



Tasmania



MINISTER for  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER for the ARTS

SUBMISSION .....36.....

Mr Quinton Clements  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the  
National Capital and External Territories  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- 5 JUL 2004

Dear Mr Clements

Tasmania made a formal submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories addressing the *Inquiry into the Adequacy of Funding for Australia's Antarctic Program*. Following this submission, I appeared before a hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories that was held in Hobart.

The Tasmanian Government would like to make a supplementary submission to this Inquiry. Please find attached additional information for members of the Joint Standing Committee. This information relates to funds expended by the Tasmanian Government on scientific activities and management of Macquarie Island.

The attached table summarises the financial and in-kind contributions that the Tasmanian Government has made over a five-year period in supporting scientific programs and undertaking management activities on Macquarie Island.

The Tasmanian Government urges the members of the Joint Standing Committee to recommend that sufficient funding be provided to the Australian Antarctic Division to secure the continued provision of logistic support for Macquarie Island. This surety is required for the long-term continuation of monitoring programs and management activities undertaken on Macquarie Island.

I would be pleased to provide additional information to the Inquiry if it assists with the deliberations of the Joint Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely

Lara Giddings MHA  
Minister for Economic Development

## Tasmanian Government Expenditure for Management and Scientific Programs on Macquarie Island

- The Tasmanian Government has previously allocated a total of \$2.67 million over a five-year period to Macquarie Island management and scientific programs. This equates to an annual allocation of \$534,000.
- The Feral Cat Eradication Program was successfully concluded in 2003.
- Management plans for Macquarie Island and introduced species will be completed in 2004.
- In forthcoming years, substantial programs will be introduced to address the eradication of rats and rabbits.

Expenditure Description	Amount	Comments
Macquarie Island Management	\$180,000 pa	Executive Officer Fulltime Ranger Operational Budget
	\$50,000 pa	Tourism Ranger (4 months pa) & shipping costs
	\$20,000 pa	District Manager – South East District (0.25 FTE)
Macquarie Island Science Program Macquarie Island Research Advisory Group (MIRAG)	\$43,000 pa	Undertakes assessment of all Macquarie Island scientific research proposals and advises on conservation management. Expenditure comprises of salaries for Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) specialists and a Nature Conservation Manager that is allocated to the MIRAG.
Albatross Program	\$7,000 pa	Component of salary allocated to Macquarie Island Albatross Project supervision (0.1 FTE)
Sub-Antarctic Plant House at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG)	In-kind contribution	RTBG provides plant research facilities to the scientists for studying sub-Antarctic plants of Macquarie Island and Heard Island.
Heritage Management	\$10,000 pa	Heritage Officer, Department of Tourism Parks, Heritage and Arts (0.1 FTE)
Feral Cat Eradication Program	\$1,000,000 project funding	Total Tasmanian Government contribution over 5 years Average of 6-8 program staff and 2 tracker dogs deployed on Macquarie Island Funds were provided as matching funds for National Heritage Trust (NHT) funding
Macquarie Island Management Plan	\$120,000 project funding	Project Officer (2 years – 2003/2004) Project funds expended over 2 years