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National Biodiversity Response

PO Box 1715

Tamworth NSW 2340

Dear Sir/Madam

Please be advised that this response is the Tasmanian Government's response to the call for public comment on *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 -2020 (Consultation Draft)*.

Tasmania has been actively involved in the Task Force that has developed the draft and has generally supported it through the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC). As a consequence, the Tasmanian Government is generally in basic agreement with the broad direction of the strategy.

The consultation draft provides a useful framework to governments and stakeholders to achieve improved biodiversity outcomes by identifying a short list of main threats to Australia's biodiversity and indicating six clear priorities for change. There are however a few issues that we are concerned with.

The strategy requires annual reporting on a significant number of actions, however the level of reporting and the format has not been specified. Our concern is that the level of reporting required could be out of proportion to any benefit. We also note that the reporting activities could duplicate other reporting activities such as State of the Environment reporting.

I also note that several of the Strategy's actions are not feasible in the time frame provided. The priority actions for the first two years include *...prepare and implement plans for biodiversity conservation at all levels...* and *...review and reform legislation to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes*. Neither of these commitments could be achieved in the time frame specified and any such commitment is bound to fail.

Finally, I would like to recognise the work that has been achieved by the Task Force. I believe that the strategy represents a significant step forward for biodiversity conservation in Australia and will assist all jurisdictions in responding to the challenges. I look forward to seeing the report of the outcomes of the public comment phase.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Evans
Secretary