

Friends of



Cradle Valley

**MEDIA RELEASE    20/10/09**

### **DIER TRASHES WILDERNESS**

Members of the Friends of Cradle Valley community advocacy group are so incensed by the cavalier way in which the vegetation along the sides of the road to Dove Lake in the Cradle Mountain Lake St. Clair National Park was slashed by a Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources contractor last week that they have written to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Consultative Committee, as well as to the State and Federal Ministers for the Environment to express their outrage.

*“The road from Cradle Mountain Village to Dove Lake is in a World Heritage Area, and this is no way to manage our precious World Heritage”,* President of the Friends of Cradle Valley, Cathy Clayton said.

*“The DIER contractor has hacked, bashed, trashed and slashed the alpine vegetation alongside this premier tourist road just like he would do along any other road in this State, and he has left many of our tourists and other visitors visibly distressed by the sight of bruised and damaged rainforest, and he has left our already over-stretched Cradle Park Rangers with all of his mess to clean up.”*

*“The alpine vegetation is very slow growing up here in this valley”, she said, “and there is absolutely no reason to prune the clumps of Buttongrass or native Iris, neither of which poses any visibility problem to drivers.”*

*“He has even trashed the Waratah bushes that are just coming into bud.”*

*“This road in the National Park needs to be managed very carefully, and if there are some sections of the roadside vegetation that need to be removed for safety’s sake, then it should be done under close supervision and preferably by hand.”*

The Friends of Cradle Valley want the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Consultative Committee to establish a protocol to prevent this kind of damage being repeated, and to ensure that no DIER works are undertaken in Cradle Valley unless they are in keeping with the precinct plans, and supervised by Parks Rangers.



**Trashed vegetation along the roadside to Dove Lake.  
Is this the way to manage World Heritage?**

**For additional information or comment, please contact:**

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