

Case Study: Tasmania

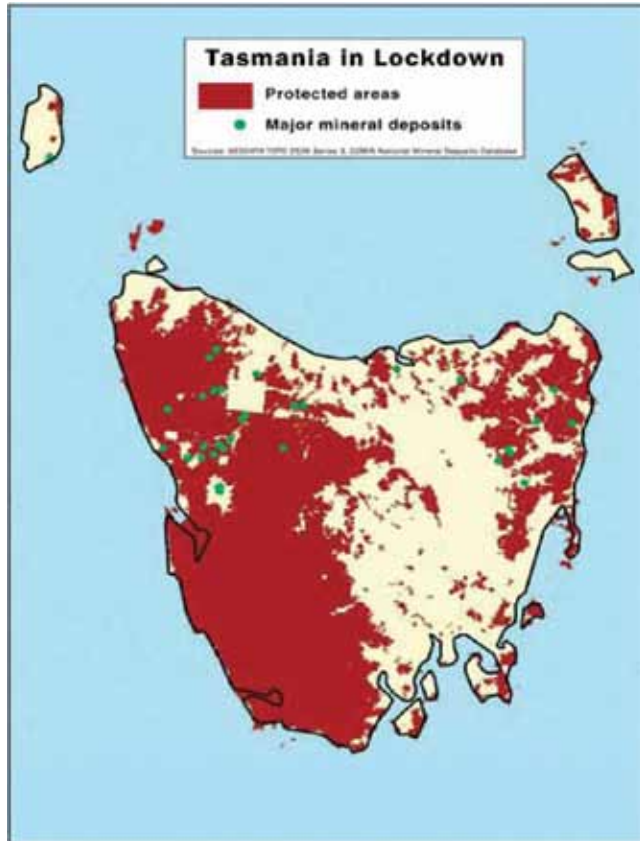
Tasmania today is a Green basket case. Over half of the state is locked up in a complex system of nature reserves, including Australia's biggest declared wilderness area, in the Southwest (**Figure 4**). Green policies have decimated traditional Tasmanian economic activities such as forestry and agriculture, and it has the lowest population growth in Australia. It was in Tasmania, where he was a frequent visitor during the 1950s and 1960s, that Prince Philip incubated the modern Green movement.

Beginning in 1967, Tasmania-based members of the Australian Conservation Foundation lobbied the ACF Executive to get behind the campaign to stop the flooding of Lake Pedder in the state's Southwest. The Tasmanian government of Labor Premier Eric Reece, "Electric Eric," was committed to a three-stage plan to develop the Southwest for hydro power, which would have rivalled the Snowy Mountains Scheme for size, but at a third of the cost. The construction of Gordon Dam and the flooding of Lake Pedder were the first stage of the plan.

The "old boys" on the ACF Executive were wary about picking a fight with a strong state government, so they dragged their heels; but other sections of the ACF provided support: Assistant Director Geoff Mosley, who had divided his time between Canberra and Tasmania in 1960-63, while writing his doctoral thesis on Tasmania's national parks, provided expertise to the campaign; Francis Ratcliffe and others helped set up the **Tasmanian Conservation Trust** in 1968, as a branch of the ACF; and in 1969 Sir Garfield Barwick wrote the first of many letters to the Tasmanian government, haranguing it to drop the development plans.

By 1971, various state governments were hitting back at Barwick's Green activism, and his spectacular

FIGURE 4



The Queen and her Royal Clown have removed over half the state of Tasmania from potential development by humans, through a system of wilderness reserves. Tasmania is one of the most mineral-rich regions in Australia, with world-class iron ore deposits.

conflict of interest as the sitting Chief Justice and simultaneously President of the ACF. Commander **Michael Parker**, Prince Philip's former private secretary and equerry, who had joined the ACF as head of its Publicity Committee, brokered an arrangement whereby Barwick stepped aside in favor of Prince Philip. Barwick stayed on as a very active vice president.

At the 1971 ACF Annual General Meeting, his first one as president, Philip promised Tasmanian activists who had complained to him about the ACF Executive's having dropped Lake Pedder as an issue, that he would support further action. One radical activist, **Milo Dunphy**, later recalled how the Prince incited them by saying that "Australians should be ruder to their politicians" on conservation issues.

Prince Philip thus set in motion the creation of the world's first Green political party. A few months later,

in March 1972, Tasmania's Liberal Bethune government fell, and ACF member **Dick Jones**, a leader of the Lake Pedder Action Committee earlier encouraged by Prince Philip, formed the **United Tasmania Group (UTG)** to contest the state election. The UTG was the first political party in the world formed around Green issues. ACF members were its key leaders: besides Jones, ACF Councillor Milo Dunphy flew to Tasmania to co-direct the UTG's election campaign.

In 1974, these two ACF-spawned organizations merged into the **Southwest Action Committee** (renamed the **Tasmanian Wilderness Society** in 1976), at a meeting in current Sen. **Bob Brown's** house. This grouping also gave birth to global Green politics, after German Green activist **Petra Kelly** visited Australia in 1977 and observed the UTG firsthand.

The 1970 Escalation

Lake Pedder also catalyzed a major shake-up of the ACF, under Prince Philip's personal supervision. Green fascism took a radical turn globally in 1970, with proclamation of the first Earth Day and an escalated push for population reduction. The Queen herself devoted speeches to environmentalism during that year. WWF co-founder Max Nicholson published his shamelessly titled *The Environmental Revolution: A Guide for the New Masters of the World*, in which he crowed that "Ducks Unlimited means Sovereignty Superseded."

Philip's desire for a more activist ACF was stymied by the majority of "old boys" on its Executive: a network of senior bureaucrats and businessmen, conditioned to working slowly through official channels. The well-connected people who had been essential to establishing the ACF now stood in the way of the radical Green activism unleashed with Earth Day.

Determined to radicalize the ACF, but from behind the scenes, Philip directed Commander Parker to organize a formal review of the ACF organization by international management consultants McKinsey & Company. He commissioned a second study to be done by none other than Nicholson, one of whose many jobs was as secretary, from 1963 on, to Philip's own **Duke of Edinburgh's Study Conference on the Countryside**. Nicholson came to Melbourne for several days to investigate.

Philip also encouraged the Tasmanian activists to continue to push the ACF Executive to act on Lake Pedder, thus increasing tensions in the organization.

His campaign led to publication in 1972 of a book titled *The Pedder Papers: Anatomy of a Decision*. In a foreword to that volume, Philip exulted: “The Lake Pedder case marks the end of Australia’s pioneering days and it ushers in a new phase of conscious concern by all sections of the community for the long-term future of the natural and human environment.” He concluded, “I very much hope that never again will Australians have cause to question so vehemently a decision on any conservation issue.” The book’s attack on the decision-making processes of the Tasmanian government marked a step away from the “scientific conservation” studies of the ACF’s conservative backroom Ratcliffe era, towards more aggressive political engagement.

By the end of 1972, Lake Pedder had been flooded and the ACF Executive thought the issue was dead. Prince Philip’s Tasmanian activists, however, had other ideas. They started campaigning for federal intervention to force the state government to reverse the flooding. Philip sided with the activists: In March 1973, he personally piloted the royal jet over Lake Pedder, accompanied by ACF Assistant Director Mosley and Hydro-Electric Commission Chairman Sir Allan Knight. A few weeks earlier, Tasmanian Premier Eric Reece had bluntly said that Prince Philip should butt out of Tasmania’s affairs. When Philip met Reece at Government House in Hobart, Reece would not back down, and the ensuing shouting match behind closed doors reportedly could be heard throughout Government House.

In October 1973, the tensions within the ACF came to a head at the Annual General Meeting in Canberra, chaired by Prince Philip while on a royal tour with Queen Elizabeth. The 1973 AGM is known as the “coup,” when the well-organized radicals voted out the unsuspecting old guard. (One member of the old guard they didn’t wish to lose was Barwick: “Sir Garfield Barwick has made conservation respectable among the legal profession throughout Australia. We will need a sympathetic legal ear in the future,” the minutes of a pre-coup radical planning meeting recorded.)

ACF historian Beverley Broadbent, who was present, noted that Prince Philip, who chaired the meeting, “obviously knew something was brewing.” When Lake Pedder activist **Dr. Ian Bayly** was nominated against **Geoff Downes**, one of the ACF’s founding vice presidents, Philip was “well able” to cite Bayly’s qualifications. Those not aware that Bayly and Philip had cor-

responded extensively over Lake Pedder and the publication of *The Pedder Papers* would have been surprised that the Prince was so well briefed. As conservative Executive members were systematically voted out, one indignant Councillor demanded to know what was going on. “Prince Philip replied that he thought it would become clear to everyone shortly,” Broadbent records.

A clear demonstration that Philip was in on the coup came when Bayly moved that Mosley be vaulted over the heads of numerous ACF staffers, and made ACF Director on the spot. Mosley was in Melbourne, having been ordered not to attend by Director **John Blanch**, who knew that Mosley was in the camp of the “radicals.” Despite his personal acquaintance with Mosley, who had accompanied him on the Lake Pedder fly-over just months earlier, as well as assisting him in every meeting on the Lake Pedder issue, Philip pretended he didn’t even know him. “Where is this Dr. Mosley?” he demanded. Informed that Mosley was in Melbourne, he ordered, “Then you had better get him here.”

At 3:30 p.m., Philip claimed he had another meeting to attend, and stepped down from the chair, allowing the coup to proceed. The old guard was defeated on one motion after another. The *coup de grâce* came when Bayly read a letter from Mosley, threatening to leave the ACF if he weren’t made Director. At that point the old guard realized that Mosley was part of the coup, and seven Councillors resigned forthwith and left the meeting. When some of the old guard met with Prince Philip at Government House later that day to express their concern at the radical takeover, the Duke’s response was, “That’s democracy.” The press headline: “Prince Supports Radicals.”

It is obvious that the British Mosley, a radical Malthusian zero-population-growth zealot and crusader for the “wilderness” concept of nature reserves, was the key man for the job of advancing Philip’s agenda of Green Fascism. When Mosley arrived in Canberra later in the day, he galvanized the coup-plotters, some of whom were disappointed at the mass resignations of “respected” conservationists, to complete the task at the AGM’s second day.

Prince Philip formally notified the new, radical Executive Committee that he intended to stay on as President, as if there were any doubt, but that they should not expect him to be out in the streets waving placards. UTG founder Dick Jones replied, “Don’t worry about that, Sir, we’ve got plenty of people who will do it for you.”

Green Fascism Rolls On

The ACF went on to launch the Aboriginal land-rights scam, using indigenism to lock down far more land. The “father of Aboriginal land rights,” former central bank head **Nugget Coombs**, replaced Philip as head of the ACF, and by 1979, enough land had been turned over to “Aboriginal control,” that Coombs would start to agitate for a “treaty” between a presumably autonomous “Aboriginal nation” and the nation-state of Australia.

The Tasmanian events overseen by Prince Philip led to the establishment of the UTG, the Wilderness Society, and the **Australian Greens** political party, which is marching in lockstep with the ACF to dictate genocidal policies such as the carbon tax and the forced shutdown of the Murray-Darling Basin food bowl. They also led to the rise of Green parties around the world, beginning with Germany’s Green Party, formed after founder Petra Kelly toured Australia in 1977. In 1988, the ACF spun off an organization called **Sustainable Population Australia (SPA)**, dedicated solely to the reduction of Australia’s population—a cause which the ACF had taken up almost from its founding.

Sir Garfield Barwick continued to intimidate governments, in his dual capacity as Chief Justice and ACF Vice President. In 1975, acting on behalf of the Queen, he brought down Gough Whitlam, advising Governor-General Sir John Kerr to dismiss the Whitlam government, which had planned to “buy back the farm” and launch infrastructure projects throughout the country. In 1983, one year after Barwick retired from his record-setting stint as Chief Justice, one of the original aims of the ACF was realized, when the High Court he had dominated for so long tore up the Constitution, ruling that the federal government had the power to override state law and stop Tasmania from building the Franklin Dam.

Whitlam Environment Minister Moss Cass’s son Dan would join the ACF himself, and represent the organization at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; eventually **Dan Cass** became a campaign manager for the Greens. In *The Age* of Dec. 10, 2010, Cass issued a chilling call for a global climate treaty enforceable by war, writing: “We only deserve to win if we are prepared to enforce climate security through trade sanctions or, ultimately, force itself.”

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