



REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Fact Sheet

The Southern Forests

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 Huon District and Southern Forests

Nearly 19 000 ha of State Forest was transferred to National Parks and other formal reserves, adding to the 179 000 ha of reserves already in the District. 61% of public land in the District is now in formal reserves.

The RFA has added to the reserve system:

- 7 900 ha to the Southwest National Park (includes Blakes Opening, East Picton, Farmhouse Creek, Hastings Caves catchment, D'Entrecasteaux River, Catamaran River);
- 8 200 ha of other reserves to be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (includes Southport Lagoon, Snug Tiers); and
- 3 200 ha of Forest Reserves to be managed by Forestry Tasmania (includes Arve Loop, Bruny Island, Lonnavale).

The new reserves are primarily for the protection of additional areas of old growth forest and in the case of the National Park, are extensions for additional protection of high quality wilderness.

Reservation of public forest in the Huon District

- Public forest in the District is 285 000 ha - of this, 196 000 ha or 69% is reserved.
- Old growth on public land in the District is 158 000 ha - of this, 142 000 ha or 90% old growth is reserved.
- High quality wilderness in the District is 494 000 ha - of this, 482 000 ha or 98% wilderness is reserved

Plantation expansion post-RFA in the Huon District

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

Huon District

