

World Heritage refusal likely

SEAN FORD | June 19, 2013, 8:08 a.m.

A DECISION on extending Tasmania's world heritage area is looming, and refusal looks the most likely outcome.

In May, the International Council on Monuments and Sites recommended the nomination be sent back to the Gillard government due to lack of consultation with the Aboriginal community.

A draft decision to not list the 172,000 hectares has now been tabled at a World Heritage Committee meeting in Cambodia, with a final decision expected later in the week.

The proposal relates to the Tasmanian forests "peace deal".

Liberal Lyons state candidate Guy Barnett supported the draft decision.

"It follows the failure of the federal Labor government to follow due process and ensure proper consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and others," he said.

"... the rushed and flawed nomination looks set to be rejected by the WHC."

He said the federal and Tasmanian governments had representatives lobbying committee members in Cambodia, along with representatives of environment groups.

"So the government is happy to secretly lobby in Cambodia while refusing to consult in Tasmania."