

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 41
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: TASMANIAN UPPER FLORENTINE FOREST
Hansard Page: 24
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Is it true that the Tasmanian Upper Florentine forest meets seven out of 10 of the World Heritage criteria?

Dr Dripps: I am aware that the areas that have been proposed to be included in the area of the delisting contain logging cribs and degraded areas. In terms of meeting seven out of the 10 criteria for World Heritage listing, I would have to take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: I guess what I would ask is which specific criteria is it currently recognised as meeting. I would like you to take that on notice as well, if you can.

Answer:

The Upper Florentine meets the four natural criteria used by the World Heritage Committee to assess whether a place has Outstanding Universal Value:

- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Cultural values were not assessed in the 2013 minor boundary modification.