



REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Fact Sheet

Circular Head Region

The Regional Forest Agreement - Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reservation

The Regional Forest Agreement was signed by the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments in November 1997. As part of this agreement, an additional 396,000 hectares of public land were added to Tasmania's reserves, increasing public land in reserves by 17%.

The areas reserved were chosen to create a world class CAR forest reserve system for Tasmania. CAR means a forest reserve system that is:

Comprehensive - covering the full range of different forest communities.

Adequate - with areas large enough to sustain, in the long-term, the survival of animal and plant populations.

Representative - reflecting the diversity of life in the forests.

RFA Conservation gains in the Circular Head District and Region

24 000 ha of new formal reserves were created. Total formal reserves 161 000 ha or 49% of public land.

- 16 000 ha of new reserves to be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (includes Thornton River, Dip Range, Mt Bertha)
- 8 000 ha of new Forest Reserves (includes 4 blackwood swamp areas, Shakespeare Hills)

The new reserves are primarily for the protection of additional areas of old growth forest and in the case of the new Parks and Wildlife reserves, also to protect high quality wilderness areas.

Reservation of Public Forest in the Circular Head District

- Public forest in the District is 196 000 ha. - of this, 71 000 ha or 36 % is reserved.
- Old growth forest on public land in the District is 89 000 ha. - of this, 50 000 ha or 56% is reserved.
- High quality wilderness in the District is 123 000 ha. - of this, 104 000 ha or 85% is reserved.

Plantation expansion post-RFA in the Circular Head Region

To maintain wood production and to support forest industries within Tasmania, more intensive management of wood production forest is necessary to compensate for the increase in reservation.

The RFA provided \$67M for sustainable wood production to be developed on less land through Intensive Forest Management (IFM) programs.

IFM improves yield and quality through:

- establishing plantations on cleared land or by converting native forest; and
- thinning native forest regrowth.

Forestry Tasmania's plantation expansion program is part of this IFM program. Over the next ten years, plantation expansion and thinning will increase to 100 000 hectares on State forest, taking Tasmania's forest resource to worldscale, to attract industry and foster downstream processing of forest products within the State.

SEE MAP OVERLEAF

Circular Head District



LEGEND

Pre RFA

- State forest
- Forest Reserve
- Crown Reserve

Post RFA

- New Multiple Use Forest
- New Forest Reserve
- New Crown Reserve

District Locality

