



## Context

Speaking with your Federal MP in the coming days could be a significant action to take to protect takayna / Tarkine.

The decision to allow MMG to undertake 14km of roading, clearing and drilling was withdrawn by the former Liberal Environment Minister just days from the election.

After the election, this decision is now with ALP's new Environment Minister. With a wave of voters wanting climate action and with increased Green and Independent crossbench members and Senators, we have a unique opportunity to secure a win-win outcome for rainforests, Tasmania's Masked Owls, the climate and employment.

You can ask your MP to pass on your concerns to the Environment Minister at this crucial time. They can pass your concerns on via email, a meeting, or a phone call.

## Tips for calling an MP's office.

- State your name and let the person answering the phone that the MP you're calling is your representative.
- Ask to speak with your MP. If they are not available leave a message and request that it be passed on.
- Don't rush and don't worry about impatient staff – stay relaxed, clear and polite.
- Be aware that it is unlikely that you will be able to speak with them, but the staffer who answers the phone is obligated to pass your message on. You can also request a call back from the MP.

- Thank them for passing on the message.
- If you are speaking with the MP and they have just been re-elected or newly elected – start with congratulations.
- Your key request is that the MP pass on your request that new Environment Minister declare the MMG proposal a controlled action and clearly unacceptable.
- Once talking with the MP or their staffer, explain the problem (see a script below) and ask if the MP would contact the environment minister on your behalf.
- You don't need to be an expert – all you need to do is speak from the heart! We have all the evidence you need to support your views. If you would like, you can offer to forward our six-page report to the minister.
- Ask for the MP to get back to you, confirming when they have passed your message on. If you haven't heard from them by the end of the week, it is okay to call back and check in.
- Be quick but not rushed. Use the time efficiently. You are passionate but nobody has time for waffling. Your message is more likely to get passed on if you are polite, succinct and to the point.
- Remember to be incredibly polite and positive, regardless of who your MP is – you want to leave a good impression on them and their staff.
- Make sure to thank them – they are likely very busy.

**Email us and let us know how you went.**





May 2022. Rob Blakers

One of the resident Tasmanian Masked Owls inside forests directly threatened by MMG's tailings waste dump.

## SCRIPT

**"Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ [suburb/electorate]. I was hoping to speak to \_\_\_\_\_ [MP full name] briefly about the takayna / Tarkine rainforest in Tasmania."**

if they are unavailable, ask if you could leave a message or have them return your call.

**"I am calling today about the Tarkine. The new Environment Minister \_\_\_\_\_ is due to hand down their decision on the MMG roading, clearing and drilling operations in the Tarkine rainforest in Tasmania. I know this isn't a local issue, but I am one of your voters and I care deeply about this rainforest because \_\_\_\_\_ [explain briefly why you are passionate about the issue]."**

INSERT here the key points you are comfortable with talking about. See our prompts below.

**"As your constituent, I would like you to make a note of my opposition to this project, and pass it on to the new Environment Minister via email, letter or phone call."**

**"I would also like to hear back from \_\_\_\_\_ [Local MP name] to hear confirmation that my message has been passed on to the Environment Minister."**

**"My contact details are \_\_\_\_\_."**

**"Thank you, and have a lovely day!"**



## Key points:

- The decision by the former environment minister was in error. An opportunity now exists to right this wrong.
- On 13 May 2022, Minister Ley, through her Assistant Secretary, wrote to the Bob Brown Foundation agreeing to reconsider her approval of MMG's roading and drilling works in the forest.
- The referral being reconsidered relates to 14 km of road building and forest clearing for 165 drill sites. Clearing for Investigation Bores, Penetrometer Tests, Monitoring Bores, and Test Pits. This will completely destroy the integrity of this landscape before it is even determined whether the area is feasible for their toxic waste dump.
- Bob Brown Foundation's own research about the impact to the Tasmanian Masked Owls these forests are critical breeding habitat for the Owls. Our science team has sighted the owls and collected more than 400 passive audio recordings of it calling in the night, including begging calls which indicate young owls and therefore breeding in the forest.
- Australia's leading experts on Masked Owls support our evidence and state. They state that works proposed in this referral being reconsidered by the Minister, "would absolutely constitute a significant impact on the species due to the very high likelihood of nest abandonment and breeding failure due to encroachment on the nest area, noise and light disturbance".
- MMG plans to pump 25million m3 of mine waste from its Rosebery mine over the Pieman River and dump it into ancient rainforest habitat. This proposed tailings waste dump must be prohibited from destroying takayna / Tarkine.
- Imminently threatened are 285 hectares of rainforest and melaleuca woodlands in an area verified with National and World Heritage values. These forests are vital storehouses of carbon and home for endangered species like Tasmanian Masked Owls, the Tasmanian Devil and Spotted-tailed Quoll."
- MMG's own reports show their proposed tailings dam will destroy 285 hectares of rainforest and melaleuca forest, to accommodate their 140 hectares of tailings dams and pits.
- Chinese state-owned MMG has an alternative. They could employ world's best practice 'paste fill' technology that combines the tailings with concrete and injects it back into the mine voids. This locks the waste where it came from and increases the stability of the mine. Doing the right thing and building a paste fill plant would also increase employment at the mine. The Tasmanian Masked Owls breeding in these forests have no alternative.
- MMG's own report highlights impacts on Wedge-tailed eagle, Masked owl, Tasmanian devil and Spotted tail quoll, and possible impacts on Grey Goshawk and Azure kingfisher. In a biodiversity crisis, this is unacceptable.
- A win-win outcome is available. Not one job need be at stake. Nor should the rainforests or Masked Owls, who have no alternative, be at stake. MMG has been considering options for more than a decade. Besides the owls, Gondwanan callidendrous rainforest with 500-year-old myrtles, ridge knolls of tall hollow-bearing eucalyptus and low-lying melaleuca tea tree forest will be destroyed if the waste dump goes ahead.