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Wilkie takes parks fight to Canberra

DAVID KILLICK
Political Editor

THE Tasmanian Government's process to encourage development in national parks was "dodgy", secretive and "something a banana republic would be proud of," Federal Parliament has heard.

Independent MP for Clark Andrew Wilkie said the program, which sought submissions from private investors and tourism operators to develop tourism ventures in parks, was alarming.

"Tasmanians are right to be appalled by our government's dodgy Expression of Interest process for developments inside our national parks and wilderness World Heritage areas," Mr Wilkie said.

"There is so much we don't know, not least because proposals are assessed with little public scrutiny. In fact the whole process is so disturbing

it has caught the attention of the Auditor-General, who is now investigating the EOI process.

"To top it all off, it seems taxpayers' money is now being used to upgrade public sites that have been earmarked for private development. Tasmania's precious wilderness belongs to all of us.

"It is not for the government to virtually gift to private developers."

Mr Wilkie said a group of bushwalkers and fishers would stage a symbolic reclamation of Halls Island in Lake Malbena this weekend, something they should not have to do.

A Government spokesman said the comments were "politically motivated rubbish".

"Lease and licence arrangements in Tasmania's Parks and Reserves are not new... claims that our EOI process is veiled with secrecy are misinformed and untrue."