



REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Fact Sheet

North Eastern 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 North Eastern Forests and Bass District

The RFA has resulted in 41 000 ha of new formal reserves in this region. Formal reserves in this area total 92,000 ha or 24% of public land.

The RFA has added to the reserve system:

- 17 000 ha of new reserves to be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (includes Mt Cameron, Mt Barrow, Ben Lomond, Flinders Is)
- 24 000 ha of new Forest Reserves (includes Mt Victoria, Mt Maurice, Blue Tier, Lefroy, Mt Arthur, Mt Stronach, Frome Dam, Paradise Plains)

The new reserves are primarily for the protection of additional areas of old growth forest.

Reservation of Public Forest in the Bass District

- Public forest in the District is 233,000 ha - of this, 64 000 ha or 27 % forest is reserved:
- Old growth on public land in the District is 33,000 ha - of this, 17 000 ha or 52 % of old growth is reserved.

Plantation expansion post-RFA in the Bass 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

Bass District

