

Five Rivers Reserve

In the remote Central Highlands of Tasmania, Australia, an innovative global partnership between Conservation International and BHP Billiton has facilitated the conservation and ongoing management of 11,000 hectares of land by environmental NGO, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

This is the Five Rivers Conservation Project.



Image: Grant Dixon, Serpentine River, Five Rivers Reserve.

Conservation International and BHP Billiton have provided critical expertise and financial support to protect the Five Rivers Reserve, and the land is owned and managed by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy's vision is for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation and sustainability. Its goal is to create a network of protected natural areas on private land that give long-term security for Tasmania's unique and threatened species and ecosystems.

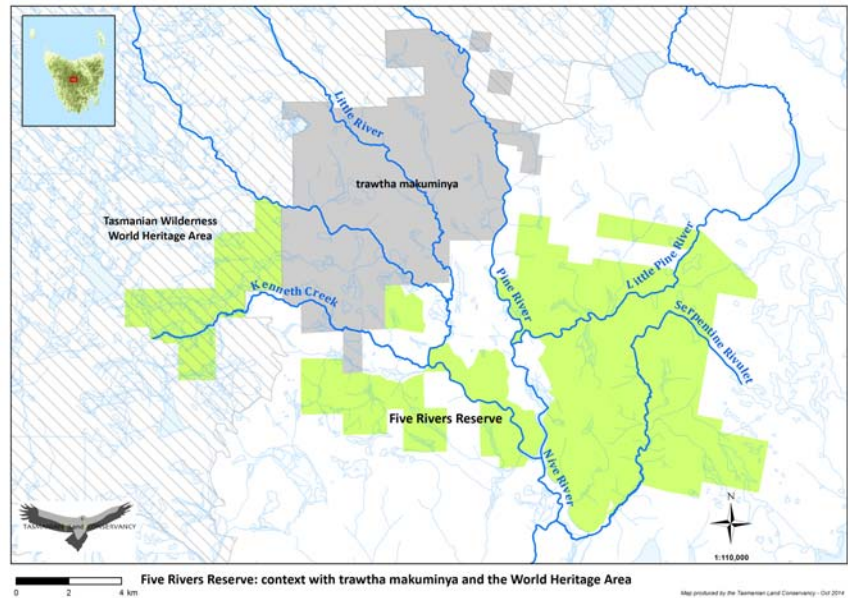
The Tasmanian Land Conservancy, or TLC as it is fondly known, is a not for profit, non-government, science-based organisation established in 2001 with \$50 in the bank and a handful of committed volunteers. Since then, the TLC has grown to protecting over two percent of Tasmania's private freehold land for nature.

Find out more:

www.tasland.org.au

www.conservation.org

www.bhpbilliton.com



The Five Rivers Reserve incorporates open grassland valleys, old-growth forests and woodlands, native grasslands, cushion plants, endangered sphagnum moss beds and five natural river systems. It is habitat for endangered wildlife including the Tasmanian devil and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle and important endemic species, such as the *Clarence galaxias* fish, not found in any other region on earth.

Substantial areas of the land are in and adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and a neighbouring landscape-scale protected area is owned and managed by Tasmanian Aboriginal people for its natural and cultural values.

A critical component of the Five Rivers Conservation Project is the establishment of an efficient but effective long-term ecological monitoring program. This program has been designed to gather scientific

data to inform conservation management using simple, repeatable and robust methodologies. In the future, the Five Rivers Reserve will become one of a network of national sites for long-term ecological monitoring across Australia.

This unique global partnership creates a world class, financially sustainable, effective nature conservation management model at a landscape scale and in doing so contributes towards meeting Australia's international obligations and the Convention on Biological Diversity (established by the United Nations Environment Program) *Aichi Target 11*.

During 2013 and 2014, the Five Rivers Conservation Project completed the design of its long-term financing mechanism, which has now been endowed. In addition to achieving formal conservation status, the project also sold its first carbon credits.



Image: Matthew Newton, Skullbone Plains aerial, Five Rivers Reserve.