

The Styx

Over half of the 31,000 hectares of public land in the Styx Valley will now be protected in reserves, with 13,200 hectares in formal reserves. Three new formal reserves will be created to protect large areas of tall old-growth forest, most of which was previously available for harvesting.

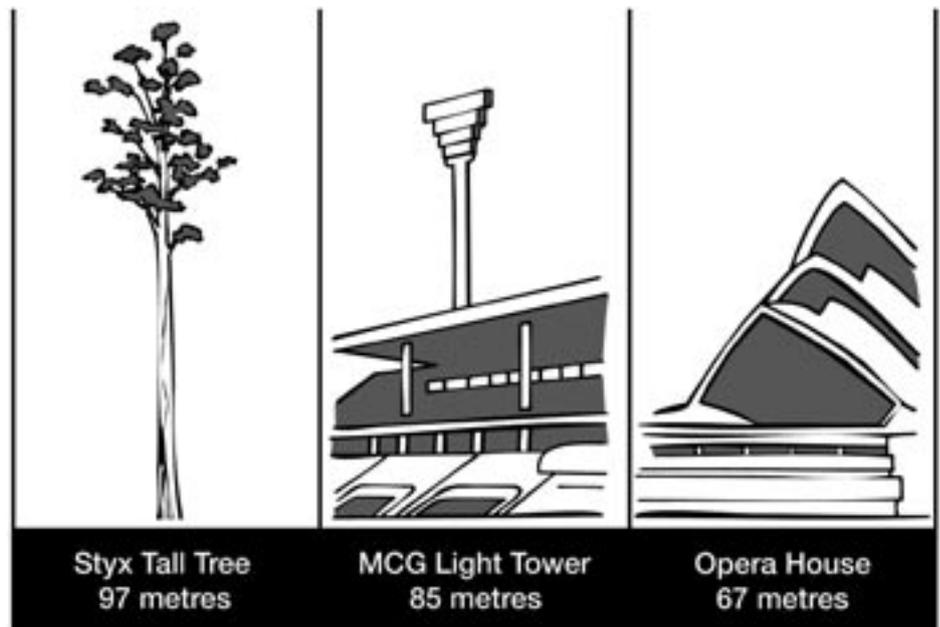
Australia's tallest known living tree, 97 metres in height, is now protected in a new formal Tall Trees Reserve in the Styx Valley. The new Tall Trees Reserve is 336 hectares stretching from the Styx River up Skeleton Spur and encompassing the tallest and largest trees in the Styx Valley. The reserve protects 16 giant trees, ranging from the tallest at 97 metres to the very large 'Two Towers' (580 centimetres in diameter).

These trees are as high as a 32-storey building and taller than the light towers at the MCG. Some of these trees are over 300 years old.

The existing Big Tree informal reserve near Waterfall Creek Road will be enlarged to create a new formal reserve of 113 hectares and to include the giant trees in the vicinity, such as Gandalf's Staff (the site of the Greenpeace tree platform in 2004) and Bell Bottom (580 centimetres in diameter).

A large formal reserve of 4,210 hectares will also be established on the northern side of the Styx Valley, covering the complete slopes from the Styx River to the top of the Maydena Range. This expanse of old-growth forest will increase the protection of old-growth tall wet eucalypt forest, in particular for *Eucalyptus regnans* (swamp gum or mountain ash) and *E. obliqua* (brown top stringybark).

These reserves will enable visitors to access, enjoy and marvel at the tallest flowering plants in the world and will complement the new forest tourism experience at the nearby Maydena Hauler being developed by Forestry Tasmania. Visitor facilities will be improved as part of the governments' \$4 million investment in forest-related tourism activities.



Footnote: Australia's tallest flowering plant, a *Eucalyptus regnans* tree named Icarus Dream, was recently measured as 97 metres tall by Brett Mifsud and Tom Greenwood, recognised tree measurers. The tree now holds the record as the world's tallest flowering plant and the tallest tree in the Southern Hemisphere.