



**Burnie Advocate**  
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Greens won't come to the party over company's hopes to mine iron ore

# Birthday battle looms

By SEAN FORD

A COMPANY'S hopes of mining iron ore in the wild South-West are set to spark an environmental battle.

The Greens yesterday lashed out over Tasmanian company Macquarie Harbour Mining's hopes of a mine in the Birthday Bay area, in the South-West Conservation Area, and its consideration of putting in port facilities.

"Having looked at the company's website I was very concerned to see that not once were the words environment or sustainable practices mentioned anywhere I could find," Greens parks and heritage spokesperson Cassy O'Connor said.

"That's quite staggering given the fact that they are prospecting in wild country that borders the World Heritage Area and the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park.

"Apart from some recreational vehicle tracks, there is no development inside the South-West Conservation Area, and nor

should there be."

Macquarie Harbour Mining said this week it may have found iron ore deposits at its Birthday Bay iron ore project that were good enough to directly ship.

"The company is investigating several sites for the development of port facilities south of Macquarie Harbour that could facilitate transport of iron ore," managing director Frank Rogers said.

"I am confident that we will establish an enduring mining centre in the region.

"The company has already commenced iron ore offtake discussions with buyers in the Asia-Pacific region."

The company announced promising surface sampling results from Birthday Bay.

It said results included iron ore content of up to 69 per cent and mineralised structures extending more than five kilometres.

Ms O'Connor said the area just south of Macquarie Harbour had

been recognised by the Parks and Wildlife as a place containing highly significant Aboriginal and historic heritage, landforms and plant and animal life.

"The Greens have long believed the area south of Macquarie Harbour should be fully protected.

"It should have been included in the South-West Wilderness World Heritage Area, but successive Labor and Liberal governments in Tasmania have blocked its inclusion."

MHM operations manager Simon Wells said the company was committed to legislative guidelines during its exploration phase and would work through the relevant guidelines if it got to the mining proposal stage.

"The company's conducted fairly exhaustive research of all environmental factors in the area as well as any indigenous concerns and we have a strong understanding of that."



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**MAJOR FIND: A Macquarie Harbour Mining employee inspects the company's iron ore deposit at its Birthday Bay project.**

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— Managing director Frank Rogers



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