



Media Release

Embargoed to midnight 6 September 2024.

Science Council calls for better management for Tasmania's Threatened Species

Today is Threatened Species Day, in recognition of the day in 1936 when the last Thylacine died in captivity at Beaumaris Zoo on Hobart's Domain. The extinction was a foretaste of the pressures so many other species in Tasmania and on the mainland have faced since - and regrettably - continue to do so to the present day.

"For more than 40 years, we have known that habitat loss and fragmentation have been the drivers for Australia's current extinction crisis, yet the response from governments and businesses has been one of a business as usual approach. Countless Recovery Plans and Conservation Strategies, all based on extensive scientific research and data, have stated the obvious - without habitats, species have no hope of survival" Christine Coughanowr, Co-chair of the Tasmanian Independent Science Council (TISC) said today.

"Here in Tasmania, land-clearing for forestry and agriculture are resulting in massive loss of native terrestrial habitats statewide, while aquaculture is impacting our coastal and nearshore habitats. With an ever-increasing list of formally-listed Threatened Species at State and Federal levels, the clear message is that we are not managing our land and sea at all well" Ms Couganowr added.

"Threatened Species are clear signals on the state of the health of Tasmania's land, air and sea. Instead of a Threatened Species List becoming shorter, signalling successes in managing the threats to these species, the List is lengthening every year - the situation is getting worse, not better. This is unacceptable in the 21st Century" Dr Graeme Well, TISC Co-chair said.

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TISC web page <http://www.tassciencecouncil.org/>

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Masked Owl – Endangered in Tasmania.

Wedge-tailed Eagle – Endangered in Tasmania.

Little Tern – Endangered in Tasmania.