



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The Government has formally nominated about 262,000 hectares of South West Tasmania for World Heritage Listing. The nomination adds to the existing World Heritage site some 80 per cent of the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests inquiry area, together with the Walls of Jerusalem National Park and the Central Plateau Conservation Area.

The combined area, to be known as the Tasmanian World Heritage area, will exceed one million hectares. This is equivalent to one-seventh of the land mass of Tasmania.

The nomination is fully supported by the Tasmanian Government. Premier Gray has signed a letter with me, jointly transmitting the nomination to the World Heritage Committee.

Achieving the agreement of the State Government to joint nomination provides an additional measure of protection for the areas.

The new areas nominated contain large pristine tall forest ecosystems, together with superlative examples of wilderness, rainforest, alpine ecosystems and glacial landscapes. They also contain rare and endangered species and a number of sites of major Aboriginal cultural significance.

This is a landmark decision in the conservation of Australia's unique and fragile natural heritage. It follows my Government's successful nomination to the World Heritage List of the Wet Tropics of Queensland, the New South Wales Rainforests, Uluru and Stage II of Kakadu National Park.

Australia has done more than any other country for the conservation of nature through the World Heritage Convention, as acknowledged recently by the World Heritage advisory body.