

# Nothing like our wilderness

I'VE heard it said by more than one would-be developer that to keep our conservation and wilderness areas "locked up" is selfish and backward. Selfish because only those who can sail in or walk in can enjoy these globally unique places. Backward because they're not making any money out of it. I disagree.

I've travelled internationally and there is nothing like our wilderness. Sadly, the voices of the developers and lure of easy money have led our Premier to attempt to crowbar the word "wilderness" out of the Tasmanian lexicon. Where is the responsible stewardship of these areas when the government has openly advertised for commercial exploitation? Where is the wilderness experience for those who can't afford or decide not to pay for the flight to the island retreat? An estimated 240 helicopter flights a year will destroy any suggestion of being in the wilderness, so at least the Premier will have cause to smile.

These areas belong to the people, they are not unexploited resources waiting for investment nor the pathway for our public servants to return to power at the next election. It seems to me the only people not benefiting from this is everyone else.

**Phil Long**  
Margate

## Noise pollution

I WAS very saddened to hear about the go-ahead for the development at Lake Malbena in the Walls of Jerusalem National Park in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. How does the environment benefit from the proposed development and the hundreds of helicopter flights each year? How do other park users seeking to experience quiet nature away from mechanical noise pollution benefit from the proposed development? How

long will it take before we understand the land is not there for us to exploit and profit from, that we do not have a right to develop and degrade the precious few wild lands that still remain, and that public lands should not be used for private profit?

**Michael Roberts**  
South Hobart

## Bugger the quiet

THE decision to allow a fly-in, fly-out boutique fishing camp in a national park seems a bit bizarre. This camp will put money in the pockets of a handful of people while bugging up the quiet contemplation of nature for those who get off their bums to walk into these areas. If the fishermen are rich enough to charter helicopters and pay top dollar to stay in the wilderness, surely they're rich enough to take a few extra days off work and walk in to do some fishing. No doubt there are plenty of other developments in the pipeline for our national parks to enhance the visitor experience while simultaneously stuffing it up for those of us who live here.

**Niall Stewart**  
South Hobart

## High-end at right price

IT is such a shame that the Hodgman Liberal Government is so determined to commercialise so many of our national parks and our World Heritage areas. The reversal of the decision on the boutique anglers' camp, smack bang in the Walls of Jerusalem National Park, is another nail in the coffin to the pristineness of this area. I first walked into the Walls as a 26-year-old in 1988. I have returned perhaps 20 times since then, enjoying the park in all of its seasons. Like so many, I have a right to experience one of the most beautiful places

in Tasmania without the process being soiled by the wealthy few who can afford to "chopper in"! I do not oppose high-end tourism, I welcome it, but this should not be at the cost of existing arrangements and the experiences of the many.

**James Vaughan**  
West Hobart

## Setting a precedent

HOW disappointing the Lake Malbena appeal has been upheld. How is a democratic process expected to be done when there is clearly input by government ministers, an agenda by the government itself with influence from the financial backers of the project. This project if it ever finally goes ahead will set a precedent for developments within a national park. These areas need to be protected for the generations to come. Fisherman and bushwalkers are also ratepayers and voters. For those in government, remember that.

**Nick Blomhoff**  
Lindisfarne

## No need to explore it all

THE decision to let a development at Lake Malbena go ahead is indicative of a certain impoverished way of thinking about our planet. Why do we feel we need to develop, exploit, conquer every square inch? In fact, why do we feel we even have to explore all of it? There's a fair bit of hubris there, if you think about it. There's something very good for the soul in the knowledge that there are places on land and in the sea where an abundance of life exists without any reference to humans. To leave it that way is a small nod to the many other beings we share the planet with.

**Andrew Hejtmanek**  
Howden