

1. Lake Pedder was, and will again be, one of the planet's most gently beautiful places. It is three kilometres long and wide, an area of nine square kilometres, 300 metres in altitude, in Tasmania's western mountains. World authorities, including the World Conservation Union have called for the lake's restoration.

2. Lake Pedder is a unique type of glacial lake. Dr Kevin Kiernan, a Tasmanian Geomorphologist, describes it as an 'extraordinary landform complex that has no replicate on Earth and is akin to a biological species for which only one solitary and vulnerable individual remains'. It is of world scientific interest. Its recovery is already sparking international attention.

3. A study by Professor Peter Tyler's expert team from Deakin University found that the lake bed, its dunes, Lake Maria, and even the sand patterns on the beach were still intact, awaiting recovery. Only a few millimetres of fine silt covered the scene.

4. In the 1990s economist Brian Kohl found that

there will be no cost from draining the impoundment over Lake Pedder. Lake Pedder provides only 60 megawatts of electricity (the Gorge Town aluminium smelter alone uses more than 120 megawatts). These days, a modest baseload solar power station can produce more power.

5. A decade ago, before Tasmania's recent nature-based tourism boom, expert Dr Louise Crossley found that even if the lake's recovery drew only 4 percent more visitors to Tasmania, and increased local tourism by 2 percent, this would boost spending in Tasmania by \$20 million annually, and could mean an extra 620 jobs in Tasmania's service industries.

6. Restoring Lake Pedder and the Serpentine River would create a 'wild' riverine trout fishery and allow the reintroduction of Lake Pedder's native trout.

7. The Pedder 2000 Committee (now named Lake Pedder Restoration Inc) and Dr Crossley recommended a centre of excellence in restorative ecology be set up-to decide how best to restore Lake Pedder. The centre's studies and

experience could then be used for similar projects overseas. It would attract global attention.

8. The whole world would win. What a symbol of optimism it would be: a symbol of human-kind turning around at least some of the destruction of the twentieth century, in a gesture of goodwill to nature and to all future generations.

9. This is not an untried idea: two concrete dams larger than those flooding Lake Pedder have been removed from the Elwah River in Washington state, USA, to restore the salmon run after nearly a century of immersion. This has been a great success.

10. Meanwhile the people of Maine paid \$24 million to buy back the Penobscot River and remove its 3 weirs. Lake Pedder's resurgence simply awaits similar philanthropy before it too returns to its natural splendour.

Bob Brown.