

Legislative Council

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

23 August 2013

## INQUIRY INTO THE TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL LANDS AMENDMENT BILL 2012 TO CONTINUE WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS IN HOBART DURING SEPTEMBER 2013

The Legislative Council Inquiry into the Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill 2012 has to date received a range of evidence through the public submissions process and through the initial public hearings that have been held in Smithton and St Helens. The Committee has also completed site visits at Rebecca Creek and Eddystone Point (larapuna) with the cooperation of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council.

Public hearings will conclude in Hobart next month with a full day of witnesses in Hobart. A further media release with confirmation of the hearing date and a list of witnesses will be released closer to the time once arrangements for the day have been finalised.

Chair of the inquiry Kerry Finch MLC said "The Committee found the regional hearings in Smithton and St Helens to be of great benefit to the Committee's consideration of the Bill. The Committee is looking forward to completing its schedule of hearings when it meets with key stakeholders in Hobart, during what should be an interesting day of public hearings in September 2013"

Further information about the Inquiry including Terms of Reference and transcripts of hearings are available at: <u>http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAd</u> <u>minB\_AboriginalLandsAmendmentBill.htm</u>

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Kerry Finch MLC on 0407 448 905