



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

29 NOVEMBER 1988

**WORLD HERITAGE LISTING OF TASMANIAN FORESTS**

I am pleased to announce that the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments have agreed to nominate jointly for World Heritage Listing large areas of the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests, as decided by the Commonwealth on 4 August 1988. The Walls of Jerusalem National Park and the Central Plateau Conservation Area will also be jointly nominated for World Heritage Listing by the two governments.

The Denison Spires, commonly known as the Hole in the Doughnut, will be declared a State National Park under Tasmanian legislation.

Magnificent tall trees in the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests will now be preserved forever for the enjoyment of future generations.

Today's announcement follows my Government's decisions to nominate for World Heritage Listing Kakadu National Park Stage 2, NSW Rainforests, Uluru and the Wet Tropics of North East Queensland. In a world threatened by environmental degradation Australia is now showing the way in the conservation of nature.

Achieving the agreement of the State Government to joint nomination of these areas of Tasmania is a tremendous result, one about which both governments can take a great deal of satisfaction.

I pay tribute to Premier Gray and his colleagues for the manner and spirit in which they approached the negotiations.

Our two governments share the objective of maximising job opportunities in Tasmania. To this end the Commonwealth is providing a \$50 million package over five years for plantation development, timber industry training, access to alternative veneer resources and other industry development initiatives as prescribed in the industry agreement reached by Senator Cook and Mr Groom.

The Commonwealth has also agreed, in principle, to give an export licence to Huon Forest Products at a smaller level than that requested, and is requiring that operations by Australian Paper Manufacturers and Tasmanian Pulp and Forest Products at Triabunna do not receive significantly smaller allocations from the State Government.

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The agreement is attached. It meets very well the Commonwealth's objectives of environmental protection and job creation in Tasmania. It should not be seen as a win or a loss for any party in the debate. But it is a victory for environmental protection and the responsible development of our natural resources.

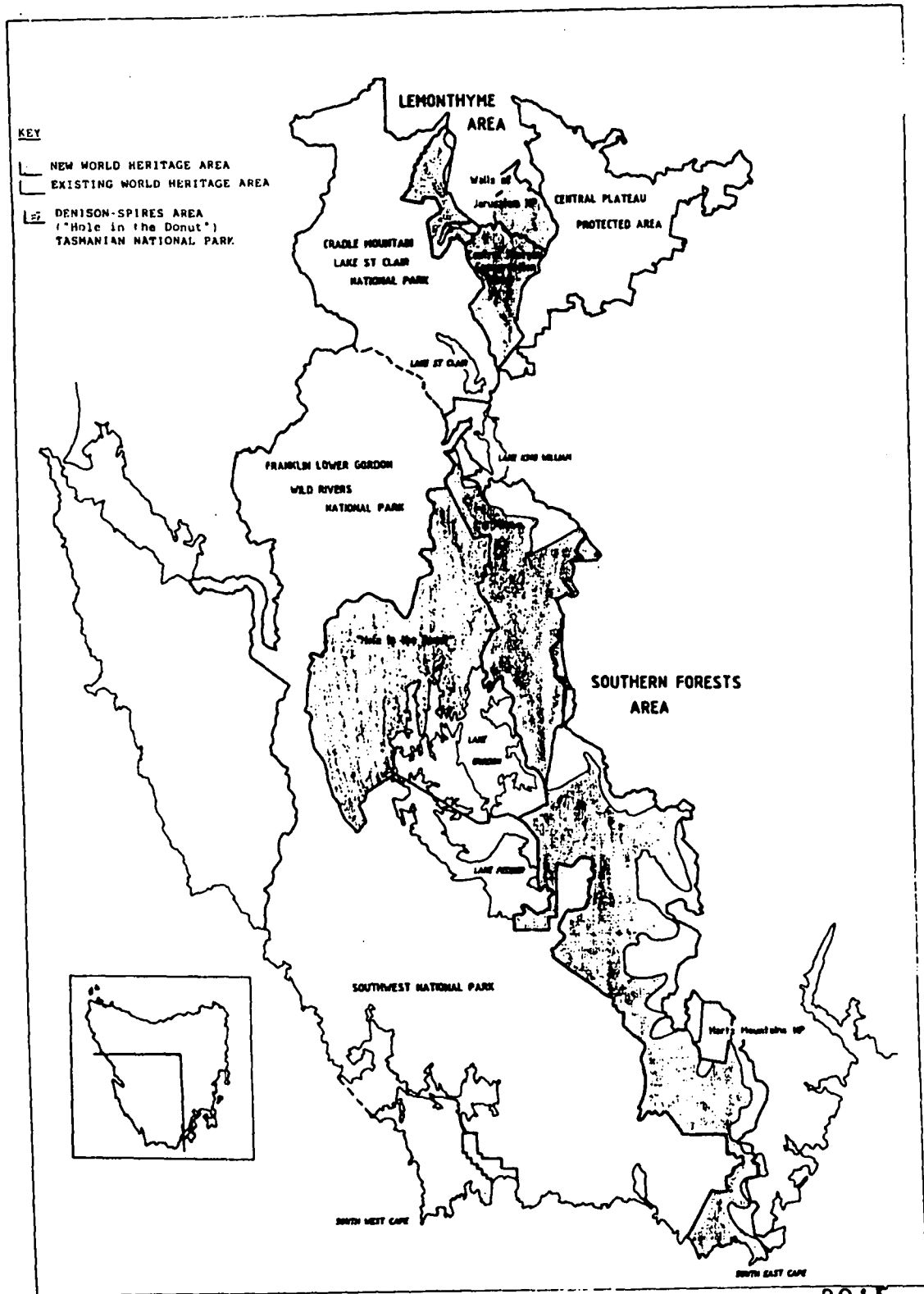
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**HEADS OF AGREEMENT**

**28 NOVEMBER 1988**

These Heads of Agreement record understandings and undertakings reached between the Commonwealth and the State of Tasmania in relation to the resolution of the issues arising out of the Lemnathyme and Southern Forests Inquiry and other matters.

It is hereby agreed between the Commonwealth and the State of Tasmania that:

- 1) Apart from the Denison Spires, the area commonly known as the "Hole in the Doughnut", those areas specified by the Commonwealth Government's Decision of 4 August 1988 (see Attachment A) will be jointly nominated by the Commonwealth and the State for World Heritage listing. Questions relating to the management, funding and related matters are to be the subject of further discussion. The Commonwealth will provide funding support, the precise level being the subject of further discussion, in the normal context of the current management arrangements for the existing World Heritage Area.
- 2) The Hole in the Doughnut is to be the subject of State protection as a National Park under Tasmanian legislation.

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- 3) The Commonwealth will provide the proposed Huon Forest Products Woodchip Mill with a woodchip export licence to permit Huon Forest Products to operate at a wood intake of not less than 350,000 tonnes per annum of roundwood and up to 400,000 tonnes per annum of roundwood as available on a sustained yield basis, plus such quantities as can be realised from other sources on a short term basis, such as fire damaged material, plantation establishment, sawmill residues, etc.

It is agreed that the allocation to Australian Paper Manufacturers will be at 185,000 tonnes per annum of roundwood and that the Tasmanian Pulp and Forest Products Triabunna Woodchip Mill will receive roundwood allocations at a level not less than 775,000 tonnes per annum.

- 4) The Commonwealth agrees to an increase in the sustainable yield of pulpwood from Tasmanian forests to the level assessed by the Tasmanian Forestry Commission, being 790,000 tonnes of roundwood per annum above the level agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 5) The Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments share the objective of maintaining a viable veneer industry. To this end, both Governments agree to work jointly to develop access to alternative veneer resource (outside the agreed World Heritage boundaries), new products and new markets. The Commonwealth agrees to provide funds to enable this to occur.

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- 6) As a result of the reduced availability of sawlogs for the milling industry consequent upon listing of the area in paragraph 1, the Commonwealth will assist the State with the rationalisation and reconstruction of the forest industry. The Commonwealth will make available funding for this purpose from the agreed package as detailed in paragraph 8 below. The manner in which this assistance is to be applied will be the subject of further discussion between the two Governments.
- 7) To encourage the identification, segregation and recovery of veneer grade material, the Commonwealth will make available a bounty of \$10 per cubic metre for veneer logs produced and delivered to Tasmanian veneer mills. This figure is subject to variation after an assessment of its effectiveness.
- 8) The Commonwealth will make available, in a manner to be agreed between the two Governments, over a five year period beginning on 1 January 1989, a package totalling \$50 million, including:
  - up to \$30 million to be paid to the State in five equal instalments and to be expended by the State for plantations and for other suitable developments agreed by the Commonwealth and the State consistent with the forestry development elements of the Cook/Groom package (a copy of which is at Attachment B).
  - \$5 million for timber industry training, development, marketing and design, including specialised training in furniture and craft design and manufacture.

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an untied grant of \$8 million, payable before 30 June 1989, to offset sunk costs of forest roading and management planning incurred by the Tasmanian Forestry Commission.

the balance to be provided for the purposes outlined in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above and for other agreed purposes.

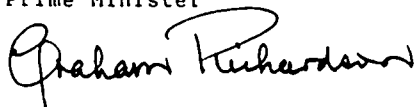
- 9) The Commonwealth and State endorse the elements of the Cook/Groom package at Attachment B.
- 10) The Commonwealth agrees that the elements of the package detailed above will be quarantined for the purposes of assessing Tasmania's entitlements to all other forms of Commonwealth financial assistance, including without limitation Financial Assistance Grants, the Loan Council Program, Global Borrowing Authority and any specific purpose payments.
- 11) The Prime Minister has invited the State to submit a list of proposals identifying activities with substantial ongoing Commonwealth employment which the State considers to be capable of being moved to Tasmania. The Prime Minister undertakes, if such proposals are practicable, to take up the matter positively with Ministers, Departments and Agencies.
- 12) The Commonwealth undertakes not to initiate any further inquiries into forestry in Tasmania or to propose any other areas of Tasmania for World Heritage listing without the concurrence of the Tasmanian Government.

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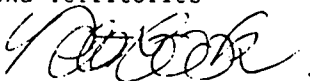
- 13) The Commonwealth agrees that logging can continue in National Estate areas subject to the consultative arrangements at present in place or those agreed between the Commonwealth and the State from time to time such as the proposed Tasmanian Forests Agreement.



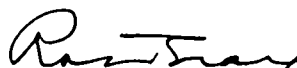
(R.J.L. Hawke)  
Prime Minister



(Graham Richardson)  
Minister for the Arts, Sport,  
the Environment, Tourism  
and Territories



(Peter Cook)  
Minister for Resources



(Robin Gray)  
Premier of Tasmania



(R.J. Groom)  
Minister for Forests