“Incredibly, the Tarkine, with its spectacular coastal scenery, rainforest, rare wildlife and remarkable Aboriginal heritage sites, still awaits official national park protection and World Heritage listing. These require a Labor or Liberal government to come good.”**

Tasmania's Tarkine wilderness is now celebrated around the world. It is a key part of the island's wilderness which is the single biggest attractant for Tasmania's burgeoning tourism and hospitality industries. Nowadays these are much more important to Tasmania's economy and job-creation than logging and mining combined. But, incredibly, the Tarkine, with its spectacular coastal scenery, rainforest, rare wildlife and remarkable Aboriginal heritage sites, still awaits official National Park protection and World Heritage listing. These require a Labor or Liberal government to come good. Our aim is to have the Tarkine protected and added to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area by 2020. In this way it will

become an outstanding beacon for northwest Tasmania's economy, job-creation and sense of pride in a world where wild and scenic beauty is both diminishing every day and at a greater premium every day. From the outset, we have also been working with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to achieve a greater win: the return of the Tarkine to the custody of its Traditional Owners. Who better to present this showplace to visitors than the Aboriginal people? More than three years of experience in the campaign so far has shown us that both goals - protection, and return to the Aboriginal people - are highly popular in Tasmania and beyond. So we invite you to join this uplifting campaign. Please do what you can

to help Tasmania's Tarkine get the recognition and ownership it deserves by 2020.



Bob Brown.



# TAKAYNA / TARKINE

**Australia's largest temperate rainforest is at the heart of one of the last, great wild places on Earth, a critical stronghold for endemic, rare and endangered species.**



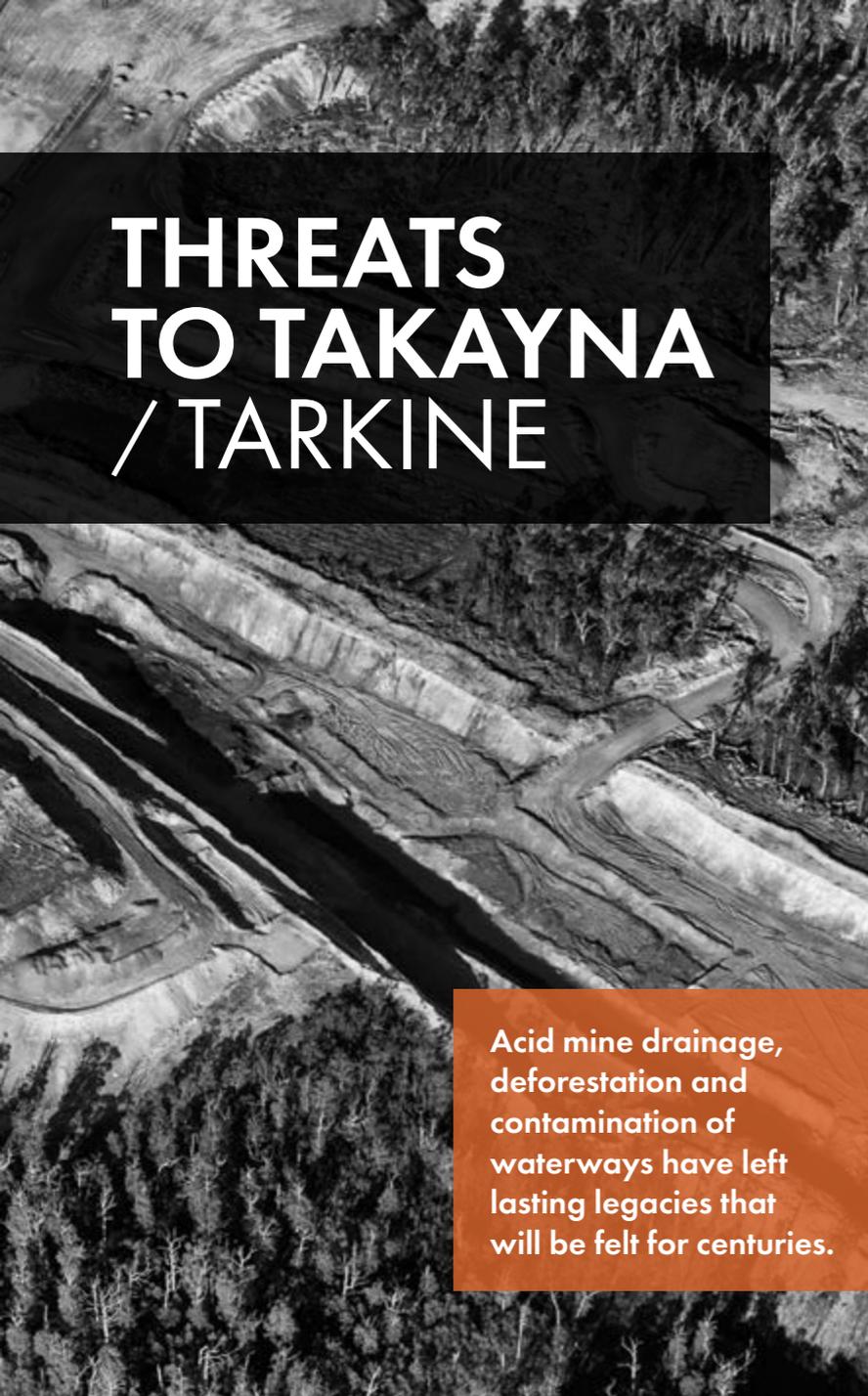
In the remote northwest corner of Australia's island state of Tasmania, takayna / Tarkine is a vast mosaic of ecosystems of 495 000 hectares.

Australia's largest temperate rainforest is at the heart of one of the last, great wild places on Earth, a critical stronghold for endemic, rare and endangered species.

Rainforest flanked rivers flow out to the wild western coastline, scoured by Earth's cleanest air carried in by the Roaring Forties. Waves propelled by winds unimpeded by any land mass between South America and Tasmania, roll onto this wild and ruggedly beautiful sweep of wilderness coast.

This coast is the National Heritage listed Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape, with priceless Aboriginal heritage values, including the greatest number, diversity and density of Aboriginal hut sites in Australia.

Extensive flowering coastal heaths and expansive treeless coastal plains rise to the distant rainforested hills and magnesite karst, unique in Australia and globally rare.



# THREATS TO TAKAYNA / TARKINE

Acid mine drainage, deforestation and contamination of waterways have left lasting legacies that will be felt for centuries.

Over 90% of the natural values of takayna / Tarkine are largely intact. Limited areas have been subjected to intensive logging and mining, mineral exploration, cattle grazing and off-road vehicle damage. These destructive activities pose ongoing threats to takayna / Tarkine's unique natural values and tens of thousands of years of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

## MINING

Mining and mineral exploration present major threats to takayna / Tarkine. Acid mine drainage, deforestation and contamination of waterways have left lasting legacies that will be felt for centuries. The increased difficulty of mining in high rainfall areas adds substantially to the risks and costs of mining in takayna / Tarkine, so when ore prices fall, mines are quickly abandoned, as with Shree Minerals' Nelson Bay River mine. Despite a strong community campaign opposing the mine development in an existing reserve, the mine opened in November 2013, only to be abandoned just seven months later citing ore price volatility.

Despite the risks and environmental concerns, there are a number of proposals for new open cut mines in takayna / Tarkine, including the proposed massive Venture Minerals Mt Lindsay mine. This rainforest mine involves plans to excavate a pit one and a half kilometres long and 220 metres deep, with tailings dams, waste rock dumps and associated infrastructure taking up an area equivalent to 420 Melbourne Cricket Grounds.

## LOGGING

Logging in takayna / Tarkine continues to destroy intact rainforests and tall eucalyptus forests, crucial habitat for endangered, rare and endemic wildlife. Contentiously sourced wood supplies rainforest timbers for Britton Brothers, and eucalyptus timber to the controversial Borneo logging giant Ta Ann and other state-based timber companies.

In addition to the 30 000 hectares of permanent logging zones in takayna / Tarkine there are 28 regional reserves and conservation areas covering 295 700 hectares. Logging, mining and off-road vehicle access is permitted in these reserves. In 2014 the Tasmanian government introduced legislation weakening the status of regional reserves and conservation areas, allowing them to be logged, including reserves protected since 1980 and assessed as National



In 2014 the Tasmanian government introduced legislation weakening the status of regional reserves and conservation areas, allowing them to be logged.



Heritage value by the Australian Heritage Council. Globally, temperate rainforests, like those found in takayna / Tarkine, are becoming increasingly rare and threatened by logging and other human activities.

**Logging these World Heritage value forests will have devastating impacts on the environment, climate and wildlife.**

Logging these World Heritage value forests will have devastating impacts on the environment, climate and wildlife. As intact forests across the globe become rarer, secure protection of these forested landscapes are a key component in mitigating global climate change.

Bob Brown Foundation is advocating for a rapid transition from native forest logging in Tasmania to plantations, and the protection of takayna / Tarkine's forests in secure conservation reserves.

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Off-road vehicles and 4WDs in takayna / Tarkine's Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape, have damaged Aboriginal heritage values over recent decades and caused irreversible damage to the cultural and natural values which have existed since time immemorial. In 2012 the Tasmanian government closed a small number of off-road vehicle tracks between Sandy Cape and the Pieman River, following extensive consultation and a

number of reports indicating that the tracks were causing irreparable damage to significant Aboriginal heritage sites. In 2014 a newly elected government reversed this decision, re-opening these tracks. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) challenged the decision, seeking an urgent injunction in the Federal Court. The interim application succeeded in late 2014 and the tracks remained closed. The Federal Court ruled in favour of TAC in March 2016 but the Tasmanian Government appealed against this decision and the Commonwealth Government joined the appeal.

The Full Court judgement, released in September 2016, confirmed that works required to open the tracks were 'actions' within the meaning of the EPBC Act but ordered that the case be sent back to Justice Mortimer for further consideration of whether opening the tracks would impact on more narrowly defined indigenous heritage values. TAC will continue to urge the Tasmanian government to abandon the proposal altogether. To date, no referral has been made and the tracks remain closed under Tasmanian law.

Despite this, 4WDs and off-road vehicles continue to use the tracks illegally.





# TAKAYNA / TARKINE WORLD HERITAGE IN WAITING

In 2012 the Australian Heritage Council recommended that 439 000 hectares in takayna / Tarkine be entered on the National Heritage List.

The rich cultural and natural values of takayna / Tarkine would add a major new component to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). World Heritage protection would recognise the outstanding universal values, including the largest area of cool temperate rainforest in the southern hemisphere, living reminders of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana and remnants of villages that bear testimony to the long habitation by Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Outstanding natural heritage attributes include the largest tract of intact cool temperate rainforest in Australia, extensive high-quality wilderness, expansive tracts of temperate moorland and heathland, habitat for in-situ conservation of biological diversity and geological and geomorphological evidence of Earth's history.

takayna / Tarkine has flora fossil sites on the Little Rapid River that are considered of international significance for research on climate and the history of vegetation. It has some of the best-preserved plant fossil sites in the world, dating back 65 million years ago. Magnesite karst systems

of caves and pinnacles are considered to be of international significance for their size and rarity. TWWHA is one of only two World Heritage sites on Earth to fulfil seven of UNESCO's ten criteria for Outstanding Universal Values. For each of the seven relevant criteria for Outstanding Universal Value, there are qualifying features in takayna / Tarkine that lie outside the current boundaries of the TWWHA.

## A NATIONAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

The Australian Heritage Council found takayna / Tarkine to be of outstanding National Heritage significance.

The Council found that the rainforests are important for their flora, which has links to the ancient continent of Gondwana, and their lichens and fossils, which help tell the story of Australia's ancient flora and its evolution. takayna / Tarkine also contains rare magnesite karst systems. Dotted along the coastline are the remains of numerous hut depressions found in Aboriginal shell middens.

The huts and middens are the remnants of an unusual and specialised Aboriginal way of life based on the hunting of seals and land mammals, and the gathering of shellfish.

In 2012 the Australian Heritage Council recommended that 439 000 hectares in takayna / Tarkine be entered on the National Heritage List.

In 2013 the Australian Government failed to list the full recommended 439 000 hectares. Instead, they listed 21 000 hectares of the takayna / Tarkine coast as the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape. Sadly, National Heritage listing has failed to ensure protection of the Aboriginal heritage values and they remain under damaging pressure from off-road vehicles.

**In 2013 the Australian Government failed to list the full recommended 439 000 hectares.**

# WHAT ARE THE WORLD HERITAGE & NATIONAL HERITAGE VALUES?

**Traditional use of coastal takayna dates back more than 10 000 years to the present, and the cultural resources are still in use today.**

## AN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

takayna / Tarkine has been the home of Tasmanian Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

Aboriginal people also used the hinterland, thick with tea tree scrub in a complex of swamps, to hunt wallabies, small marsupials, lizards and waterbirds and to gather plant foods.

Traditional use of coastal takayna dates back more than 10 000 years to the present, and the cultural resources are still in use today. Extensive scatters of stone artefacts, huge middens containing shells and bones of seals and marsupials, rock shelters, human burial sites, petroglyphs of geometric forms and stone arrangements, all add to the rich Aboriginal cultural heritage of takayna / Tarkine. At several locations on the coast there are outcrops that have been engraved by Tasmanian Aboriginal people. These petroglyphs are highly sensitive, both to the natural forces of erosion and to malicious vandalism.

The remote takayna / Tarkine coast has no less than 40 hut depression sites with the highest density of known hut sites on the west coast, including several villages of up to nine huts. These sites represent the best evidence of an Aboriginal economic adaptation which included the development of a semi-sedentary way of life with people moving seasonally up and down the northwest coast of Tasmania.

Globally significant values of the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape are under-recognised, inadequately protected and repeatedly disrespected. Cultural heritage values are degraded by a lack of funding, mismanagement, neglect and wilful abuse, including vehicular damage to middens, vandalism and theft.

In a Federal Court ruling that significant impact on the indigenous heritage values would occur if the government allowed off-road vehicle access to tracks between Sandy Cape and the Pieman River, Justice Mortimer stated, "The value of the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape is not to be found only in what can be seen at specific sites that have been identified through an incomplete survey



**Globally significant values of the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape are under-recognised, inadequately protected and repeatedly disrespected.**

of the area's archaeological history. The area has been recognised as having the value it does as an entire landscape: the whole of the area being identified as an area in which Aboriginal people lived, hunted, fished, traded and cared for their land in a way which was significantly more sedentary than the way of life adopted by Aboriginal people in other areas". ".... the alteration of the landscape and the intrusion into it of things foreign to its natural condition, and the characteristics it possessed when, for thousands of years, Aboriginal people lived in and from that landscape. By this, the outstanding heritage value of the area to the Australian nation as a whole is also damaged."

**These sites represent the best evidence of an Aboriginal adaptation which included the development of a semi-sedentary way of life with people moving seasonally up and down the coast of Tasmania.**



**Such largely undisturbed extensive tracts of cool temperate rainforest are extremely rare worldwide.**

## **THE LARGEST WILDERNESS DOMINATED BY RAINFOREST IN AUSTRALIA**

takayna / Tarkine contains the most extensive and least fragmented areas of cool temperate rainforests in Australia. Rainforest wilderness is extremely unusual and comprises only

a small percentage of all Australian wilderness. Such largely undisturbed extensive tracts of cool temperate rainforest are extremely rare worldwide, the only other remnants being in New Zealand, Chile, Siberia and western North America.

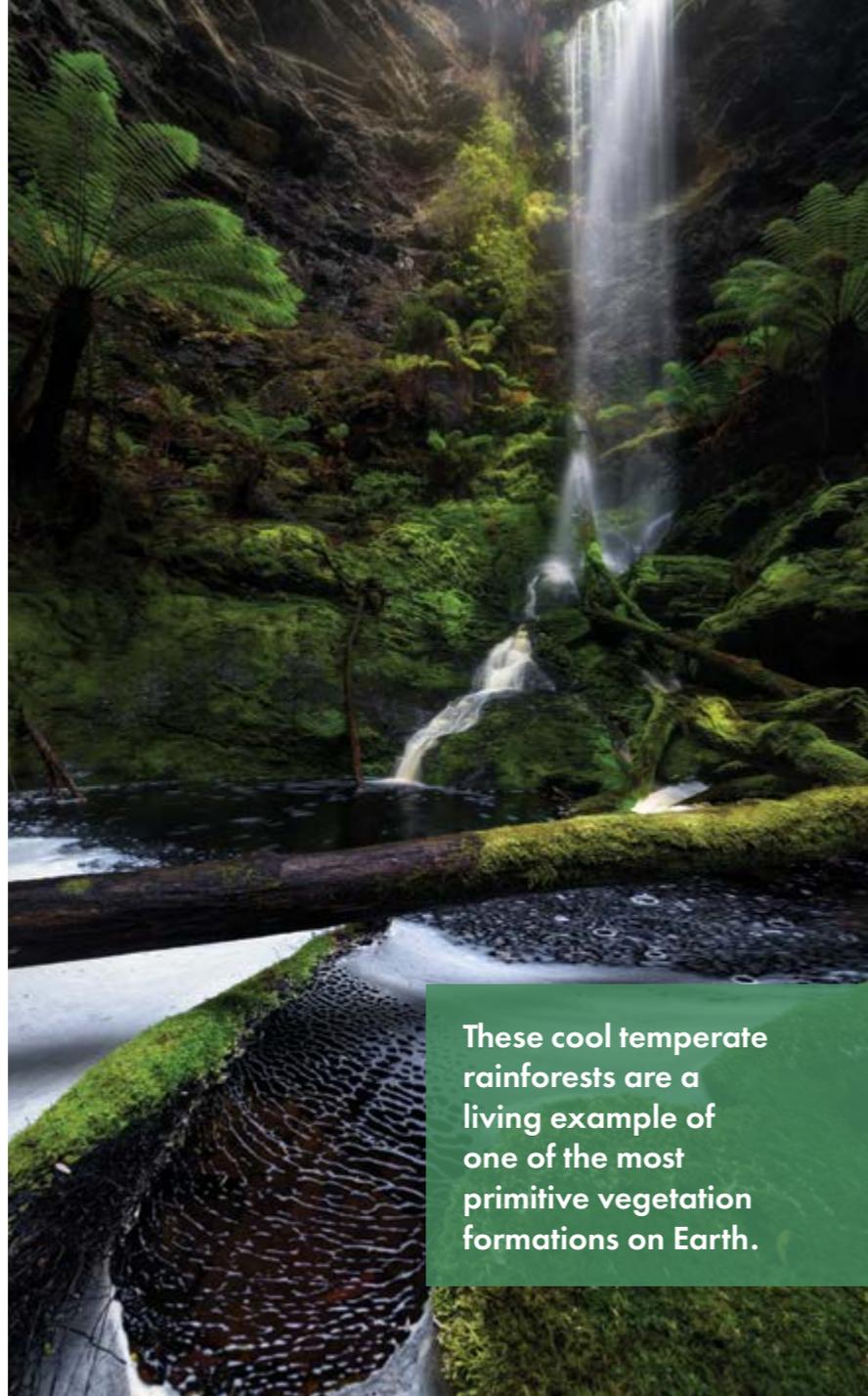
The largest occurrences of temperate rainforest wilderness are in the Savage River, Donaldson River, Meredith and Sumac wilderness areas. The Savage and Donaldson River areas constitute the

largest temperate rainforest wilderness area in Australia. Magnificent tall eucalypts are also a significant feature of takayna / Tarkine. These tall eucalypts are often intimately mixed with the temperate rainforest, a constant reminder of the dynamic interplay between these two great ecosystems.

## LIVING LINK TO THE SUPER CONTINENT GONDWANA

takayna / Tarkine represents an extraordinary fragment of the temperate rainforests that were once widespread across the Gondwana landmass, providing a unique window into our planet's ancient past. These cool temperate rainforests are a living example of one of the most primitive vegetation formations on Earth. Many plants found in takayna / Tarkine are Gondwanan species, including the myrtle, leatherwood and celery-top pine. Further evidence for these links is found in the amazing fossils that have been discovered within takayna / Tarkine, including one of the most important fossil deposits in Australia, providing evolutionary plant history dating back 65 million years.

There are very few truly wild, large tracts of country left on Earth where ongoing evolutionary processes can continue unimpeded as they have done over many millions of years – takayna / Tarkine is one of those places.



**These cool temperate rainforests are a living example of one of the most primitive vegetation formations on Earth.**

**takayna / Tarkine supports around 5 - 6% of the global population of the endangered Hooded Plover and all of these birds are at risk from 4WDs driving on beaches.**



Hooded Plover

## DIVERSITY OF SPECIES

Rich in terrestrial mammals, land and freshwater birds, reptiles, frogs and freshwater fish, there are sixteen species found nowhere else on Earth and fifty rare and endangered species of flora and fauna found in takayna / Tarkine. It is critical habitat for the endangered Tasmanian Devil and a global stronghold for the Spotted-tailed Quoll.

*Astacopsis gouldi*, the world's largest freshwater lobster, is found only in northern Tasmania, with the pristine rivers of takayna / Tarkine a vital stronghold

for this threatened giant. These incredible creatures have lived safely in takayna / Tarkine since the age of the dinosaurs but now face major threats including habitat loss, poaching and siltation of their rivers from logging and mining.

There are 132 species of birds from the coast to the mountains and forests. Ten of Tasmania's twelve endemic birds are found here, including the elusive Ground Parrot. The critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot breeds in South-West Tasmania and migrates along the west coast, foraging on coastal plants. The takayna / Tarkine forests are essential habitat for

the conservation of endangered and endemic birds like the Grey Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle and Masked Owl.

Hooded Plovers are one of the four resident shorebirds present year-round on the takayna / Tarkine coast.

**There are sixteen species found nowhere else on Earth and fifty rare and endangered species of flora and fauna found in takayna / Tarkine.**



Spotted-tailed Quoll



Astacopsis gouldi



Tasmanian devil



Tasmanian Wedge Tailed Eagle

Hooded Plovers are a federally listed threatened species with their numbers decreasing rapidly. Along the coast between the Pieman river and Studland Bay, the remote shore supports a minimum of 75 breeding pairs of Hooded Plovers. Given the estimated population of Eastern Hooded Plovers is around 2500 birds, this area supports around 5 - 6% of the global population of the EPBC-listed species, and all of these birds are at risk from 4WDs driving on beaches.

Eight of Tasmania's eleven frog species have been recorded in takayna / Tarkine rainforests, including Tasmania's endemic Tasmanian Tree Frog that is restricted to Western Tasmania. Two threatened species, the Green and Golden Frog and the Striped Marsh Frog, occur in coastal lagoons, marshes and swamps of the Arthur-Pieman plains.

**takayna / Tarkine is critical habitat for the endangered Tasmanian Devil, Masked Owl, and Wedge-tailed Eagle.**



# NO ECONOMY WITHOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Tasmania's wilderness, wildlife and natural scenery are the number one reasons visitors are drawn to the island, injecting millions into the economy. Tasmania's award-winning tourism industry supports thousands of Tasmanian jobs.

In 2013, takayna / Tarkine topped CNN Travel magazine's list of the world's last great wilderness areas. Northwest Tasmania is waiting

to reap the benefits of the tourism boom driving Tasmania's economy. A protected takayna / Tarkine, with environmentally sensitive tourism, would bring the tourism boom to this regional economy. The Tarkine brand, synonymous with pristine, clean and high-quality, is already being used by the fine food industry.

**Tasmania's wilderness, wildlife and natural scenery are the number one reason visitors are drawn to the island.**

# WHAT IS BOB BROWN FOUNDATION DOING?

**ACTION FOR EARTH**  
to protect Australia's  
wild and scenic natural  
places of ecological  
and global significance.

**Bob Brown Foundation**  
is taking action to protect  
takayna / Tarkine in the  
following ways:

## **NATIONWIDE ADVOCACY**

We are leading a national campaign, with campaigners in Tasmania and Victoria, volunteer action group in Melbourne, events around the country and lobbying of Federal Parliamentarians to protect takayna / Tarkine.

## **FOREST DEFENDERS**

Our campaigns on the frontline for forest protection include conservation camps in forests threatened by imminent logging, surveying and documenting threatened logging areas and their high conservation values.

## **TARKINE IN MOTION**

One of Australia's biggest environmental arts projects, over the last three years we have hosted more than 300 artists in takayna / Tarkine, immersing them in the wilderness to create unique works of art - paintings, photographs, films, song, drawings and more - to share with the world.

## **BIOBLITZ**

Each year Tarkine BioBlitz brings together one-hundred volunteer scientists, experts, naturalists and members of the public for a weekend of discovery, biodiversity surveys and fun in a festival of science in nature. BioBlitz catalogues the biodiversity of takayna / Tarkine adding to the scientific knowledge of this region.

## **COUNTRY, CULTURE, SPIRIT**

We are collaborating with Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to advocate for secure protection of takayna / Tarkine and tell the story of Tasmanian Aborigines' living cultural connection to the National Heritage listed, Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.

## **TARKINE TRAILS / TAKAYNA MAKUMINYA**

Our best-selling guide to touring and walking in takayna / Tarkine, the definitive book for adventurers to the Tarkine. Our Foundation published this welcome to one of Australia's least known but most beautiful natural and cultural treasures.

## **TRANS TARKINE TRACK**

The Trans Tarkine Track is a proposal for a new ten day walk, set to be one of the world's great wilderness adventures. A positive economic alternative to mining and logging in the region. Our Foundation has developed a feasibility study

for this proposed multiday walk. This exciting proposal is for a 100 km walk through temperate rainforest, across button grass moorlands, over the Norfolk Range, and along the wild coastline, all the while embracing Tasmania's ancient Aboriginal heritage. The journey concludes with a cruise from the North Pieman Head to the eco-village of Corinna. Once operational, the Trans Tarkine Track will be the longest wilderness foot-track in Tasmania, incorporating ten purpose-built campsites.

If you want to discuss further  
please contact our Campaign  
Manager Jenny Weber  
jenny@bobbrown.org.au  
0427 366 929



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Australian Government,  
Department of Sustainability,  
Environment, Water, Population  
and Communities, Australian  
Heritage Database, National  
Heritage List, The Tarkine.  
[environment.gov.au/heritage/  
organisations/australian-heritage-council/  
national-heritage-assessments/tarkine](http://environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations/australian-heritage-council/national-heritage-assessments/tarkine)

Department of the Environment,  
Australian Government 2013, National  
Heritage Places – Western Tasmania  
Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.  
[environment.gov.au/heritage/places/  
national/western-tasmania](http://environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/western-tasmania) Sims, P. 2013,  
'No Reprieve for Tasmanian Rock Art',  
Arts, vol. 2 [http://www.mdpi.com/2076-  
0752/2/4/182](http://www.mdpi.com/2076-0752/2/4/182)

[tourismtasmania.com.au/\\_\\_data/assets/  
pdf\\_file/0019/36550/First-time-and-  
repeat-visitor-snapshot.pdf](http://tourismtasmania.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/36550/First-time-and-repeat-visitor-snapshot.pdf)

Law, G. 2009, Western Tasmania,  
A place of outstanding universal value,  
Proposed extensions to the Tasmanian  
Wilderness World Heritage Area.  
[tas.greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/  
Western%20Tasmania%20A%20Place%20  
of%20Outstanding%20Universal%20  
Value%20.pdf](http://tas.greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Western%20Tasmania%20A%20Place%20of%20Outstanding%20Universal%20Value%20.pdf)

The Wilderness Society, 2015,  
Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage  
Area Proposed Extensions

### **Many thanks to our photographers:**

Nicole Anderson, Rob Blakers,  
Dan Broun, Tim Cooper, Laurie Davison,  
Rod Hartvigsen, Paul Hoelen,  
Matthew Newton, Steven Pearce,  
Jenny Schorta, Russell Shakespeare,  
Hillary Younger, Alan Long,  
EJ Woehler, Andrew Knott,  
Arwen Dyer and Russell Shakespeare.



**BOB BROWN**  
FOUNDATION

[bobbrown.org.au](http://bobbrown.org.au)  
[contact@bobbrown.org.au](mailto:contact@bobbrown.org.au)  
[fb.com/Bob.Brown.Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/Bob.Brown.Foundation)  
[@BobBrownFndn](https://www.facebook.com/BobBrownFndn)

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste