

## **Assistance for North-West Hardwood and Special Species Timber Mills**

**The Australian and Tasmanian governments are aware that the new reserves in the north-west of Tasmania will impact special species resource supply to timber mills in the north-west and west coast of Tasmania.**

The new reserves will result in loss of access for timber harvesting of areas of forest that had been set aside under the RFA for long-term production of special species timber. In particular, the enhanced reservation of myrtle forest along the Savage River Pipeline corridor will significantly reduce the availability of high-quality deep-red myrtle timbers in the future. These timbers have been used in the past by mills in the area to create high-quality timber products including fine furniture.

In recognition of this impact, the governments have developed an assistance package that will allow directly affected mills in Strahan, Smithton and Burnie to retool, and to augment their production with resources from alternative areas and species. The special assistance package will be managed by the Tasmanian Government and will support individual solutions to be negotiated with the impacted mills. Assistance will be provided in the form of capital grants for approved investments linked to new processing opportunities. The overriding aim of the assistance package is to ensure the long-term viability of these enterprises for their owners, employees and communities.