

TASMANIA'S HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

WORTH MORE STANDING



Protecting our forests in parks and reserves

To protect our publicly owned native forests, we need new formal reserves such as national parks and conservation areas. In some cases, we could extend existing national parks to include new areas needing protection. In other areas, whole new reserves will need to be created.

The proposed new reserves, shown on the map over, have been designed to protect known high conservation value forests and improve connectivity. This means, where possible, new reserves are linked to each other or existing reserves by intact corridors of native vegetation.

This delivers landscape-scale protection for our environment.

We need to achieve the highest possible level of protection for these special areas. Some reserves, including some formal reserves such as 'Forest Reserves' do not deliver sufficient protection, as they can still allow destructive activities such as mining to occur.

To create a new formal reserve, both houses of Tasmania's Parliament have to agree on new legislation. That means the Tasmanian Government must play a leadership role in recognising and promoting the need to create new national parks.

Forests on private land

Some of Tasmania's most stunning and diverse forests grow on privately owned land. These forests need protection too. But private landowners cannot be forced to protect their forests.

Instead, private landowners can be paid to place a protective 'covenant' over forest identified as having high conservation values. Government-run covenant programs have protected large areas of fantastic forest, but they have consistently failed to meet set targets informed by science.

To adequately protect high conservation value forests and meet targets for protection on private land, governments must increase current investment and effort. This will give farmers and other landowners maximum support to conserve vital areas of high conservation value forest.

Visit dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp for more information on how to protect the values of privately owned forest.

High Conservation Value forests

The conservation values of forest areas proposed for protection have been identified by a range of scientific, government, community and World Heritage reports over recent decades.

Criteria including ecosystem services (such as water catchments and carbon); habitat and biodiversity; importance for cultural or spiritual heritage; size and integrity; ecological maturity and connectivity/reserve design are considered when determining which areas are of known high conservation value.

Water catchments

Tasmania's forests are a vital part of our water cycle. Intact native forests in water catchments help to regulate the quality and quantity of fresh water flows.

Scientific studies show that logging in water catchments can reduce water flows by up to 50%. After logging, it can take up to 150 years for water flows to return to normal. At a time when water is a precious resource, protecting the forests in our catchments is urgent.

Carbon storage

Tasmania's forests store more carbon per hectare than the tropical forests in the Amazon or Indonesia. Protecting our native forests is the single biggest contribution Tasmania can make in the global fight against dangerous climate change.

Logging releases millions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, worsening climate change.



Threatened wildlife

Our forests provide critical habitat for threatened species such as the Tasmanian devil, swift parrot and giant freshwater lobster.

Tasmania has over 600 threatened species. Many of them live in our threatened forests.

Protecting, restoring and reconnecting forest areas will give threatened species a fighting chance - helping them avoid extinction like that suffered by the Tasmanian Tiger.

Connecting habitats

Ecological scientists identify landscape-scale connectivity as delivering the best possible conservation outcomes. New reserves need to be designed to let wildlife move between different habitat areas - helping them respond to threats like climate change or bushfire.

Protecting the view

Protecting the spectacular vistas or the forested backdrops to regional communities is an important factor for both local Tasmanians and tourists. How can we market a clean, green Tasmania to visitors if they see a scarred, ugly landscape?



Cultural heritage

Tasmanian landscapes contain some of the world's oldest human heritage. Some sites have revealed Aboriginal artifacts confirming human habitation dating back over 40,000 years. However, Tasmania has a poor history of adequately protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, and this continues to this day.

Rich Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage exists in many threatened forest areas. Caves and cliffs contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation, as do stone artefacts and diverse vegetation types that can indicate historical burning regimes.

Since the European occupation of Tasmania, forests have been an important place for work, recreation and travel. Some areas still contain important tracks, huts, mine sites and other remnants of settlement that deserve protection within the broader landscape.

Timbs and Adamsfield Tracks and Churchill's Hut in the Upper Florentine and The Chinese mine sites on the Blue Tier are all good examples of cultural heritage worth preserving.

Geological heritage

Geological features like rocks and cliffs can have ecological, cultural, scientific or aesthetic value. Tasmania has some spectacular examples of limestone cave or karst systems, many with high value for local hydrology, ecology and of special significance for Aboriginal Tasmanians. Some of these are well known, well protected and frequently visited. Others have only recently been discovered in forested areas and many remain barely explored and poorly understood.

Significant examples are to be found in unprotected forest areas in the Southern Forests, Upper Florentine, Great Western Tiers and Tarkine regions.

Logging and building roads can damage the structure of these cave systems, by causing flooding and buildups of silt.

Tasmania has a unique opportunity to protect high conservation value native forests once and for all, in new national parks and reserves. This will preserve the water, wildlife, carbon and cultural values of these forests, for the benefit of future generations.

Protecting these forests is the responsibility of the State and Federal Governments. We need our governments to declare new national parks and assist with the restructure and reform of the failing native forest logging industry.

You can help make our governments act responsibly

Write or call our elected leaders and lend your voice to the forests. Call for new national parks now.

Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings

email: lara.giddings@dpac.tas.gov.au
ph: (03) 6233 3464

Prime Minister Julia Gillard

parliament house ph: (02) 6277 7700
electoral office ph: (03) 9742 5800

Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke

email: Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au
ph: (02) 6277 7640

Join our volunteer team and help spread the word

email: hobart@wilderness.org.au or launceston@wilderness.org.au
ph: Hobart-03 62241550 Launceston-03 63317488 or
join us on facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wilderness-Society-Tasmania/154232183102

Make a donation, become a member or leave a gift in your will

Call 1800 030 641. Visit our website for information, actions and updates
www.wilderness.org.au/tasmania

Support local Tasmanian conservation groups working for forest protection outcomes. Visit the websites included inside or contact us to find out who campaigns for the protection of your local area.



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 THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY
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TASMANIA'S PUBLICLY OWNED HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS – RESERVE AREAS



The Tarkine 1
A vast area of temperate rainforest, wild rivers and remote coastline in Tasmania's North West that remains a stronghold of the endemic giant freshwater crayfish and disease-free Tasmanian devils. www.tarkine.org



Great Western Tiers 2
The imposing northern escarpment of the existing Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Upper Derwent and Central Highlands 3

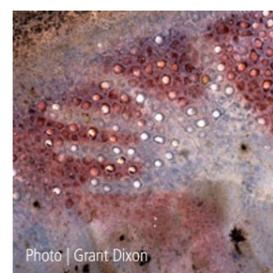
Remote areas of diverse forest adjoining the World Heritage Area. www.stillwildstillthreatened.org



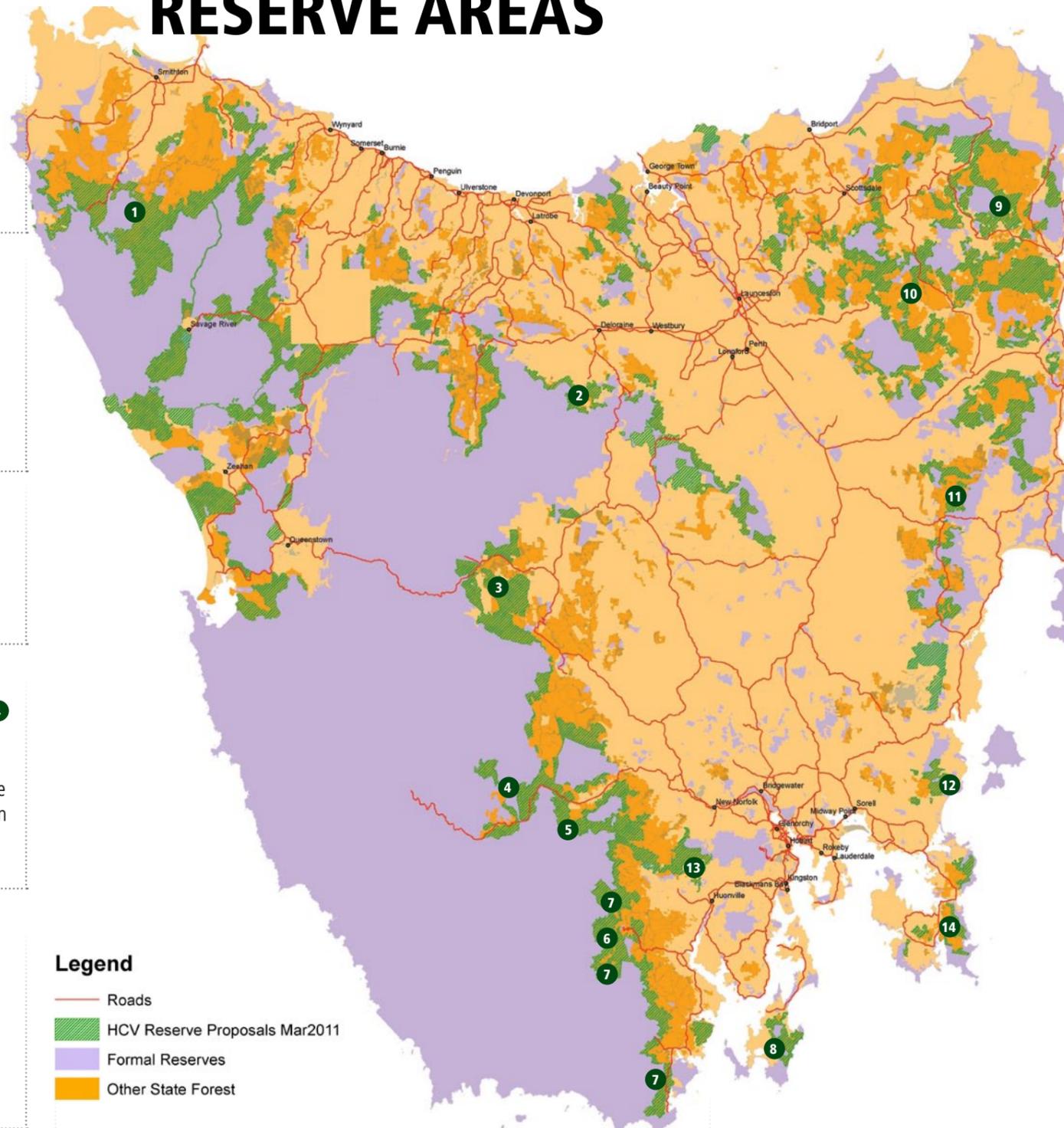
Upper Florentine 4
An area of diverse vegetation types, ranging from tall wet eucalypt forest to button grass plains, surrounded on three sides by the mountains of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. www.stillwildstillthreatened.org



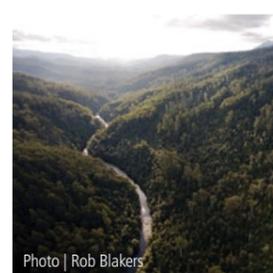
Styx Valley 5
An iconic river valley next to the World Heritage Area, with the greatest concentration of tall trees in Tasmania. Some trees are 97 metres tall! www.stillwildstillthreatened.org



Middle Huon 6
Bordering the World Heritage Area, the Huon contains globally significant karst systems and significant sites of Aboriginal heritage that are not formally protected. www.huon.org



Legend
 — Roads
 ■ HCV Reserve Proposals Mar2011
 ■ Formal Reserves
 ■ Other State Forest



Weld, Picton, and Esperance Valleys – the Southern Forests 7

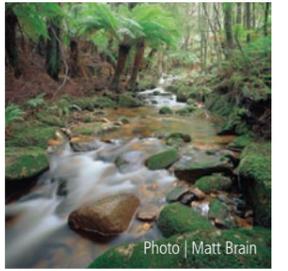
Part of the one of the world's great temperate wilderness areas and identified as of World Heritage significance these are the forested valleys of wild rivers flowing out of the existing Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. www.huon.org

Bruny Island 8

Tasmania's most accessible and populated island, Bruny has extensive forest areas on the south island that remain threatened by logging. The forests of Bruny Island are another critical breeding area for the swift parrot.

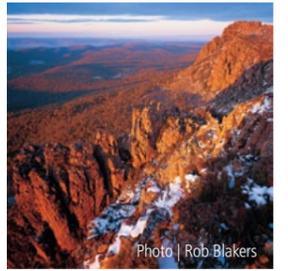
North East Highlands, 9

including Blue Tier and Mt Arthur
Spectacular areas of important forest in a region heavily impacted by logging and plantation establishment. Critical water supply catchments for Launceston and regional centres. www.northeastbioregionalnetwork.org.au/www.bluetier.org



Ben Lomond 10

One of the only remaining areas of wilderness in NE mainland Tasmania, Ben Lomond National Park offers good protection for alpine ecosystems at higher altitudes, but large unprotected forest areas remain on the foothills. www.northeastbioregionalnetwork.org.au



Eastern Tiers 11

Low altitude ridges and valleys running along the hinterland of Tasmania's spectacular East Coast.



Wielangta 12

Dry eucalypt forests with patches of rainforest refugia and a known hotspot of nesting sites for the critically endangered Swift parrot. www.on-trial.info



West Wellington 13

An important area of forest adjoining the reserve that protects Mt Wellington. www.wwpjg.info

Tasman Peninsula 14

Containing tourism icons like Port Arthur and Fortescue Bay, this is a much visited area with spectacular coastline and important forest areas.

