



REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Fact Sheet

Mersey 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 Mersey District and Region

52 000 hectares of new formal reserves were created. The total area of formal reserves in the District is 152 000 hectares or 48% of public land.

The RFA has added to the reserve system:

- 44 000 ha of new reserves to be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (includes Mt Roland, Asbestos Range NP extension, Gog Range, Great Western Tiers); and
- 8 000 ha of new Forest Reserves to be managed by Forestry Tasmania (includes areas at Reedy Marsh, Liena, Dove River, Kimberley).

The new reserves are primarily for the protection of additional areas of old growth forest and under-reserved forest communities.

Reservation of public forest in the Mersey District

- Public forest in the District is 215 000 ha. - of this, 104,000 ha or 48% is reserved.
- Old growth forest on public land in the District is 53 000 ha. - of this, 42 000 ha or 79% is reserved.
- High quality wilderness in the District is 63 000 ha. - of this, 63 000 ha or 100% is reserved.

Plantation expansion post-RFA in the Mersey 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.

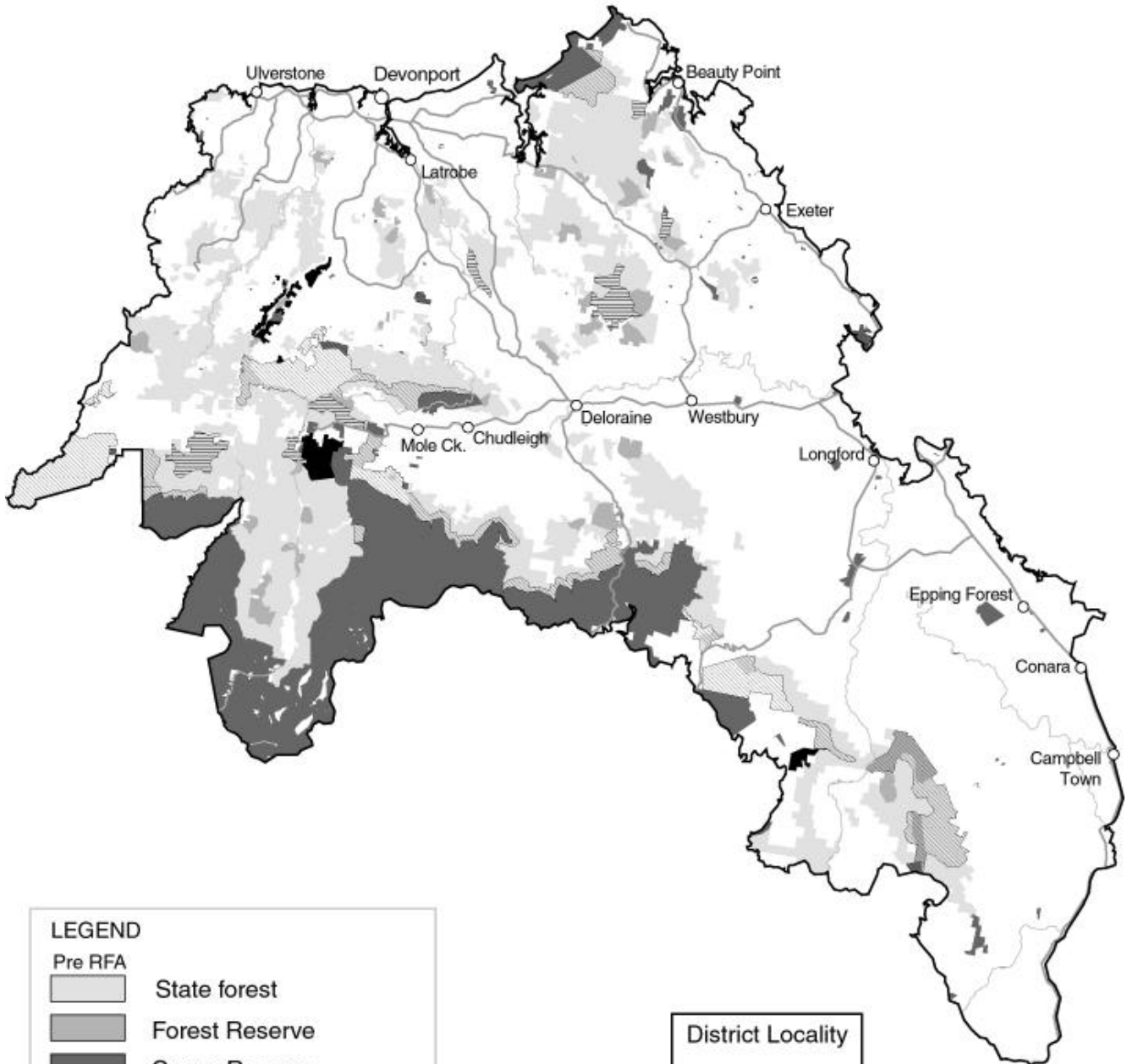
IFM improves yield and quality through:

- 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

Mersey District



LEGEND	
Pre RFA	
	State forest
	Forest Reserve
	Crown Reserve
Post RFA	
	New Multiple Use Forest
	New Forest Reserve
	New Crown Reserve

