



Nick McKim MHA

Thursday, 20 FEBRUARY 2003

GREENS CALL ON PREMIER TO IMMEDIATELY ACT ON RECHERCHE BAY

Cultural Heritage of Entire Peninsula Still at Risk

The Tasmanian Greens confirmed that they had met with the Tasmanian Heritage Council today, and said that the meeting had reached broad agreement that the protection of the whole of the North East Peninsula of Recherche Bay was desirable, although at this time this is not assured.

Greens Franklin MHA Nick McKim, who attended the meeting on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens, said that the Tasmanian Heritage Council made it clear that Jim Bacon has it within his power to act immediately to protect the entire peninsula.

Mr McKim said that one outcome of the meeting was that the sites of the garden and the nearby observatory would be immediately listed by the Heritage Council in order to provide interim statutory protection for those places, but stressed that this did not prejudice the protection of the entire area in any way.

“This is a test for whether the Premier will fulfil his portfolio responsibilities as Heritage Minister, or demonstrate once again that he is captive to the vested interests of the logging industry,” Mr McKim said.

“The Greens will continue to work towards the permanent protection of this internationally significant area, and will continue to liaise with the Tasmanian Heritage Council in order to progress the protection of the entire peninsula.”

“As Minister for Heritage the Premier has been conspicuous in his silence on this issue, and would be abrogating his responsibilities should he not immediately add his voice to the chorus of community calls for the protection of the entire area.”



“Two of Australia’s most pre-eminent archaeologists have confirmed that the recently discovered garden was in fact constructed and planted by the French expedition of the 1790’s, and as such satisfied the conditions required by the owners in order that a moratorium be called.”

“The pocket handkerchief approach of merely protecting small areas around the significant sites is a temporary interim measure to prevent damage to the sites, and is unacceptable as a final solution to the issue as pre-eminent archaeologist Professor John Mulvaney has been clear in his calls for protection of the entire area as a cultural landscape,” Mr McKim said.