

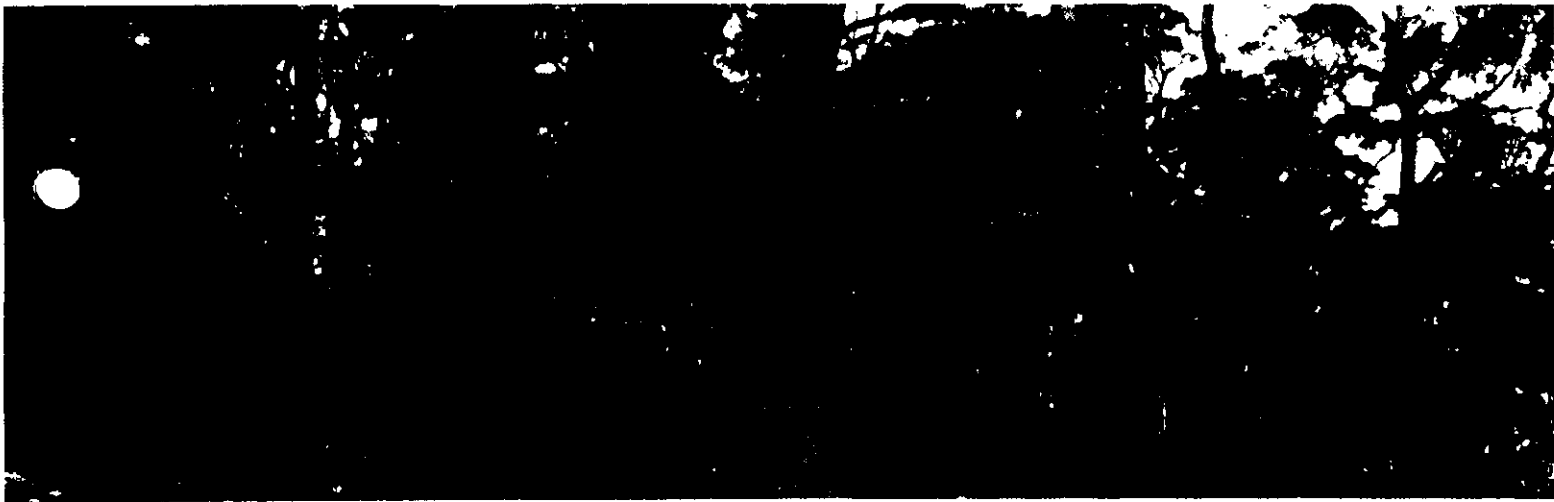
Environment Tasmania

# Forest Policy

2010

The following policy recommendations represent a joint policy position on forest policy from Tasmanian environment groups.

Environment Tasmania is an umbrella body that is made up of more than 25 Tasmanian environment & conservation non-government organisations. These organisations are geographically spread right across the island state, with collective representation of more than 6000 Tasmanians.



ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA  
The Conservation Council



Our native forests are of great importance. They harbour, and are key to the survival of, many of our plant and animal species. They provide ecological services such as clean water and carbon storage. And they are distinctive to our island, our identity and sense of place.

At the same time, the use of native forests in Tasmania is an issue of great controversy. Tasmanian communities historically have had a strong cultural connection to our forests. Yet it is clear that our communities have seen the need to move away from use of native forests for commodity timber products and have seen opportunities to still have a timber industry based on the large plantation estate now developed in Tasmania. Our chance to maintain employment and product manufacturing in the timber industry, and pride in our cultural heritage, lies within this transition. Our governing policies must reflect this historical moment and lead the way.

The current policy framework governing the management of Tasmania's native forests has failed to protect either the natural, cultural, amenity or economic values of these forests. In addition, it has quite possibly stifled the potential for innovation and improved management in the plantation based industry. Tasmanians are capable of much better, and indeed there is a growing recognition and desire across the State, for opportunities for positive change and solutions.

Environment Tasmania recognises that a solution to the conflict over Tasmania's native forests will require an integrated suite of measures that enhance protection of native forests and natural values while better utilising the plantation estate to support a timber industry and rural communities.

**The overall forest policy outcomes are to:**

- **Protect Tasmania's native forests and their biodiversity, carbon, cultural and other values.**
- **Create new economic opportunities from protecting and restoring native forests.**
- **Develop a long term, secure timber industry that is supported by the Tasmanian community and is built on our existing plantation estate and small areas of native forest.**

## *Policy proposals*

1. **Immediate protection of old growth, high conservation value and wilderness forests.**
2. **Adjust land tenure to provide appropriate protection to public native forest.**
3. **Improve native forest protection on private land.**
4. **Develop carbon storage and capture potential of native forests.**
5. **Enhance forest and biodiversity protection through governance and regulatory improvements.**
6. **Implement a transition package to move commodity timber production from native forests to existing plantation resources and better realise the economic potential of protected native forests.**
7. **Support improvements to the management of plantations and plantation productivity.**
8. **End government market distortions – which inhibit innovation and lead to unfair competition within the timber industry and with other sectors.**
9. **Develop an integrated public land management agency for Tasmania.**
10. **Improve land and fire management practices in all forests.**
11. **Support timber industry pride, heritage and innovation.**

## *Policy 1. Immediate protection of old growth, high conservation value and wilderness forests.*

There are areas of native forests that should be protected immediately. These are forests that have world heritage values, are old growth, have wilderness values or other important values. Collectively these are known as 'high conservation value' forests.

### **These high conservation value native forests should be protected immediately.**

Protection of these areas will have impacts on some current business operations / plans. There will be cases where other timber sources, support or incentives are required to assist affected businesses. **Facilitate support for businesses affected by resource loss, particularly as part of the overall transition package. This support needs to be made at the individual business level, not government agency level.**

The following criteria will be considered when designating high conservation value forest:

- whole of landscape function including ecosystem connectivity and sound reserve design outcomes
- rare, threatened or endangered species and communities, high levels of endemism and refugia
- old-growth, rainforest, undisturbed and low disturbance regrowth
- identified world or national heritage values
- wild river catchments and drinking water catchments
- significant carbon stores
- high local or community significance

Appendix A shows the minimum areas Tasmania's conservation groups consider meet these criteria and that require immediate protection.

**Remaining areas of public native forest will be better protected over a period of time compatible with an accelerated timber industry transition to plantation for commodity timber production.** It is recognised that there is value to the Tasmanian community in ongoing

sustainable logging of small quantities of specialty native timber where that is possible for low volumes of craft and high-value timber production.

***Policy 2. Adjust land tenure to provide appropriate protection to public native forest.***

Long term protection and care of public native forests, and their values, outside of the current reserve system will in many cases best be achieved through formal protection as either National Park, State Reserve or Conservation Area. In other cases retaining land as State Forest, managed by a government agency independent of the commercial uses, with an appropriate regulatory regime, will be best.

A critical consideration is the role of traditional owners in the ongoing management of their forests. While some progress has been made in this area, more dialogue needs to occur with traditional owners.

***National Park and State Reserve***

Many landscapes that should be protected with this level of formal protection currently exist outside the Tasmanian reserve system. Community concern for these iconic and culturally vital landscapes warrants this level of protection. At the same time protecting these areas is a proactive economic strategy, potentially building new tourist magnets for communities throughout rural and regional Tasmania.

**For landscapes of high conservation value, National Parks are the most appropriate level of management and protection. The land management agency must also be appropriately resourced.**

***Conservation Areas***

These are areas with great potential carbon sequestration value, particularly where they incorporate areas of regrowth forest with opportunities to grow-in new carbon. Protected from industrial-scale logging, these zones will maintain their integrity with complementary uses such as honey production and recreational activities, as well as for ecological services such as

clean water catchment, biodiversity and landscape connectivity.

**For landscapes requiring forest protection but allowing for complementary uses, Conservation Area or Nature Recreation Area are the most appropriate reservation status.**

***State Forest***

**Remaining areas of public native forest, kept for low volume - high value timber harvest, restoration forestry and other uses such as water, biodiversity and recreation, would be retained as State Forest. They would need appropriate forest zoning in revised Management Plans to protect the native forests from commodity timber extraction and areas of high conservation value not captured in the other reserve categories (eg patches of oldgrowth and threatened species habitats).**

Areas of native forests that have been intensively logged and seeded in recent decades will need to receive restoration treatments. This will include weeding and strategic thinning to enhance forest structural diversity, resilience, and carbon retention. There is potential in this land tenure type for joint projects involving timber companies, logging contractors, environmental consultancies and possibly even community groups. **The aim of these zones will be to restore degraded forests, increase resilience, and reconnect core reserve areas in the long term. They will also be used to provide resource in the transition process, on an ecologically sustainable basis.**

**The dedication of State Forests to smaller scale sustainable extraction and to restoration for landscape values and ecosystem service purposes requires an innovative, scientifically led, landscape-scale conservation and restoration forestry program.** The timber allocations from these restoration zones would form a core part of the native forests transition strategy, as part of the rapid transition of industrial sawlog operations out of Tasmania's native forests into existing plantations.

A resource assessment, with identification of native forest transition forests, will

also guide practical arrangements for a number of sawmills, as native forest logging operations are shifted across to Tasmania's existing plantations estate.

### ***Policy 3. Native forest protection on private land.***

**As a first principle, native forest protection on private land will be achieved through voluntary mechanisms.**

Collectively, Tasmania's privately owned forests are large, geographically dispersed, and crucial to climate and water security, landscape connectivity, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Private forests are as important to Tasmania's future as our public forest estate.

Private forests cover over one million hectares in Tasmania, with owners ranging from single small land-owners through to large corporate entities. In 2008, the plantation estate on private land in Tasmania had reached 171,980ha while there was 885,000ha of private native forest.<sup>1</sup> Only 48,000 hectares is protected in formal reserves - less than 6% of the native forests on private land.<sup>2</sup>

Many private forests are dispersed remnants in a landscape "mosaic". The conservation and restoration of native vegetation remnants in these landscapes is crucial.

The Regional Forest Agreement set a target for the voluntary protection of 100,000 hectares of native forests on private land in Tasmania – it achieved only 38,400 hectares. Similarly, the 2005 Forest Conservation Fund targeted the protection of 45,600 hectares of native forests on private land, but at the time of the Tasmanian RFA 10 year review, only 4,300 of the 45,600 target had been achieved.

**Provide mechanisms to achieve substantial increase of covenanted native forest on private land in Tasmania.**

Protection of native forests and the conservation values of native forests on private land will need to include a flexible mix of voluntary mechanisms and regulatory measures. However, appropriate financial mechanisms will be important for achieving a substantial area of covenanted private forest.

<sup>1</sup> Private Forests Tasmania, October 2008, Annual report for Private Forests Tasmania.

<sup>2</sup> Forest Practices Authority 2007, State of the Forests Tasmania. 2006

This will require the creation of a private forest conservation fund, from both Commonwealth and State funding.

These programs will continue the direction of past strategic reserve design undertaken in previous private land conservation covenanting programs.

The Private Timber Reserve System was established to give exemptions to planned forestry operations from local government planning schemes and community input. This was seen as a mechanism to provide for timber companies and private landholders to have security for forestry activity on their land.

Exemption of private land forestry operations from local council planning laws has given local communities very limited opportunity to challenge or have a meaningful say about forestry activity proposals in their vicinity. The Private Timber Reserve System also exempts property from land tax. As this exemption is not offered to many other land uses such as tourism, this has the effect of distorting land use.

**As the timber industry changes, in line with the transition strategy to a plantation focus, the Private Timber Reserve System needs to be comprehensively reformed. In particular, a much higher level of strategic and integrated regional land use planning is needed, including the genuine input of local councils & local communities, to provide the strategic framework for the oversight of future forestry operations on private land.**

The 10-year review of the RFA clearly identified the need for **funding of ongoing maintenance and management of private conservation reserves.**

This requires ongoing government commitment for a dedicated team to provide continuous support, advice, conservation and land management expertise for landowners with covenanted private forested land.

#### ***Policy 4. Develop carbon storage and capture potential of native forests.***

Managing native forests for carbon sequestration is a significant contribution Tasmania can make to the global goal of reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. It is a new and potentially key element of providing a long term solution to the forest industry conflict in Tasmania as it would provide significant income stream for both public and private forests in Tasmania.

**As part of this the Tasmanian Government must have more detailed carbon auditing.** A key feature of the marketability of any forest carbon is going to be the transparency and accuracy of measurements of actual carbon stored and retained.

Managing fire in forests will also be a central challenge of trading carbon in native forests. **A larger commitment from state and federal government should be made to R&D on managing fire in native forests and in particular to how this relates to carbon retention.**

## **Policy 5. Enhance forest and biodiversity protection through governance and regulatory improvements.**

### **RFA**

There are a number of possible pathways for the protection of Tasmania's native forests and a resolution to the conflict over public forests in Tasmania.

The Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) is an agreement between the State and Commonwealth governments on the management of Tasmania's forests estate. The Tasmanian Regional Forest agreement has been changed once (for the worse – it undermined RFA credibility in threatened species protection). Therefore, it could be changed again via cooperative agreement between both governments. The Tasmanian government could move to protect forest areas, the Commonwealth government could move to re-involve itself in the proper management and protection of Tasmania's forests, or a mixed or bilateral response could be achieved.

**The preferred pathway would be a cooperative approach between the State and Federal governments that supports a full resolution of the Tasmanian forests issue.**

A simple solution might involve changing the Tasmanian Regional Forests Agreement in line with the modification of the Supplementary Tasmanian Regional Forests Agreement. The basic structure of the RFA was left intact, but a modification of the agreement was put in place.

Another approach might involve removal of the RFA altogether, with a new management framework developed. The merit of this might lie in recognising that the RFA was an instrument developed primarily to balance native forest timber production with conservation. However in transitioning timber production to plantations in line with this policy, it might be best to develop a new agreement altogether.

### **Native forest biomass and renewable energy**

The current Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000 has 'wood waste' listed as an eligible renewable energy source, whilst fossil fuels or materials or waste products derived from fossil fuels are listed as ineligible energy sources.

This means that, under current regulations, the logging of native forests and burning of native forest biomass in a wood-fired power station, can be fed into the electricity grid as 'renewable electricity'.

However, logging of native forests releases vast quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Further significant quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> would be released into the atmosphere via the burning of wood waste in the furnace, whilst there would also be substantial emissions contained in the transport of materials to native-timber fired furnaces.

This policy loop-hole needs to be closed. **Native forest biomass should be listed as an ineligible 'renewable' energy source in any renewable energy legislation or policy.**

### **The adoption of comprehensive and fair land-clearing legislation**

Land-clearing is the permanent destruction of native forest or vegetation and replacement with non-native species or materials. It is the single greatest threat to our wildlife. In the last decade Tasmanian has had the record for the highest rate of land clearing in Australia.<sup>3</sup> Whilst the 'Policy for Maintaining a Permanent Native Forest Estate' is committed to the end of broad-scale clearing of native forest on public land by 2010, and the clearing of native forest on private land by 2015, there is no legislation to back up this policy, nor is there any comprehensive legislation to prevent the clearing of non-forest vegetation.

Environment Tasmania proposes that, in

<sup>3</sup> In 2000 Tasmania had a rate of land clearing (measured as area of native vegetation cleared as a proportion of the states total land area) that was the highest of any state in Australia (0.248%, just marginally higher than Queensland (0.245%) and twice the next highest rate in NSW(0.125%). Sourced from ACF report Australian Land Clearing, A Global Perspective: Latest Facts & Figures March 2001, and ABS data for state land areas.

line with other Australian states, Tasmania must adopt legislation to protect native vegetation and to enforce the cessation of land clearing. Adequate resourcing to ensure enforcement needs to be provided.

***The Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act.***

The Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) is Australia's premier biodiversity protection legislation. It is the principle act of Commonwealth legislation providing for the protection of threatened species, World Heritage, National heritage and other national environmental values and requiring fulfilment of international obligations to protect these values.

However, logging operations within Regional Forest Agreement areas are currently exempt from the jurisdiction of the EPBC Act, meaning that logging in native forests in Tasmania, for example, is allowed to occur in a manner that pushes nationally listed threatened species towards extinction.

**Remove statutes that exempt RFA logging operations from the jurisdiction of the EPBC.**

***Policy 6. Implement a transition package to move commodity timber production to a plantation resource base, and better realise the economic potential of protected native forests***

Tasmania now has a unique opportunity to create a long term resolution to the conflict over resource allocation of its native forests.

It will be possible to have a stable and secure timber industry providing timber products and jobs built on commodity timber supplied entirely from our existing plantation resources within a decade. This would allow protection of all of Tasmania's high conservation native forests and use of the remaining native forests for high value uses such as recreation, tourism, biodiversity conservation, water catchments and carbon sequestration.

The extensive establishment of plantations in Tasmania in recent years has been highly controversial – particularly the conversion of native forests to plantations. However, now that Tasmania has nearly 300,000 hectares of plantations in the ground, this plantation estate provides a unique opportunity to support our timber industry into the future.

This is a critical development which has changed the dynamic and now allows the implementation of a policy to protect native forests while guaranteeing a strong, secure and innovative timber industry. This opportunity did not exist when previous attempts were made to resolve the forest conflict.

**Tasmania must take this opportunity to transition to a world class and highly productive forest industry built on the innovative utilisation of plantation timber in Tasmania and to manage native forests for other more sustainable, and higher value uses.**

**Sound, scientifically based planning would allow native timber industries to make a viable transition to existing plantation timber and restoration forestry in strategic phases, whilst allocating a small area of native forest for high value,**

foreign owned?  
not available?  
518



### **low volume timber production.**

There is a need to support the unique role that Tasmania's speciality artists, boat-builders, furniture-makers and craftsmen play in the Tasmanian community, and the valued place that Tasmania's native timbers play within that role. **Environment Tasmania supports the ongoing use of small volumes of Tasmania's native forest timbers for these high-value end uses. Appropriate mechanisms would need to be put in place to ensure the limited extraction of native forest specialty timber species to supply this industry. At the same time it is imperative that in the long term ways are found to develop plantation derived specialty timbers.** As subsidised native forest timbers cease to become available, the farm forestry sector will have greater incentive to innovate and commit to long term small scale investment in specialty timbers. It is also important to support the positive branding of plantation timbers as specialty timber products that can be used in high value applications.

### **Tourism Operations**

In strategic locations it might be appropriate to develop visitor service sites or even zones and to develop an appropriate suite of facilities normally associated with national parks such as trailheads, walking tracks, carparks, camping areas and in some cases a visitors centre. Commercial accommodation facilities and other types of more intensive tourism development are inappropriate in reserves of these categories.

IUCN category IV reserves and State Forest are more appropriate for commercial tourism activity. But even then it must be conducted in a well planned and limited manner.

Tourism opportunities exist here for well-managed and controlled licenses, including standing camps, huts, small lodges and adventure tourism attractions. Private tourism licences would be managed, approved and governed by the land management agency using, an;

- an open competitive tender

- minimal environmental footprint developments
- utilising existing cleared sites and access points, avoiding new roads and clearing of undisturbed sites
- a bond for rehabilitation where necessary
- lease fees to be returned directly back to Parks / the Environment Department for management costs, including rangers, conservation work and public infrastructure maintenance on a full-cost recovery basis
- adequate resourcing to oversight lessees
- protection of natural values, full environmental impact assessment and a public consultation process prior to lease approval

### ***Policy 7. Support improvements to the management of plantations and plantation productivity.***

Plantation grown timber offers economic advantages over native forest sourced timber. For example, plantation sourced wood fibre is superior to native forest wood fibre in paper production. The building industry now makes extensive use of plantation sourced timber products in construction for its low costs, easy workability, stability and lightness. Saw-millers are able to more efficiently process plantation timber that has a much higher degree of uniformity than native timbers.

It is recognised that Tasmania's existing plantation estate (over 270,000 hectares in 2008) will provide a key part of the solution to the conflict over the industrial scale logging and wood-chipping of Tasmania's native forests by being able to replace native forest products. The recent expansion of the plantation estate means that over the next several years almost the entire timber production volume from Tasmania will be able to be replaced by plantation derived timbers. This represents an unprecedented opportunity to end commodity timber production from native forest while supporting new timber industry growth and innovation. **Environment Tasmania proposes that, as a part of a reshaping the timber industry to protect native forests, optimal use of the existing substantial plantation resource for timber products be achieved.** This may mean developing longer rotations, pruning for clearwood, and thinning for better timber, to deliver higher value products such as sawn timber from timber plantations, rather than having plantation management focussed largely on woodchip production.

In the past decade considerable plantation has been established on land that has been cleared of native forest, a practise that is highly controversial. Plantations are not forests. Plantations are planted specifically for the purpose of timber production and as opposed to native forests have poor biodiversity, wildlife, carbon and landscape values.

Plantations are not a panacea and can and do cause significant environmental

problems. **Concerted actions are needed to mitigate these problems, including:**

- An end to the pesticide and herbicide contamination of land and water systems
- Retention of highly productive agricultural land for food production.
- End the use of 1080 to control pests.
- Recognition and protection of rural and natural landscape values.
- Development of an integrated catchment management framework to protect and restore water yields and quality.
- Protecting Tasmania's eucalypt species from genetic pollution

Plantation timber growers need to improve the management of plantation forests in these areas. **As a part of this process, it is proposed that the plantation industry in Tasmania goes through a review process to achieve the highest certification standards, socially acceptable management, and other recognised good management practices for plantation forests.**

**There needs to be increased support for plantation innovation and value adding.** Opportunity should be taken at rotation turnover to diversify with suitable species in consultation with sawmillers, silvicultural research scientists and other stakeholders.

In some cases environment groups would like to see **consideration be given to areas of plantation in otherwise expansive areas of high conservation value forest restored to native forest.**

A critical part of long term commercial sustainability is that **the plantation industry not receive the significant tax breaks, or other financial subsidization of commercial plantation establishment it has received in the past.** This has distorted markets of the timber industry, other agricultural markets and property markets to the detriment of them all. In addition it has led to and is likely to continue to lead to plantation establishment on inappropriate lands that would otherwise not be viable.

***Policy 8: End government market distortions – which inhibit innovation and lead to unfair competition within the timber industry and with other sectors.***

The management of Tasmania's forests on public land is currently heavily subsidised by a range of direct and indirect subsidies, whilst logging companies are also subsidised by direct government handouts, tax-breaks, special regulations and other mechanisms.

The timber industry always has and always will be an important part of Tasmania's economy, but it should stand on its own two feet. Ongoing subsidy of native forest logging on public land inhibits investment in innovation and downstream processing in the plantation sector at the expense of native forests.

In addition subsidies to the Tasmanian wood-chipping sector distort the market and allow the industry to out-compete more competitive and jobs-rich sectors such as agriculture and tourism.

**End the 300,000 cubic metres legislated requirement from State Forest.** Forestry Tasmania currently has a legislated requirement to provide a minimum of 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> of veneer or sawlog from public forests each year. What is clear is that the recent expansion in eucalypt plantation means that this could soon be replaced (particularly with ongoing investment in thinning / pruning and new technologies in composite and laminated structural timber products manufacture from plantation timber).

***Restructure Forestry Tasmania Business***

A key element of a transition package would be the **restructure of Forestry Tasmania's business functions**. As has already been noted the land management functions would be best incorporated with the land management agency functions of the Parks and Wildlife Service.

**There would still be a role for a forestry management agency in managing the extraction of specialty timbers for the foreseeable future, the growing and sale of timber from publicly owned plantation**

forests, bee-keeping licenses, and certain restoration forestry works.

**Current commercial tourism operations on State Forests to be either sold or managed by a Tourism Government Business Enterprise 'Forest Tourism Tasmania'**

There should be a clear delineation between the delivery of a public service / public good, vs a commercial enterprise in State Forests in Tasmania. As outlined earlier in this policy document, Environment Tasmania does see a role for very well managed, well controlled sensitive private tourism leases in identified forest tourism zones in Tasmania.

**Environment Tasmania proposes that current commercial tourism operations in State forest in Tasmania currently owned and operated by Forestry Tasmania should either be sold or managed by the new land management agency.**

#### **MIS Tax Breaks**

There has been a growing roll-out of MIS plantations on agricultural land at the expense of legitimate agricultural activities and the environment. These schemes distort markets for timber, agriculture, and property, to the detriment of rural Tasmania.

**Environment Tasmania recommends an end to MIS tax subsidies. It is proposed that the multi-million dollar revenue savings is diverted into a rural & regional land conservation and restoration fund for jobs-intensive community conservation, land-care and restoration projects. Similarly, we recommend that the land tax breaks for private timber reserves be brought into line with the rest of the rural sector.**

#### **Policy 9. Develop an integrated public land management agency for Tasmania**

Currently public land with protected values is managed by three agencies, Forestry Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown Land Services. This leads to duplication of processes and services. It is proposed that these government functions be integrated into one agency to provide for efficiencies and better conservation management.

In the process of this change, informal reserves would be formalised, and proposed Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project (CLAC) reserves proclaimed and added to the reserve estate.

This reform will mean that a number of specific land management and policy roles currently housed by Forestry Tasmania, will be transferred across to a single, properly resourced land management agency.

**Functions that would be shifted from Forestry Tasmania to the agency include land use policy for state forest, and the management and control of all State Forest**

**This new agency would also undertake ongoing work to develop whole of landscape conservation strategies across Tasmania.** (eg in accordance with the National Forest Policy Statement, the Environment Department will ensure the existence and/or development of; "effective corridor systems [to] link reserves, refuges and areas with a relatively large range of altitudinal and other geographical variation so as to take into account the likely impacts of climate change." )

**Absorb the functions of the Forest Practices Authority into a strengthened and well-resourced Environment Protection Agency.** This will ensure that there is an EPA with state-wide jurisdiction over environmental regulatory matters. There are inherent conflicts of interest in a separate regulatory regime for only one component of Tasmania's environment. At the same time, it is important to note that there are significant skills and institutional

knowledge contained within the FPA which would be underutilised as the timber industry moves from native forests across to existing plantations. Integration of these skills into the EPA would provide better environmental planning for all sectors of the Tasmanian community. Synergies and shared resources between personnel, will also encourage greater likelihood of forestry activity being best integrated with other land use regimes and planning.

**The review will include the following:**

- Revision of the Forest practice Code
- Policing and enforcement of forest practice plans
- Integrated catchment management.

**Provision of an Environment, Parks & Biodiversity Protection Tribunal**

A tribunal to replace the role of the forest practices tribunal with a wider gambit and broader community representation, to provide a mechanism for appeals to decisions in relation to land management, parks, or the EPA.

For example, if a party is aggrieved at a Forest Practices plan decision, change to the Forest Practices Code, an appeal can be made to the tribunal.

***Policy 10. Improve land and fire management practices in all forests.***

Day to day management of the state's forests is critical to their long term health. Beyond immediate threats from industrial timber extraction, are a range of impacts that degrade protected forests. These include weeds, over-visitation, wood-hooking, recreational vehicle abuse, feral animals and fire.

In addition to being threats to many of the natural values of protected forests, these threats are also a risk to the timber industry and its plantation resources – especially fire.

**There is an ongoing need to develop and refine fire management strategies to protect and enhance ecological and economic values across the Tasmanian landscape.**

**Public land managers must be better resourced and supported by policy and regulation, to effectively manage these issues. In addition there is a need for ongoing support to private landholders to manage these threats on private land.**

Providing better resourcing to public land managers to care for forests and the many benefits they deliver will provide additional employment in rural areas of Tasmania as well as the flow on benefits of healthier forests for all Tasmanians.

***Policy 11. Support forests and timber industry pride, heritage and innovation.***

Along with our native forests, Tasmania's timbers and the timber industry are an important source of pride and sense of well being for our state and communities. It will be important in any transition to find ways to build on this heritage.

Protection and promotion of the historic heritage of forest industries and cultural values of forests will be critical. But equally important is the living cultural values of forests and our timber industries, especially in some rural communities and amongst the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. **This will include the development of regional strategies to build local pride and identification with our forests, cultural landscapes, Indigenous heritage, historic heritage and timber industry heritage.**

## Appendix A - High Conservation Value Forests in Tasmania

The maps indicating forests of high conservation value (HCV) are the product of many years work in Tasmania. They are the outcome of many different and often overlapping processes that have been carried out by governments, community groups, scientists and World Heritage authorities. These processes have occurred over the course of more than 25 years.

In defining high conservation value forests, we have considered one of the most widely accepted definitions (Forest Stewardship Council) and addressed the following criteria:

- Forests with high biodiversity values;
- Large intact natural forest areas;
- Rare or threatened ecosystems;
- Forests with critical ecosystem importance;
- Forest areas of importance to local communities;
- and indigenous peoples.

A summary of the processes that led to the identification of each major HCV area are shown on the table (right)

Any informal reserve is considered inadequately protected and is incorporated into the reserve ask for full, formal, legislated protection.

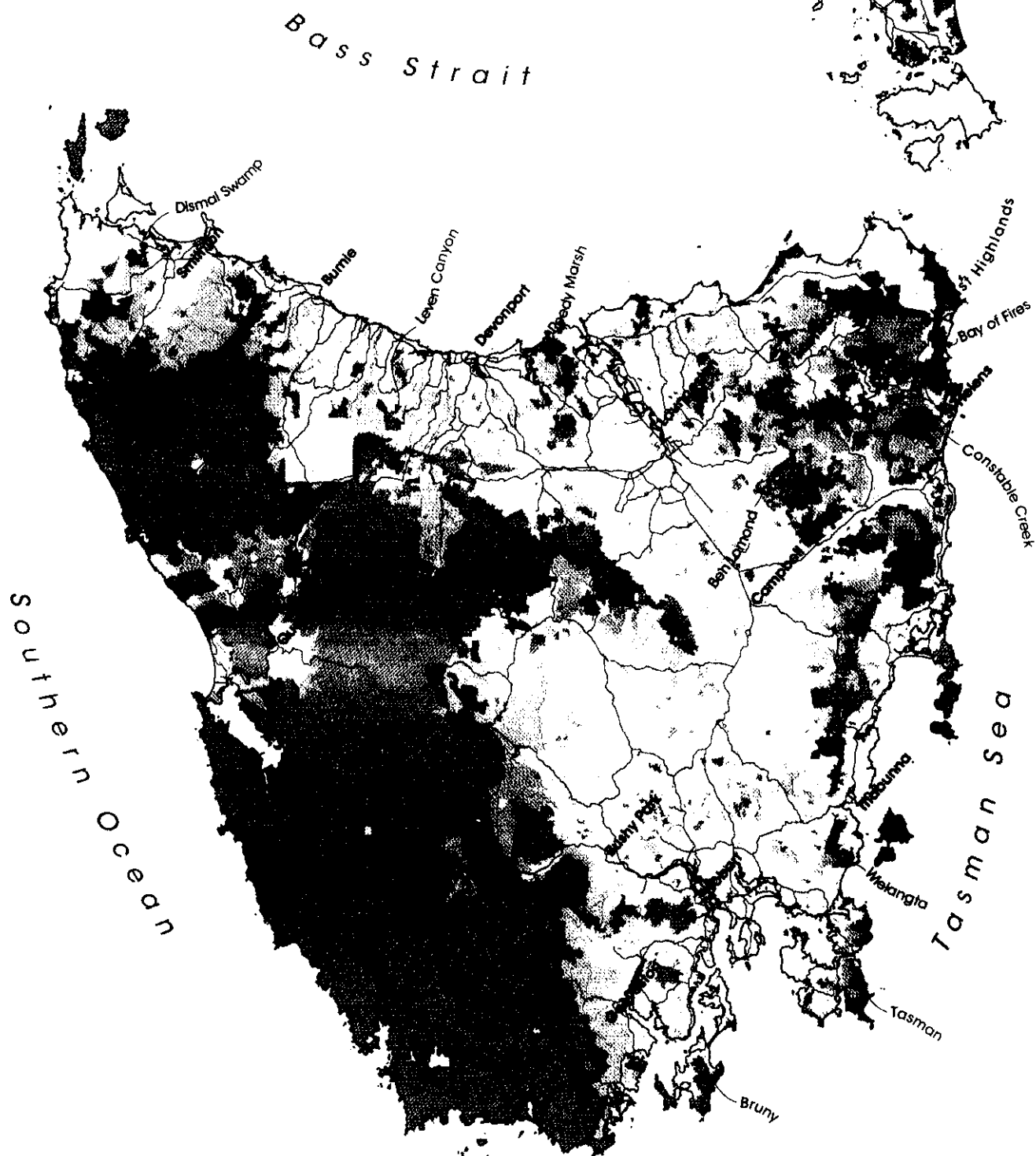
There is a process of ongoing refinement of boundaries in the following ways;

- Removing areas irretrievably degraded by logging and now isolated or fragmented;
- Some areas, whose values have been severely impacted by logging, but are located inside a contiguous area of HCV forest are retained and will be rehabilitated;
- Some areas, in the interest of establishing connected conservation reserves or delivering world heritage recommendations, are included;
- Where improved knowledge and information have identified previously unknown conservation values, areas will be added.




HCV Area	Processes of HCV identification
Proposed extensions to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) (includes Styx and Great Western Tiers, as shown on PFGJ maps)	National Estate listing (Government body: Australian Heritage Commission, 1980s) Helsham Commission of Inquiry 1987-88 and consultants International World Heritage experts, including IUCN, ICOMOS, World Heritage Centre and World Heritage Committee (includes official representatives of Government signatories to international treaty)
This is one of the world's great temperate wilderness areas and includes sections of the Great Western Tiers, Upper Derwent, Navarre, Counsel, Florentine, Wedge, Tyenna, Styx, Weld, Snowy range, middle Huon, parts of Pictou, Esperance and Lune catchments	Panel of Experts (Tas. Forests and Forest Industry Council - conservation groups, industry, scientists in 1990) Tasmanian Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage (Government, 1990) Sundry reports on threats to integrity of TWWHA (Australian Government 1993; Australian Government consultants, 1994 and 1995) Great Western Tiers National Parks proposals (community groups, 1990 and 1995) Sundry reports as part of Regional Forest Agreement process (inc. Governments' Panel on World Heritage values, 1997)
These are the areas that contain the most timber/pulp resource of all the HCV areas	Tasmania Together process (Tasmanian Government) 2000 Promises by Australian Government, October 2004 Hitchcock report 2008
Tarkine	Scientific consultants engaged by Tasmanian Conservation Trust (Forgotten Wilderness, 1992)
(includes most of the HCV forests of north west Tasmania)	National Estate listing (Government body: Australian Heritage Commission, 1990s) Tarkine National Coalition proposals 1995-2004 (representing the Wilderness Society, ACF and local groups) Calls for World Heritage investigation by IUCN (1990s) Tasmania Together process (Tasmanian Government) 2000 Sundry reports as part of Regional Forest Agreement process (inc. Governments' Panel on World Heritage values, 1997)

Ben Lomond	<p>National Estate listing (Government body; Australian Heritage Commission, 1980s) (part)</p> <p>Submissions to Regional Forest Agreement (TCT, 1996)</p> <p>Tasmania Together process (Tasmanian Government) 2000</p> <p>Proposed Ben Lomond National Park (Wilderness Society, 2000)</p>
North-East Highlands, including extensions to Blue Tier, Mt Victoria and Mt Arthur reserves and Panama Ridge	<p>Submissions to Regional Forest Agreement (TCT, 1996)</p> <p>Proposal for a North East Highlands National Park (community group 1998, revised 2008)</p> <p>Tasmania Together process (Tasmanian Government) 2000</p> <p>Linking Landscapes Project (community groups and TWS 2007)</p>
North East Tasmania, including Mt Barrow, Mt Horror, Mt Cameron, Constable Creek – Lalla Tier, Fingal Tier, Evercrook, St Patricks River	<p>Linking Landscapes Project (community groups and TWS 2007)</p>
Eastern Tiers, Wielangta, Reedy Marsh, Tasman Peninsula, Bruny Island and other small areas	<p>Scientists as part of Forests and Forest Industry Council, 1990</p> <p>Community groups, 1990s</p> <p>Tasmania Together process (Tasmanian Government) 2000</p> <p>Swift parrot breeding surveys and subsequent reports</p>
Leven Canyon and Black Bluff	<p>Community groups 1970s and 1980s</p> <p>Canyon and Bluff Working Group (The Canyon and the Bluff, 2003) and support from widespread community groups, 2003</p> <p>Forestry Tasmania moratorium 2003</p>





## Legend

-  Existing Forest
-  Proposed FPCV Forest
-  State Forest

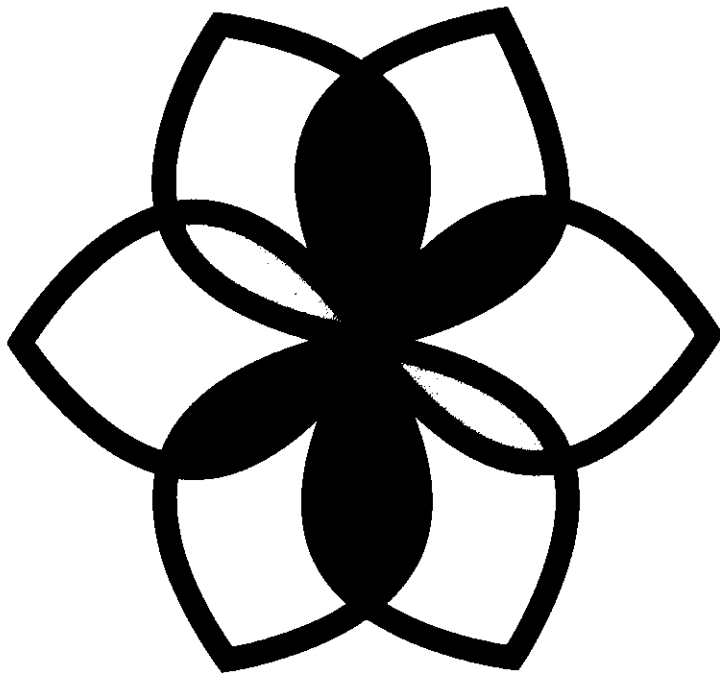
## Figures

The following figures are based on the existing forest cover of Tasmania as of 31/12/2000 based on the following figures:

Source: Forest Cover Survey, 2000

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For more information, please contact

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