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4 FEB 2016

Ms Kelly Wilton  
8 Clyde Street  
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Dear Ms Wilton

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2015 regarding the fires and the use of machinery in world heritage areas. The use of heavy machinery (tracked or wheeled driver assisted machinery) is assessed directly against the sensitivity of the proposed locations, safety of operators, and the practicality of achieving a positive containment outcome.

Based on these factors it is extremely unlikely that machinery will be used during first response in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). This is particularly the case in rugged and remote areas where deployment would be too dangerous.

The Parks and Wildlife Service does use machinery for maintenance of existing fire trials and to clear old trails for use as back burning lines. For example, this is occurring right now in the Strathgordon complex.

I have asked Mr Peter Mooney, Deputy Secretary Parks and Wildlife, to contact you to discuss this matter further. Notwithstanding the complexity of this issue, I trust your input to Parks and Wildlife will be valuable when Parks is planning and executing future operations in the TWWHA.

Again, I appreciate you writing to me on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Groom MP  
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage