

PROTECTING CAR VALUES ON PRIVATE LAND

In total, about 30 per cent of Tasmania's forest is on private land.

Tasmania and the Commonwealth agree that as well as including forest of high conservation value on public land for the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system it is essential to also protect forest values on private land, especially those only represented on private land.

Under the RFA, Tasmania and the Commonwealth will set up a program to protect identified forest values on private land. (*See Attachment 8 of the Regional Forest Agreement.*)

The program will be managed by the Tasmanian Department of the Environment and Land Management (DELM).

Funding for the program includes \$20 million from the Natural Heritage Trust and an additional Commonwealth grant of \$10 million.

The RFA is based upon voluntary participation in the program by private landowners. There will be no compulsory acquisition of private land.

What does the Program aim to do?

The main aim of the Program is to ensure that private forests with values which are suitable for inclusion in the CAR Reserve system are protected in perpetuity wherever possible.

To help private landowners participate in and contribute to the CAR reserve system a number of mechanisms will be used, including:

- Voluntary stewardship arrangements, where private owners are assisted to take responsibility for conservation and sustainable management.
- Giving private landowners the opportunity to play an active role in developing management plans and managing these areas.
- Voluntary sale of private land to the Tasmanian Government for CAR reserves.

How will it work?

As a first step, both governments will set priorities for conserving forest communities and priority species. A Scientific Advisory Group will be formed to advise on a strategic plan, and will use the data and values identified in the Comprehensive Regional Assessment for rare, vulnerable and endangered vegetation communities, rare and depleted old growth and priority species.

An Advisory Committee will be established to monitor the implementation of the strategic plan. It will be made up of representatives from the Department of Environment and Land Management (DELM), Private Forests Tasmania, the Forest Protection Board, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the Commonwealth.