



MEDIA RELEASE

UPPER FLORENTINE HAS NO WORLD HERITAGE VALUE ACCORDING TO IUCN AND UNESCO

Protestors in the Upper Florentine valley are being misled by the Wilderness Society and Green politicians.

They are being told that world heritage values exist, when official documents relating to the extension of the Tasmanian Wilderness Area show the opposite.

In a report compiled in 1989 by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) concluded that the revised boundary "*fully meets the reservations indicated earlier by IUCN and expressed in the Bureau's recommendation.*"

The report went on to say that "*Specific suggestions for adjustments of the eastern boundary reviewed during the IUCN field inspection have now been incorporated*"

"As Christine Milne claims to be a Vice President of the IUCN it is the height of hypocrisy for her to now claim there are World Heritage Values outside the boundaries of the listed WHA reserve." Mr. Chipman, State Manager of Timber Communities Australia said today.

The report available from UNESCO's World Heritage web site (link below) makes it clear that UNESCO and the IUCN recognises that outside the boundaries of the WHA "*extractive forestry operations*" will occur with "*clear cutting and road building*" under the application of the Forest Practices Code will take place.

Whilst the IUCN (an international green lobby group) recognised there could be a reduction in visual quality and wilderness values it was satisfied that these activities would not diminish the WHA or its values.

The World Heritage Area (WHA) is fully secure and is not threatened by the small scale harvesting operations occurring in outside the WHA, nor is the one million hectares of old growth forest that the Prime Minister and the Premier reserved in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Wilderness Society should tell its protestors that the Florentine is not pristine wilderness, that it was part of the concession granted to Australian Newsprint Mills (part owned by News Corp and Davies Brothers) and has been subject to timber harvesting for over half a century.

"This protest is more about marketing to fund raise for the failed election campaign than saving high conservation value forest."

The Greens and the Wilderness Society should be promoting the all ready listed World Heritage Wilderness rather than trying to stop ordinary Tasmanians going about their lawful jobs. Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends

For more information contact Barry Chipman on 6260 4442