






Contributing to the conservation of threatened species in areas outside of reserves – the Tasmanian Forest Practices System



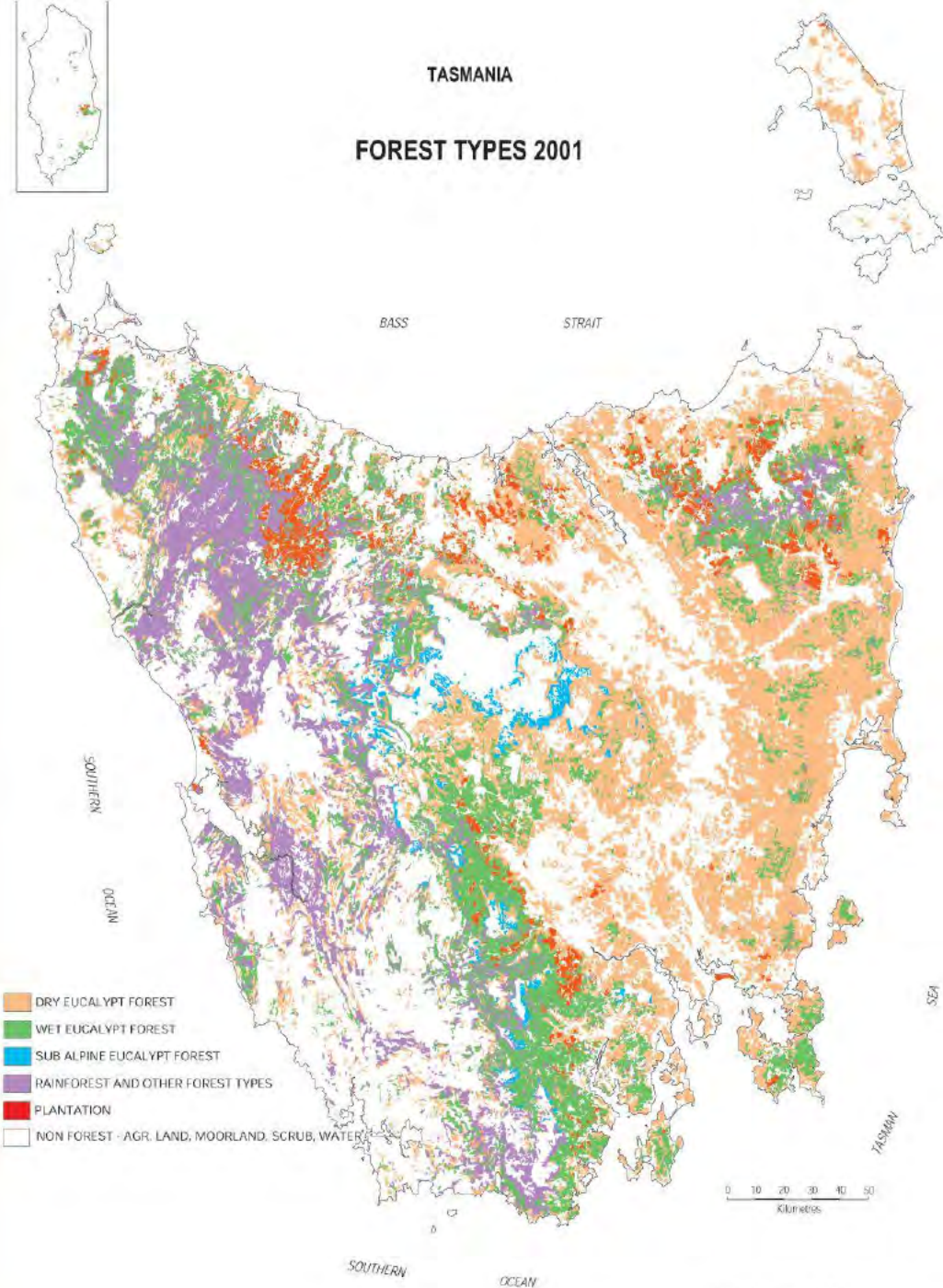
Talk outline

- Background - Tasmania's forests and approach to conservation of threatened species
- The Tasmanian forest practices system
- Consideration of threatened species -Case studies
- Research and Monitoring
- Future directions and summary

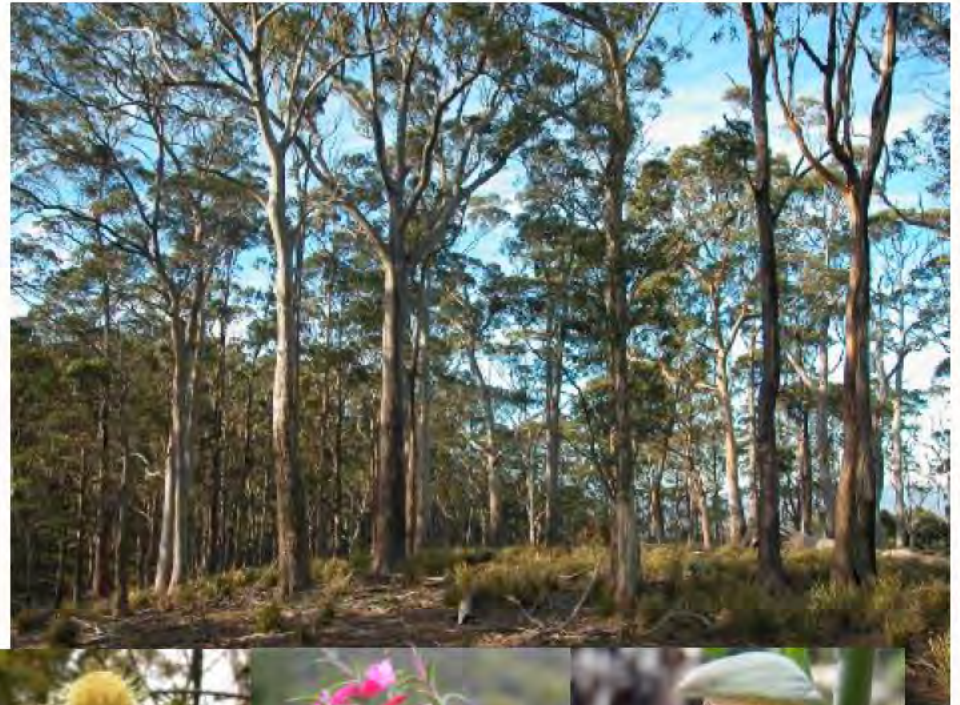
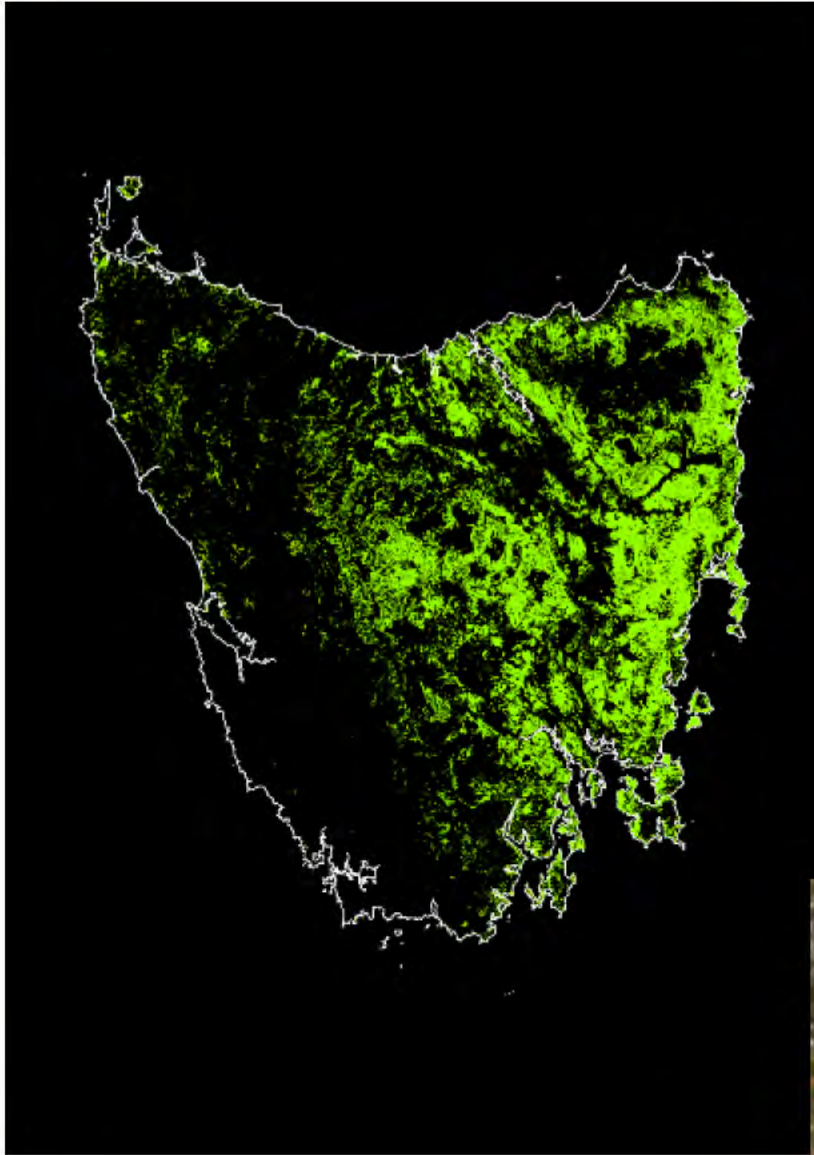
Tasmania's Forest Types

-  Dry Eucalypt Forest
-  Wet Eucalypt Forest
-  Sub alpine eucalypt forest
-  Rainforest and other forest types
-  Plantation

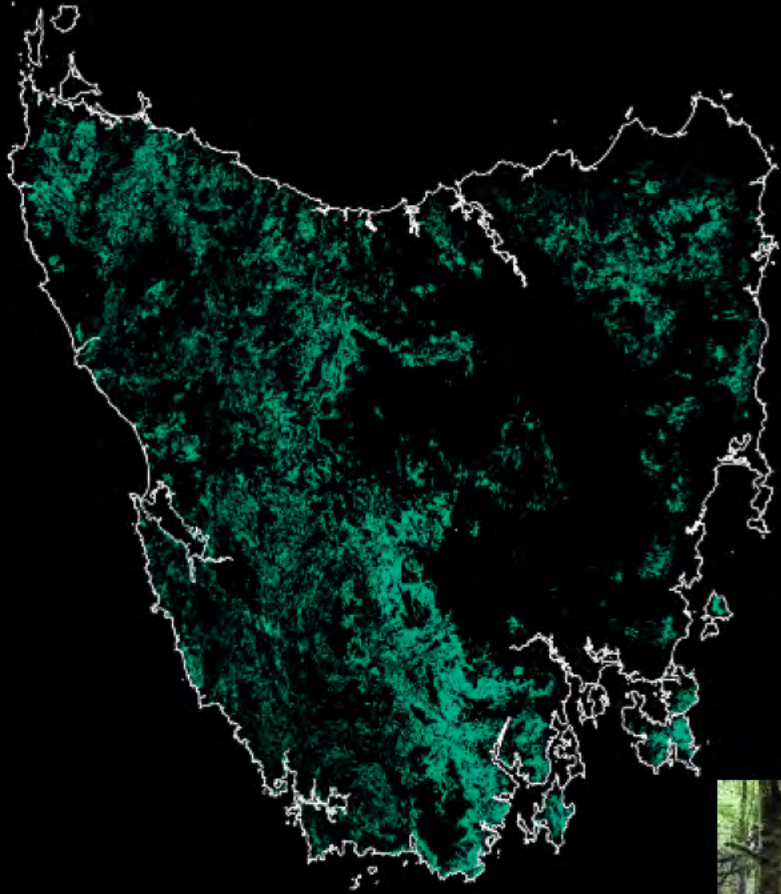
Non forest – AGR land,
Moorland, Scrub and Water



Dry Eucalypt



Wet Eucalypt, Swamp and Rainforest



Main features...



North Queensland (left) and Tasmania (right)

Still discovering new species! - The Tasman Peninsula
Dusky Antechinus (*Antechinus vandycki*)



Threatened species

- 113 threatened fauna (out of 240 listed on State and C'wealth Acts)
- 349 threatened flora (out of 500 listed species)



Banksia marginata



Diuris orientis



landfordia panicca

Three tiered conservation approach



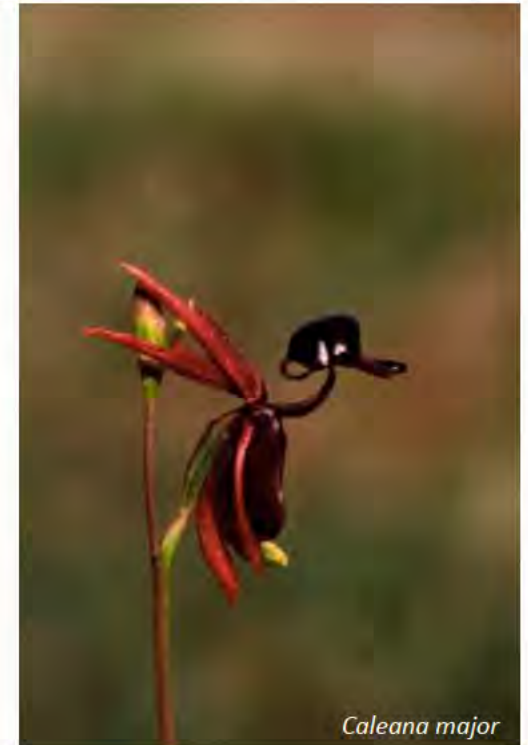
Comprehensive, Adequate, Representative (CAR) reserve system



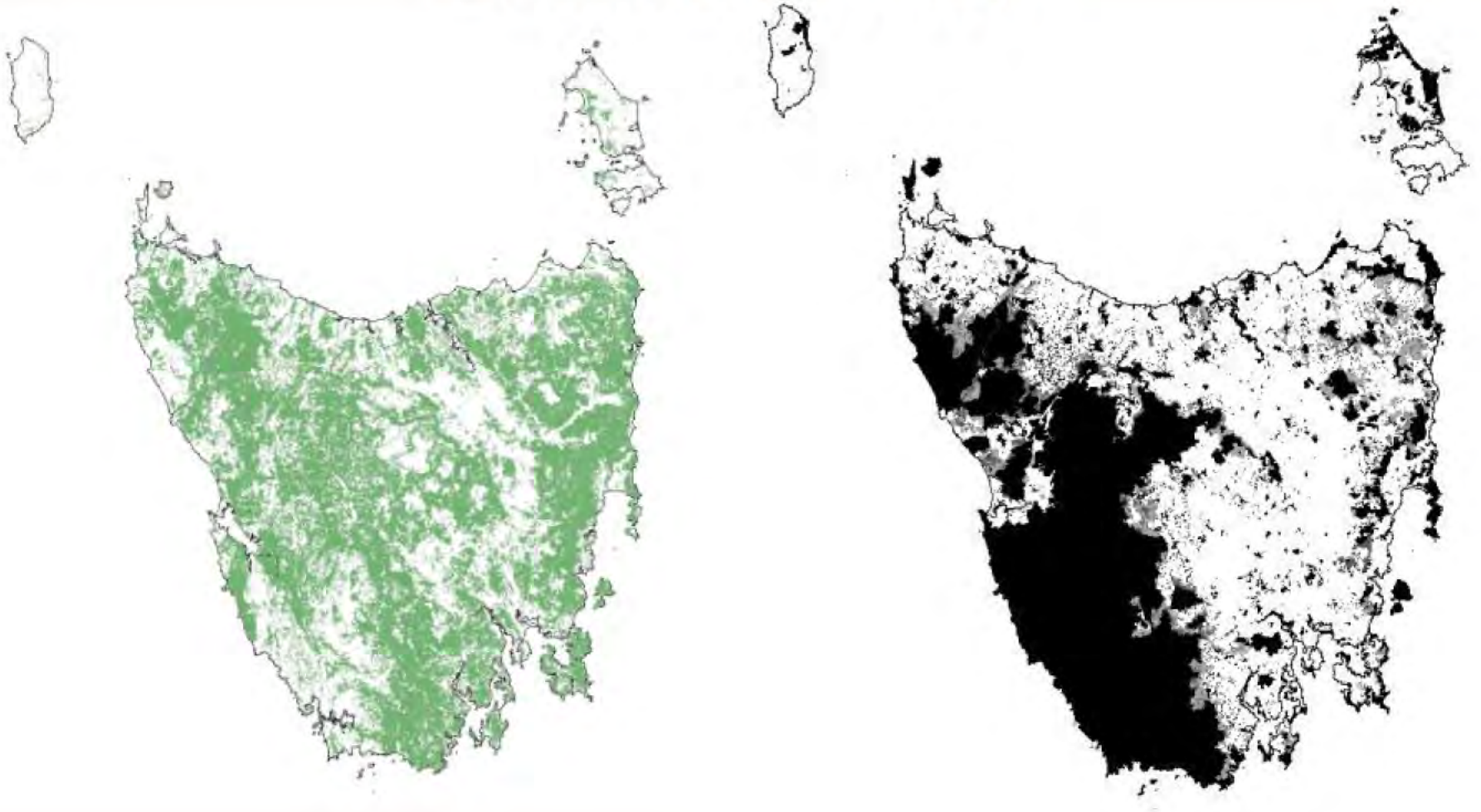
Permanent native forest estate



'Off-reserve' management actions



CAR reserve system captures almost half of Tasmania's forests

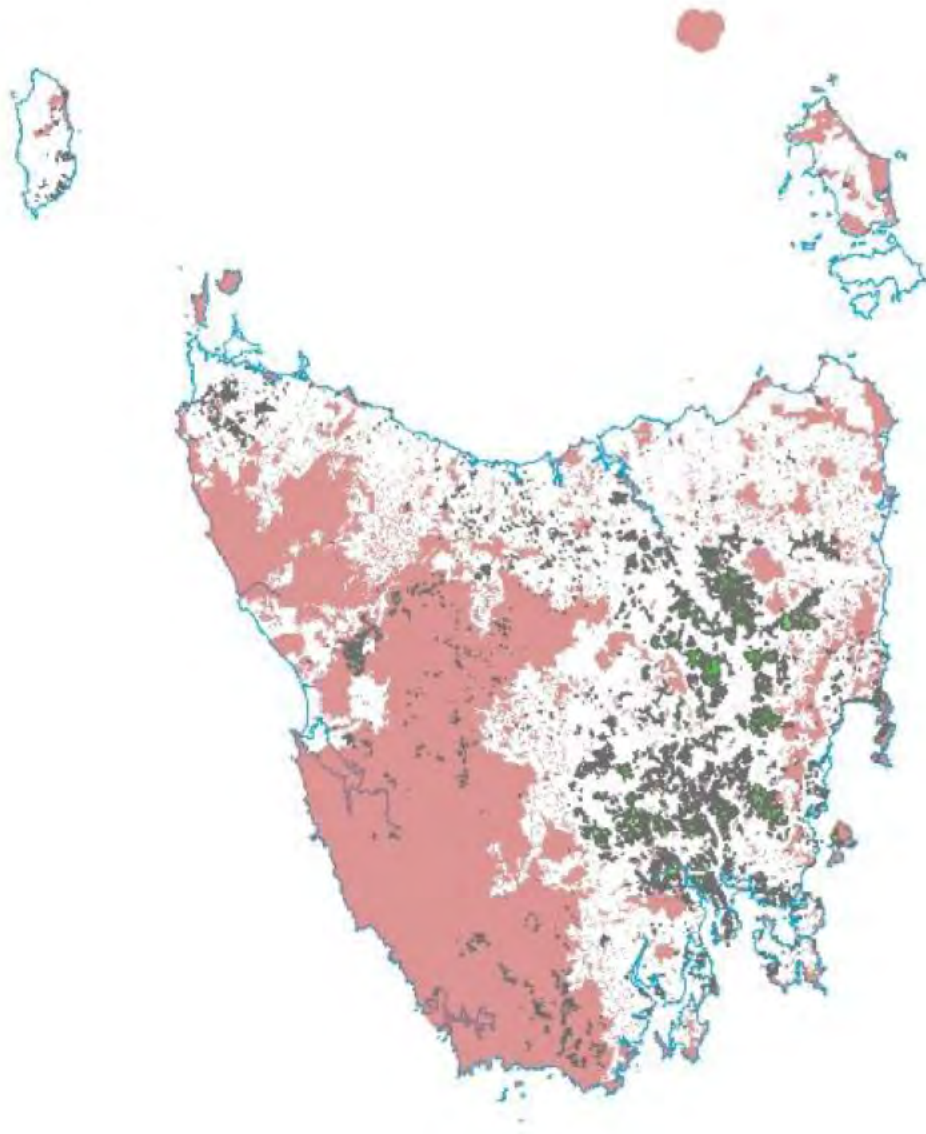


So why do we need 'off-reserve' conservation management?



- CAR Reserves don't capture all values
- For some species, the majority of their habitat type or their geographic range is located on unreserved private land
- Landuse activities intensify each time there is an addition to the reserve system

CA



**Threatened
forest
communities**



The Forest Practices System

Regulates forestry activities in areas outside reserves (public and private)

Objective:

*“to achieve sustainable management of public and private forests with **due care for the environment** in a way that is as far as possible self-funding.”*

Administration - The Forest Practices Authority
-independent statutory body.

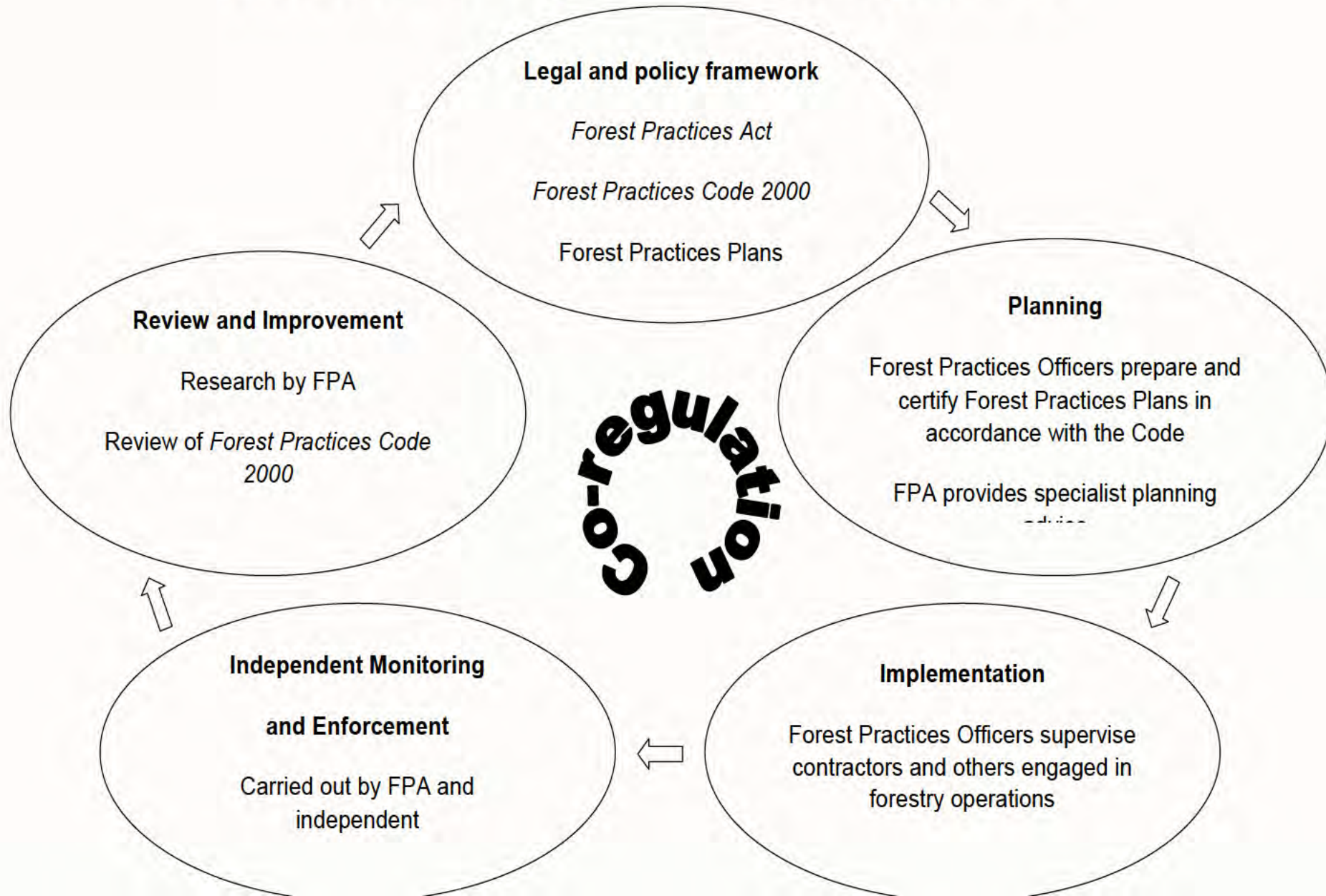


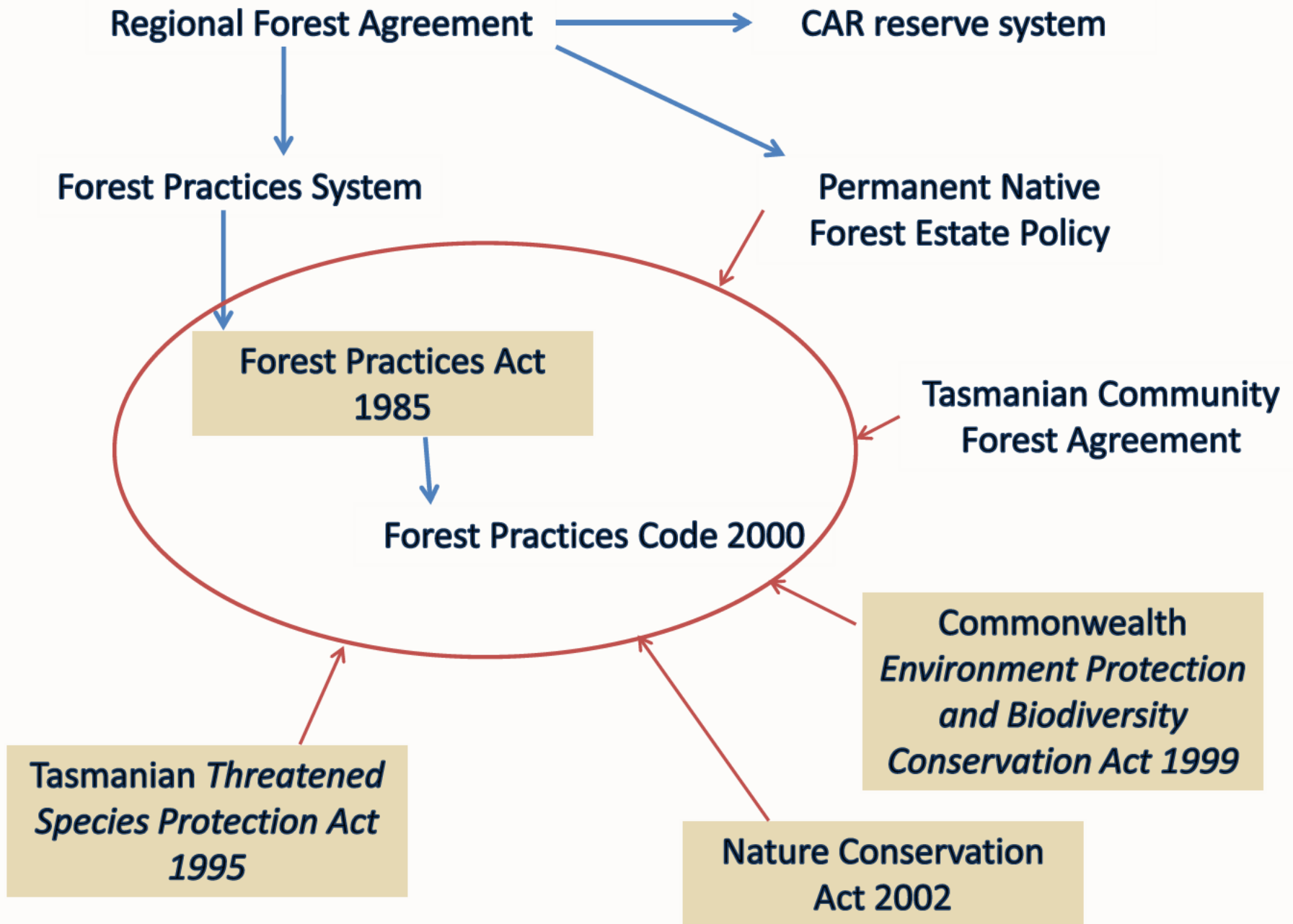
A Collaborative Effort

- Covers both public and private land.
- Co-regulatory approach, involving self-management by the industry, with independent monitoring and enforcement by the Forest Practices Authority.



The forest practices system





Guiding Policy for the operation of the Forest Practices Code

Forest Practices Code 2015



8.8. Biodiversity

Forest practices will be conducted in a manner that recognises and **complements** the contribution of the reserve system to the maintenance of biological diversity, ecological function and evolutionary processes through the **maintenance of viable breeding populations and habitat for all species.**

Landscape level management actions





Coupe level management actions



So how are threatened species taken into account when planning forest practices?



The Biodiversity Evaluation A 'Risk Assessment' Process

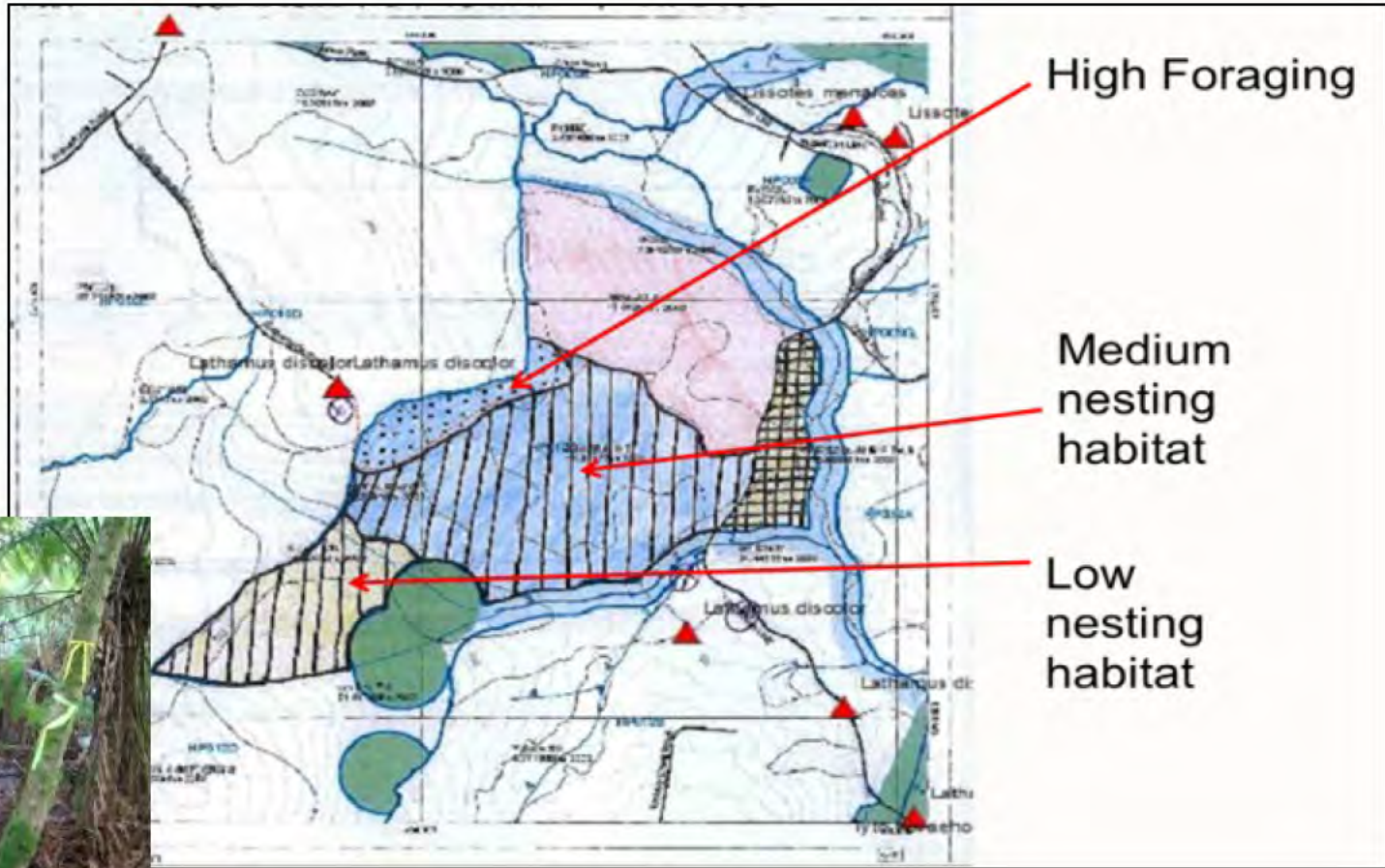
1. Identification of the value
2. Consideration of disturbance risk
3. Assess significance of the impact
4. Decision on ways to mitigate the impact

Biodiv

X: 460243.750000, Y: 5416005.156250 (METER) 0 features selected 1: 750000 163.51 x 172.84 (m) Powered by MapGuide

Germanian wedge-tailed eagle	Apine wader	545450	5412371	4061	100	West	Adapt	1251649
Germanian wedge-tailed eagle	Apine wader	545450	5412371	4061	100	West	Absent	1251650

Species and habitat assessment – on-ground survey



SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED A CATERPILLAR THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE DONALD TRUMP'S HAIR.



DUMPADAY.COM

Decision on action - Threatened Fauna Adviser

The image displays a series of overlapping screenshots of the FPA (Forest Practices Authority) website, specifically focusing on the Threatened Fauna Adviser interface. The screenshots are arranged in a descending staircase pattern from top-left to bottom-right.

The top-most screenshot shows the main navigation menu with the following items: The FPA, Forest practices system, Research, Compliance, Enquiries & feedback, Publications, and FPA services. The 'Threatened Fauna Adviser' link is highlighted in the secondary navigation bar.

The middle screenshots show the 'Biodiversity' section of the left-hand navigation menu, with sub-items including Biodiversity of flow diagrams, Biodiversity of thicket, Biodiversity of riparian, Biodiversity of riparian, Forest Botany, Habitat condition assessment, The national Fauna Adviser, Fauna technical, and Fauna technical.

The bottom-most screenshot shows a detailed report for 'Grey Goshawk (Recommendation 5)'. The report includes the following text:

Grey Goshawk (Recommendation 5)

Within core ranges: potential habitat present; not Woodworth; native forest shrublands

The proposed planning unit is within the core range of the Grey Goshawk, and potential habitat has been identified. Forms of native forest habitat that include adjacent modifications of riparian vegetation have the potential to increase or decrease habitat value of high priority for hawking.

The primary management objective for this species is to implement actions that will avoid the maintenance of populations throughout its range, primarily through the maintenance of potential habitat, particularly habitat located in areas of high priority for hawking.


This species is native and potential habitat should be maintained to help meet this objective. In order to achieve this, the following actions are recommended:

Strategy: (landscape-level) planning

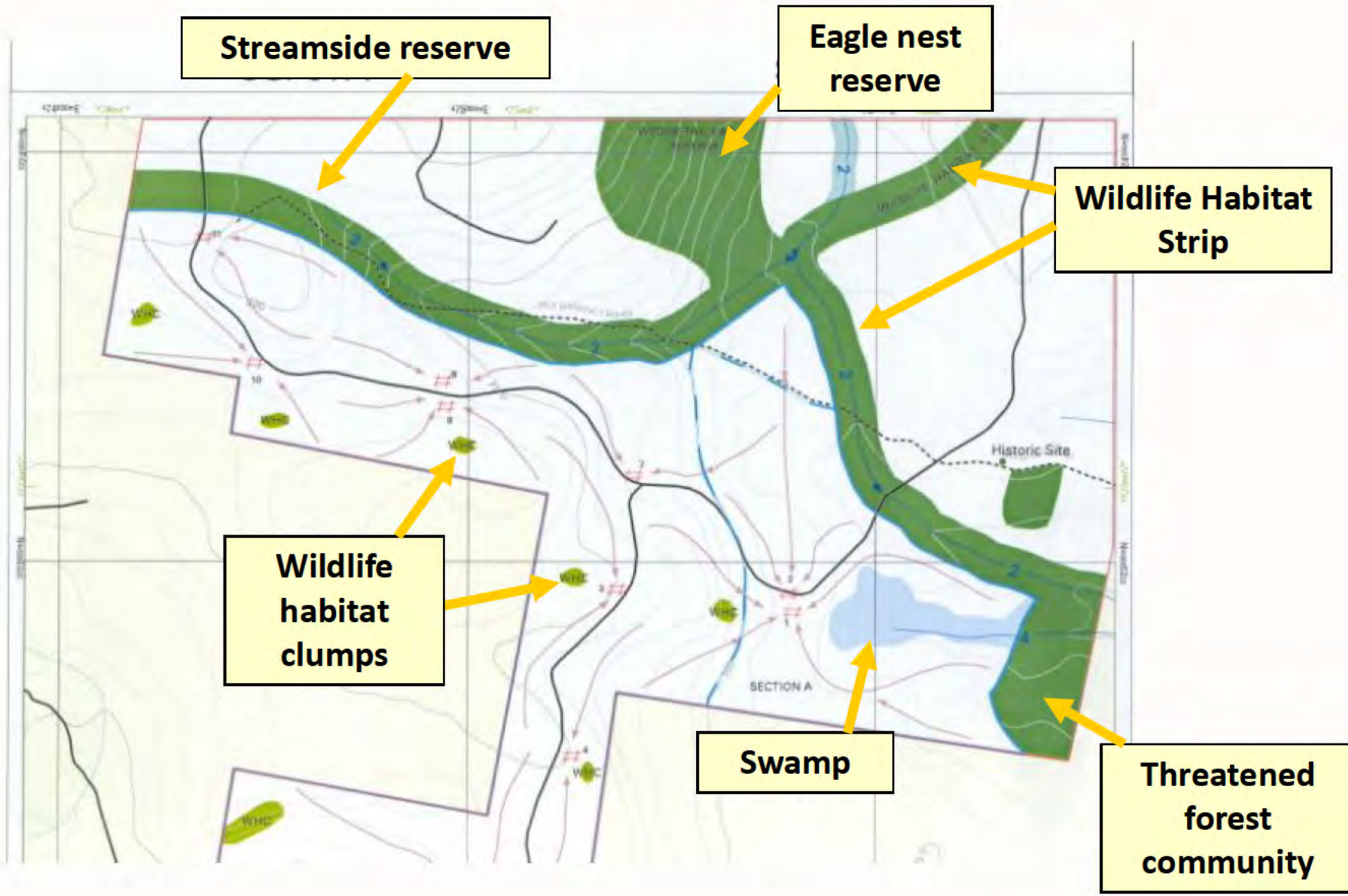
- Development of strategic plans for the conservation of potential habitat for the Grey Goshawk is encouraged. These plans should aim to ensure that at least 30% of grey goshawk nesting habitat present in a forest block remains in 1998 or retained. This may be achieved by, for example:

Recommended on approval: 11/06/2015
TEA number: 12052015
Dr G
Page 7
Can Back Some operations from species Page
OK

Documenting the 'risk assessment'

Species	Locality	Potential impact from proposed operation	Proposed actions to mitigate impact (e.g. buffers).
<p data-bbox="79 589 266 715"><i>Thismia rodwayi</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="436 589 807 715">480609 5392684 (± 10m)</p> <p data-bbox="436 765 813 1100">One location found inside operational area, in SE corner (see map).</p>	<p data-bbox="842 589 1306 786">Unsure. Known site, management actions proposed.</p>	<p data-bbox="1377 589 1860 1001">A large WHC will be placed over the known site to provide an intact buffer of a minimum of 20 metres.</p>

Forest Practices Plan



Training and specialist help

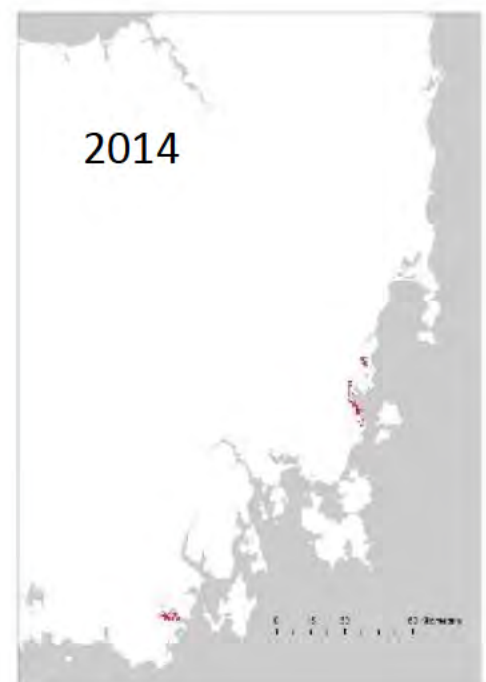
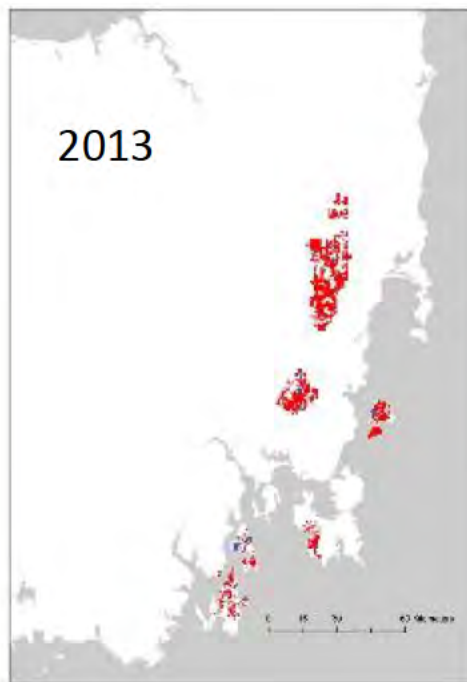
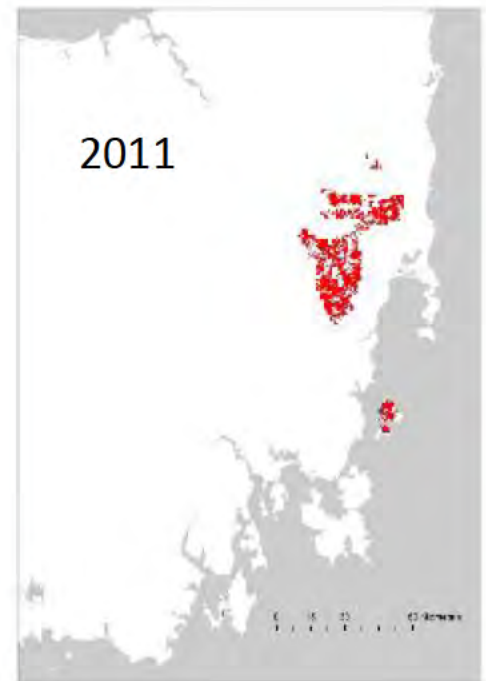
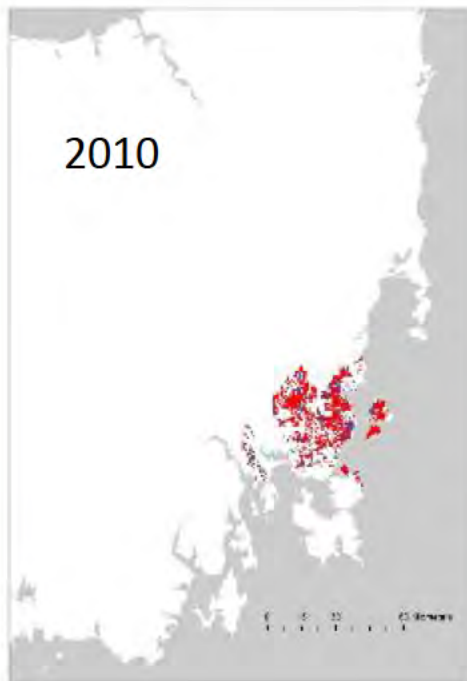
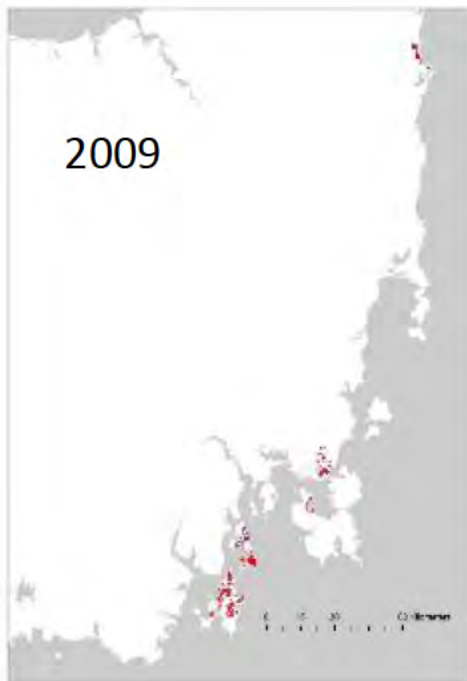


Case study – Swift parrot

Breeding habitat

- Flowering blue gum and black gum
- Hollow bearing forest – and suitable hollows





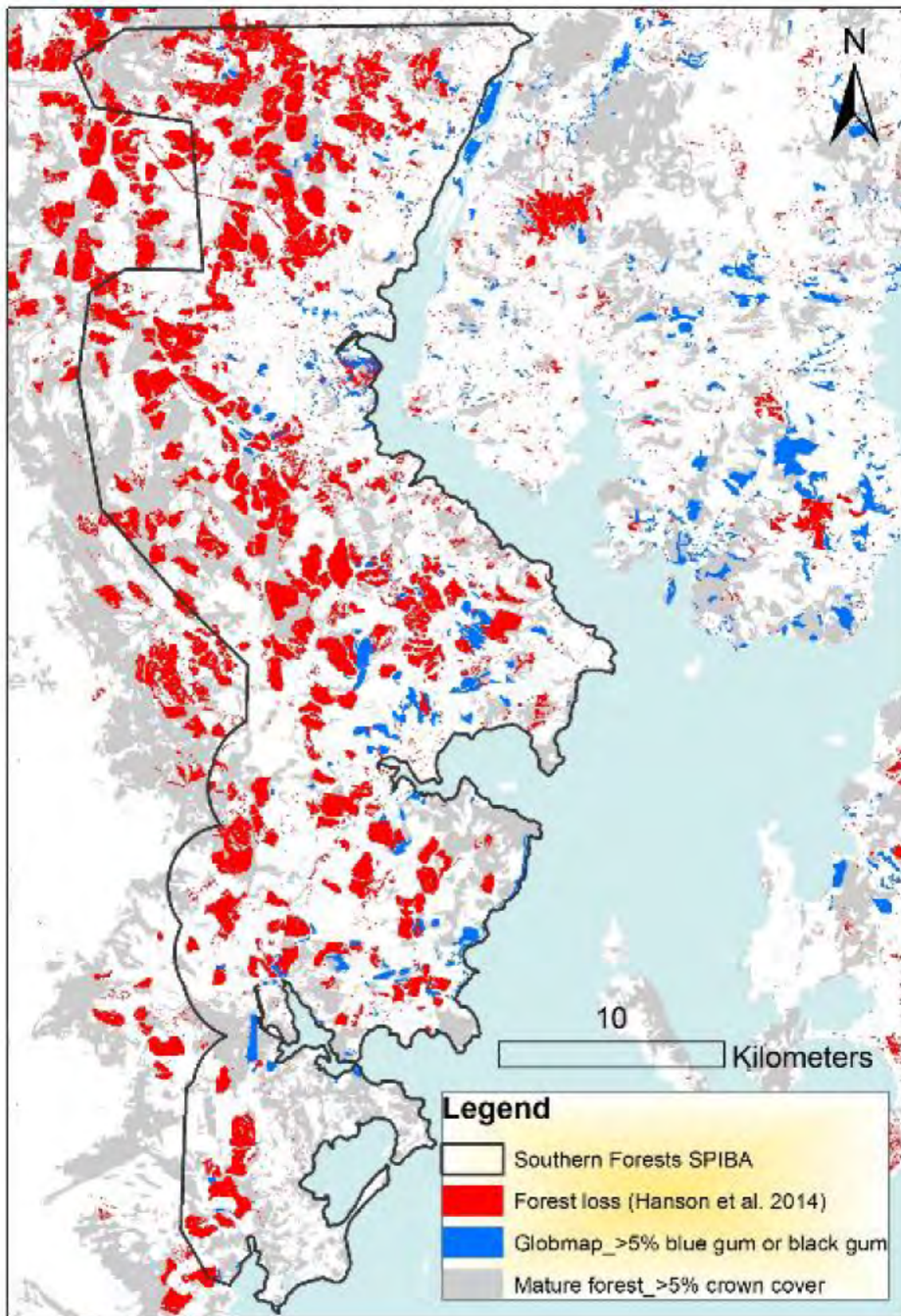




Photo: Mick Brown

Managing swift parrots

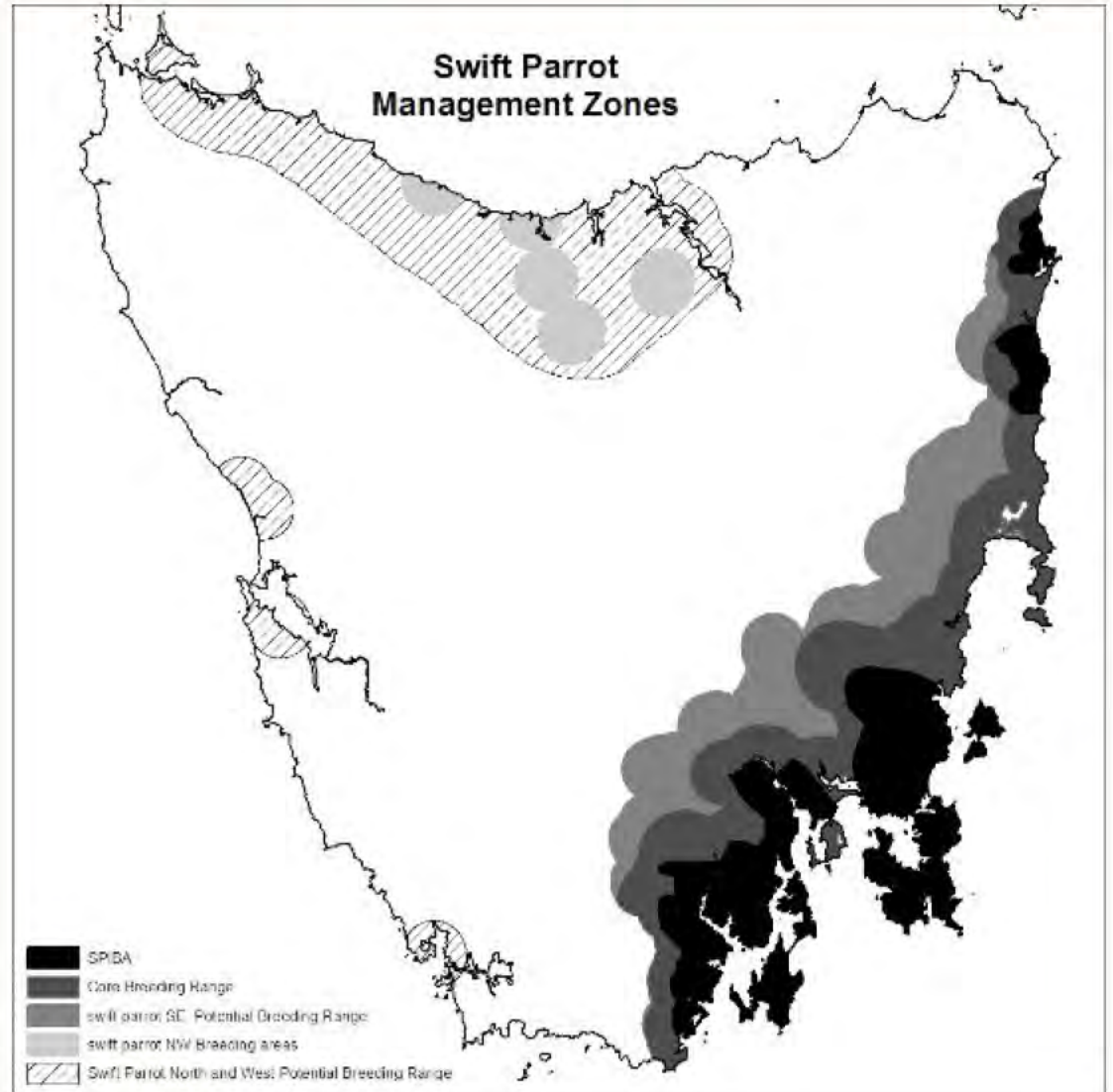
 N&W Potential range

 NW Breeding areas

 Potential range

 Core range

 SPIBA



Swift parrot habitat descriptions for planners

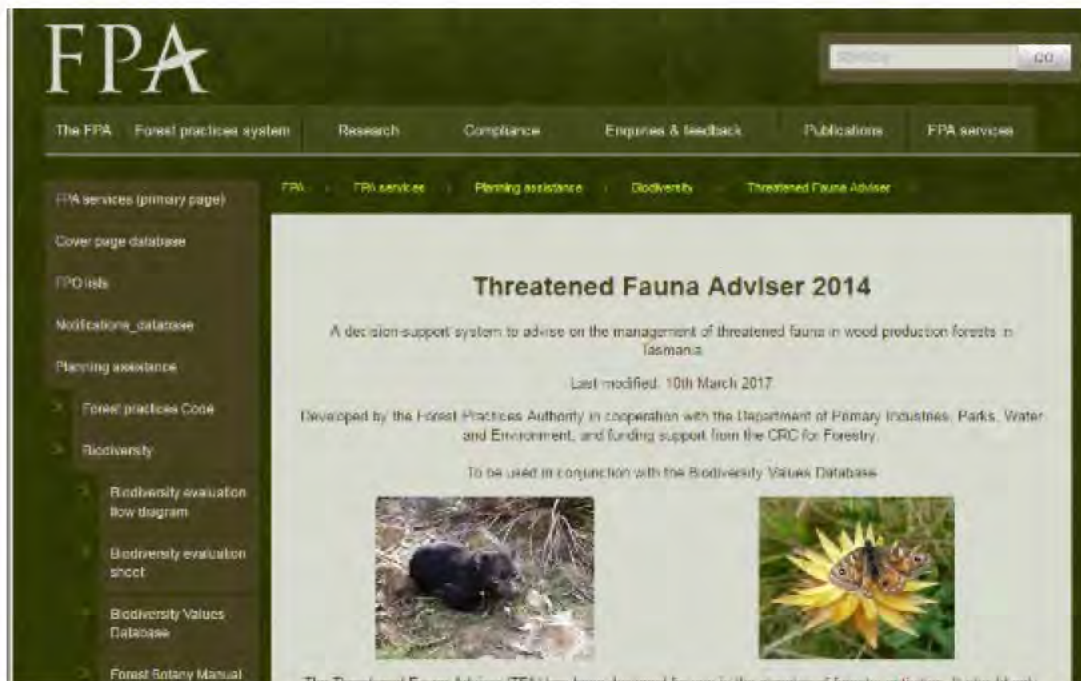
Stands with *E. globulus* or *E. ovata* trees
old enough to flower (>40 cm dbh)



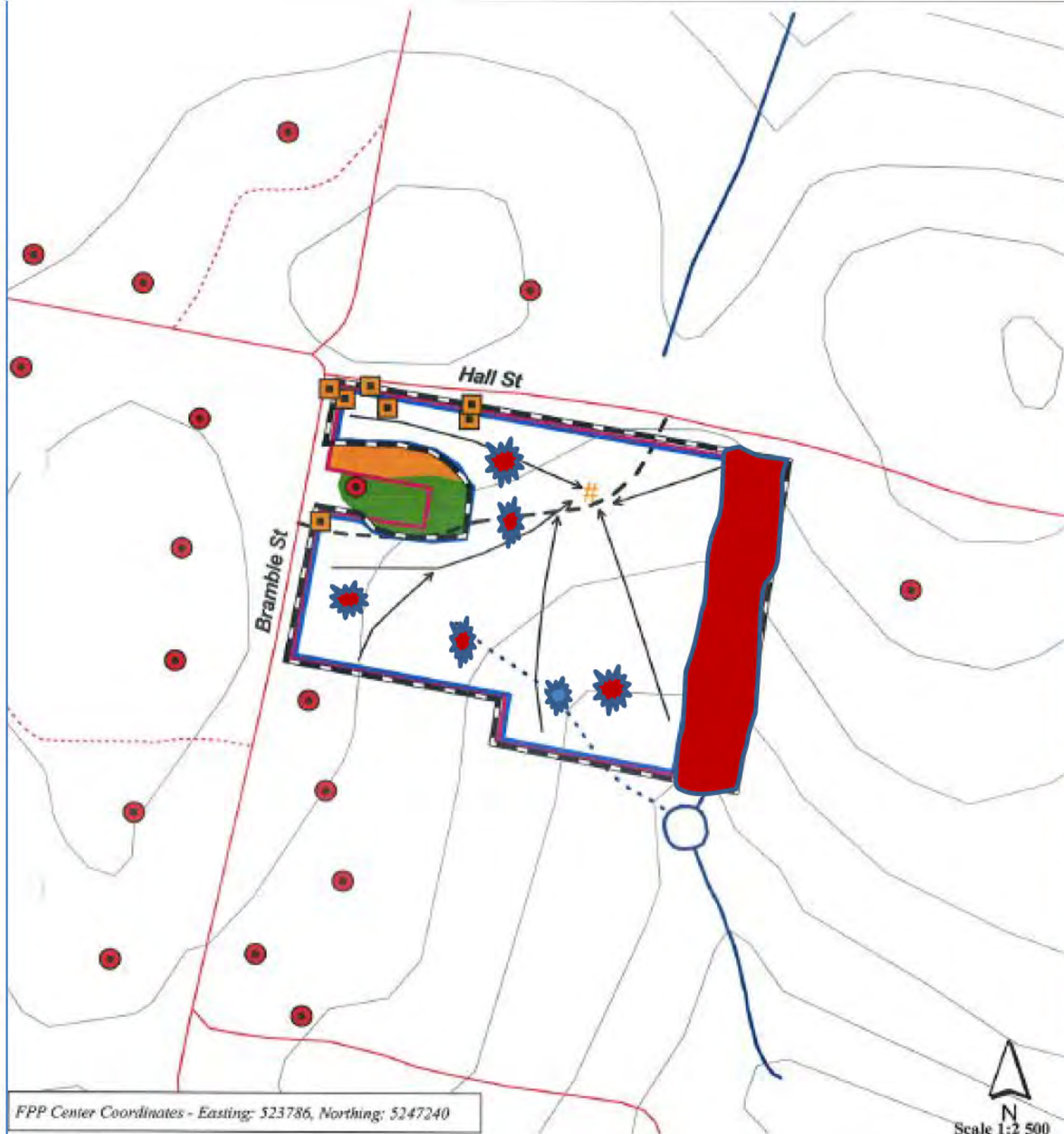
Eucalypt forests with large diameter trees
(>70 cm dbh in dry and >100 cm dbh in wet)
with multiple hollows and signs of senescence



Swift parrot habitat management

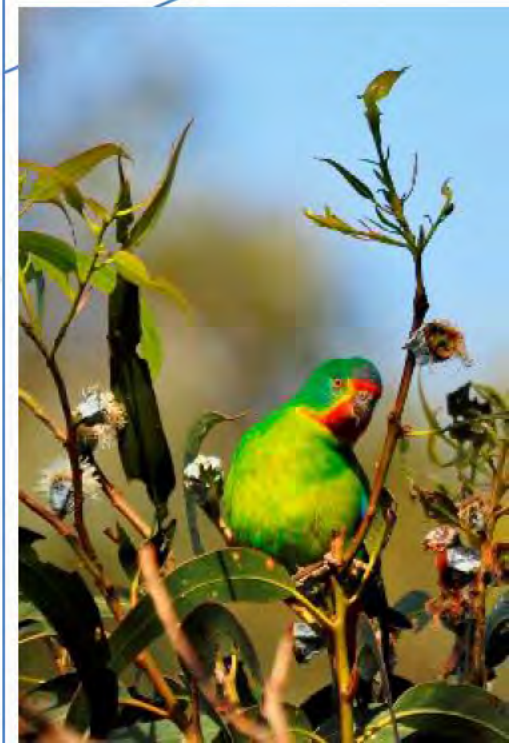


- Buffers around nests
- Retention of high quality breeding habitat in important breeding areas
- Availability of habitat in surrounding area taken into account



FPP Center Coordinates - Easting: 523786, Northing: 5247240

- Low Foraging
- Moderate Foraging
- High Foraging



Case study 2 - Developing a conservation management plan for *Hoplogonus simsoni*



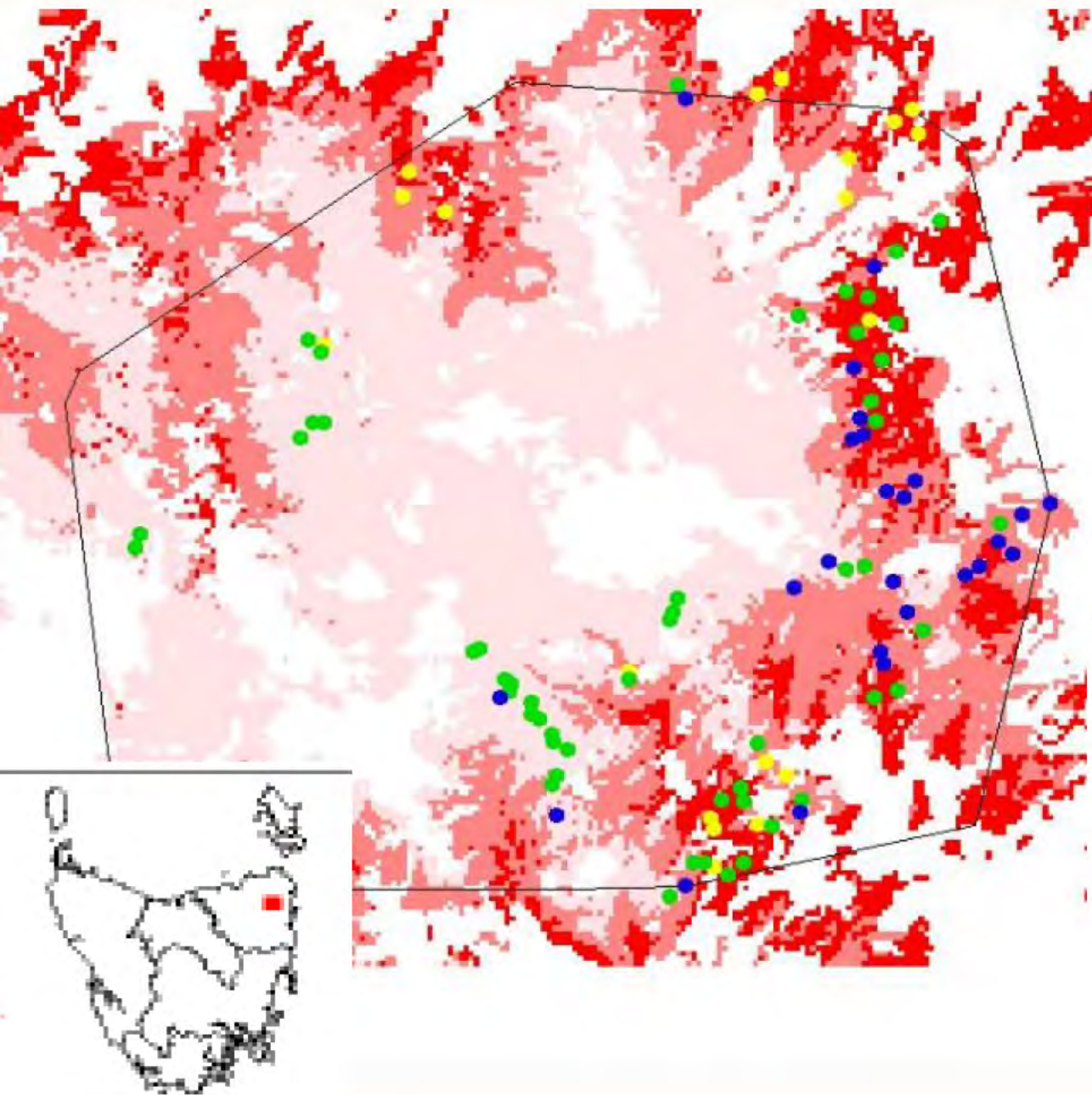
- Vulnerable
- Restricted distribution, low population density and potential impacts of forestry.
- Flightless & hence considered poor disperser
- Largest endemic stag beetle
- Found in areas planned for conversion to plantation in 1998 (post RFA)

- Surveys of species between 1996 – 1999
- Models developed relationship between occurrence and habitat variables.
- Development of predictive habitat models.



Wet eucalypt forest dominated by E.regnans, E.obliqua or E.viminalis with wet understorey





Predicted
occurrence



Low



Medium



High

Observed
occurrence



Sig. Higher



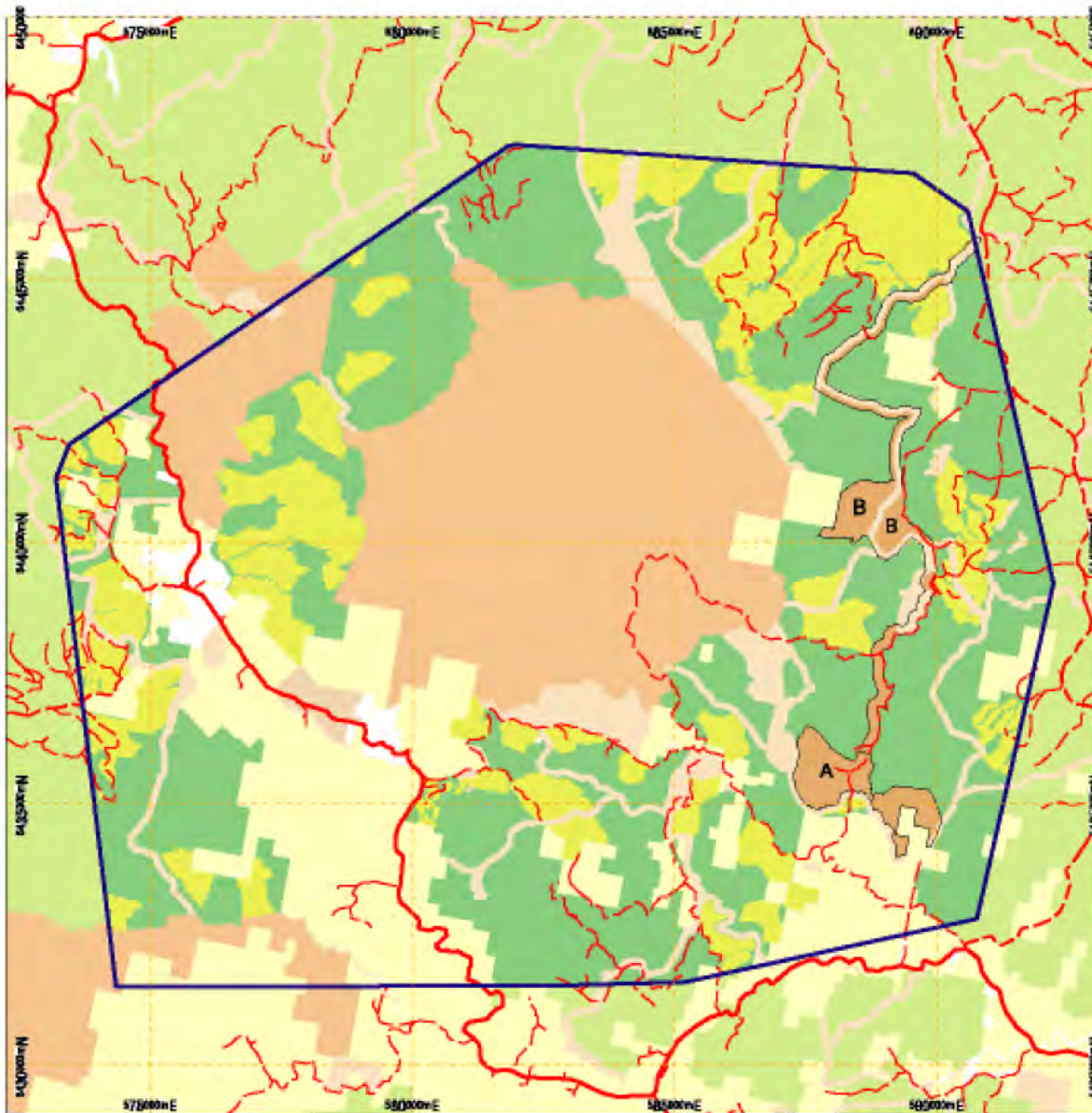
Sig. Lower



NS different



1km



- Native forest (plantation excluded)
- Plantation permitted
- Formal reserve
- Informal reserve
- Simsons range
- Roads



0 ————— 2.5 Km

Date: June 2001
 ©Copyright Forestry Tasmania.

Case study 3- Devils in plantations

- Norske-skog identified caves in use July 2014 and contacted FPA for advice



FPA's initial investigation of cave

Evidence of a maternal devil den



Full pouch



Empty pouch

Design of devil-specific site management

Consultation between Norske/FPA/species experts

Recommendations including:

1. Prevent collapse of the cave

- Machinery exclusion on cave area
- Directional felling of trees away from cave
- No replanting of pines within 10m of cave

2. Protect occupants

- No harvesting until devil young have dispersed
- Speed limit within 100m
- No dogs on site



Post harvest– devils move back in



Research and Effectiveness Monitoring Program

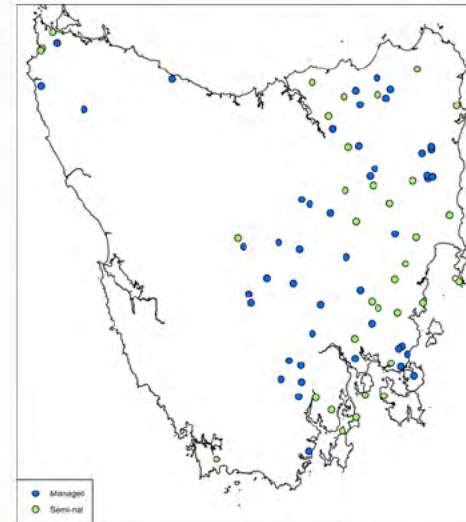


Strategic management plan for the keeled snail (*Tasmaphena lamproides*) 1992 – current.

Maintain at least 30% of potential habitat (forest > 30 years) as a connected network.



Eagle Nest Monitoring Project 2007-16



Annual monitoring of nests to assess –

- Success of protective measures
- Timing of breeding.





From Science to Practice...

Publications


- Cawthen, L, Munks, S, Richardon, A and Nicol, SC 2009. *EMR* 10 (2), 155-157.*
- Koch, AJ; Munks, SA and Driscoll DA 2008, *WR* 35: 727–746.*
- Koch AJ, Wapstra M, and Munks, SA 2009, *TBR* 33, 4-9.*
- Koch, AJ, Munks, SA, and Woehler, EJ 2009. *AJZ*, 56: 323–349.*
- Munks, SA, Koch, AJ and Wapstra, M 2009, *FEM* 258: 516-524.
- Koch, A.J., Baker, S., 2011. Biodiversity and Conservation 20, 1089-1101.
- Flynn, EM, Jones, SM, Jones, ME, Jordan, GJ and Munks, SA 2011, *Wildlife Research*, 2011, 38, pp 13–29.
- Cawthen and Munks, 2011. *WR*

Planning tools

Fauna technical notes

The fauna technical note series provides supplementary information and technical explanation for Forest Practices Code commonly encountered fauna management issues in production forests. These technical notes are advisory and do not constitute additions/alterations to the Forest Practices Code.

The fauna technical notes will be updated to take account of new procedures and requirements. If you print a copy, please regularly check this page to ensure an updated version has not superseded your copy. New technical notes are created as issues arise, or if requested by someone. Click below to read or download a technical note



Technical Note 1: Eagle nest management	Management of eagles nests (replaces previous technical notes 1 - 5, 10)
Technical Note 2: Mature habitat availability	
Technical Note 4: Broad-toothed stag beetle survey protocol	A survey protocol for determining the presence/absence of the broad-toothed stag beetle
Technical Note 5: Mt Mangana stag beetle survey protocol	A survey protocol for determining the presence/absence of the Mt Mangana stag beetle
Technical Note 7: Wildlife habitat clump flow diagram	Some background information on implementation of wildlife habitat clump flow diagram Forest Practices Code
Technical Note 8: Wildlife habitat strip location and management guidelines	Some background information on implementation of wildlife habitat strip location and management guidelines Forest Practices Code
Technical Note 9:	This record form can be used to complete details of interesting or unusual

Property Plans

Applying the *Biodiversity Landscape Planning Guideline*

A guideline which can be used to develop landscape scale strategic plans (e.g. whole of property, forest blocks on public land).



Summary

- The Tasmanian Forest Practices System contributes to conservation of non-wood values **in areas outside of formal reserves**
- The Tasmanian Forest Practices Code (established under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*) requires that during the preparation of Forest Practices Plans the proposed **operational area must be assessed to determine the presence of ecological values.**
- The Tasmanian Forest Practices System requires that, if under the required planning process the risk to a threatened species or its habitat is identified as high, management prescriptions – including the establishment of ‘buffer zones’ – are applied and are mandatory.
- Targeted, risk-based approach and actions to reduce impacts delivered at multiple spatial scales

Strengths and weaknesses

- Strengths
 - Applies across all land tenures
 - Scientists and forest managers and planners work together
 - Planning tools and training
 - Commitment to a program of review, monitoring and continual improvement
- Weaknesses
 - Communication with general public
 - Lack of clarity and conflicting legislative requirements
 - No state forest policy or clear overarching objectives
 - Need more effectiveness monitoring – **Do actions work?**



**Thanks and
Questions?**

Copy to:

To: Minister (For Decision)

Secretary
Mr Knudson
Mr Oxley
Ms Tregurtha
Mr Tregurtha

EXTENSION TO THE TASMANIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Timing: 3 August 2017 - before the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement extension decision package is recommended to the Prime Minister and Tasmanian Premier.

Chief of Staff
s22

Recommendations:

- Note that Assistant Minister Ruston will soon brief you on an extension to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement.
- Should you agree to support the extension to the Agreement, sign the attached letter to Assistant Minister Ruston (**Attachment A**).

Minister: 

Comments: 

Noted / Please discuss

Signed / Not signed

Date: 

Clearing Officer: Sent 17/07/2017	Kylie Jonasson	First Assistant Secretary Biodiversity Conservation Division
Contact Officer:	Jo Elphinstone	Ag Assistant Secretary Biodiversity Policy and Water Science Branch

s22

Key Points:

- The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (Agreement) was put in place in 1997 and expires on 8 November 2017. This Agreement provides a framework that allows forestry operations to occur without any further Commonwealth approvals, saving potentially hundreds of individual assessments that would otherwise be required. This also preserves a significant portion of the state for conservation. As at 30 June 2016, 376,000¹ hectares were available for wood production on public land, and 3,414,700² hectares, approximately 50 per cent of Tasmania, were reserved for conservation. These reserves support more than 200 threatened species like the swift parrot and the Tasmanian devil.
- Assistant Minister Ruston, the Minister responsible, will brief you on an extension to the Agreement before sending to the Prime Minister and Tasmanian Premier for endorsement.
- While you do not have a decision making role in the extension process, you are a consultee and do have an interest in ensuring Regional Forest Agreements continue to protect environment and heritage values, and to streamline environmental approvals for forestry operations.
- The Department considers the negotiated extension (**Attachment B**) covers all Australian Government policy positions. Improvements to the Agreement include:
 - strengthened five-yearly reviews demonstrating protection of environmental values, including Matters of National Environmental Significance, which may be impacted by forestry operations;

- b. periodic reporting by the State on the effectiveness of the State's management prescriptions in place to support threatened species and communities;
 - c. updated language to reflect changes in legislation and terminology since the original signing of the Agreement in 1997;
 - d. a 20 year extension of the agreement, and an additional five year extension every time a satisfactory five-yearly review is completed; and
 - e. a graduated dispute resolution mechanism to resolve issues about the implementation of the Agreement.
5. This 20 year extension is made through a variation to the original 1997 Agreement, which was informed by a comprehensive regional assessment of environmental, social and economic values. A further assessment (**Attachment C**) of these values has informed the extension.

Sensitivities and Handling

6. While the extension to the Agreement and further assessment of values have been completed, some residual legal risks remain. General Counsel Branch will provide a separate brief on these risks (MS17-000992).
7. The extension to the Agreement is likely to be contentious with some environment stakeholders due to its 20 year rolling life and perceptions that Regional Forest Agreements provide less environmental protection than the EPBC Act.
- a. The Department considers that this extension is consistent with the objectives of the EPBC Act as it: provides for protection of the environment; promotes ecologically sustainable development; promotes the conservation of biodiversity; and provides for the protection and conservation of heritage.
8. The community and industry generally support the Agreement as it provides stability and resource security.
9. An extended Agreement with a rolling life will continue to provide this stability and security for the environment, industry and the community.
10. A media handling strategy is being developed in consultation with the lead agency, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and the Tasmanian Government. This will be provided to you prior to the signing of the extension by the Prime Minister and Tasmanian Premier. We will provide responsive lines on both the regulatory streamlining and environmental benefits of this extension.

Consultation: YES

11. Public consultation on the extension was undertaken in December 2016. Thirty submissions were received. Tasmania's report on this consultation indicates a wide range of public views. Key themes raised were: renegotiation or abandonment of the Agreement; social and economic considerations; environmental and cultural values; climate change; modernisation, improvements and streamlining; and land clearance.
12. The further assessment of values considered comments raised in the public consultation process. A report on the consultation will be part of the decision package provided to the Prime Minister and Tasmanian Premier. The consultation report is at **Attachment D**.

Background:

13. Regional Forest Agreements are 20 year agreements between the Commonwealth and state governments for the productive use and conservation of Australia's native forests. In each Agreement, some areas are set aside as forest conservation reserve systems to protect biodiversity, old-growth forests and wilderness. Other areas are identified as potentially being available for harvesting.
14. The Agreements were established in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia between 1997 and 2001.
15. Forestry operations (except those in World Heritage properties or Ramsar sites) within Regional Forest Agreement areas are exempt from assessment and approval requirements of the EPBC Act.

References:

¹: Forest Practices Authority, in prep., *State of the forests Tasmania 2017*, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart.

²: Department of Primary Industries, Parks Water and Environment,

http://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/tas_reserve_class_areas_30th_june_2016.pdf

ATTACHMENTS

- A:** Letter to Minister Ruston supporting the extension to the Agreement
- B:** Variation to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (extension to the Agreement)
- C:** Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement Further Assessment
- D:** Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement Consultation Report

DRAFT

TASMANIAN RFA ANNUAL MEETING 1 - 2018

DRAFT MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION:	4.23 Large, 4 th Floor Parliament Square Building, Salamanca Place, Hobart, Tasmania		
DATE:	16 July, 2018	TIME:	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
ATTENDEES:	Michelle Lauder, s22 Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) s22 Tasmanian Government Department of State Growth (DSG) s22 Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) s22 Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE) s22 Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)		
CHAIR & SECRETARIAT:	DSG		

ITEM	ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
1. Welcome, introductions and confirmation of agenda	Decision	DAWR	• Agenda
2. Annual meetings of officials – format and future arrangements	Discussion	DAWR	• Nil
3. Update on the Tasmanian Forest Management System* a. Updated Forest Management System description b. Old growth harvest over past 12 months, by silviculture method c. Impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance d. Changes to Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system e. Sustainable yield estimate and actual three year rolling average harvest level f. Compliance with FMS and codes g. Process for compliance referrals between parties	Discussion	DSG	• TBD
4. Five-yearly reviews – mechanics (stages, data, processes, outcomes)*	Discussion	DAWR	• Draft scoping agreement for five-yearly review
5. RFA extension process – following 'satisfactory' completion of five-yearly review*	Discussion	DAWR	• Draft process
6. Five year work Program (2018-2023)*	Discussion	DSG	• Draft program
7. Other business	N/A	N/A	• Nil
8. Next meeting	Decision	DAWR	• Nil

Table note: * Agenda paper provided

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Changes to listings and recovery plans in Tasmania

Table 1. Threatened species and ecological communities relevant to Tasmania and proposed for listing under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) or change in listing status as at July 2018.

Name		Listing Status		Timing for completion
<i>Nannoperca australis</i>	Southern Pygmy Perch	Not listed	Proposed as endangered in NSW, VIC, Tas and SA (this is a CAM nomination)	30 September 2019
<i>Thalassarche cauta cauta</i>	Shy albatross	Vulnerable	Proposed as endangered	30 March 2019
Temperate Swamp Schlerophyll Forests		Not listed	Proposed as endangered in NSW, QLD, VIC and Tas	30 October 2019
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> woodland and forest in Tasmania		Not listed	Proposed as critically endangered	3 November 2018
Tasmanian White Gum (<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>) wet forest		Not listed	Proposed as critically endangered	31 October 2019

Table 2. Changes to recovery plans under the EPBC Act for Threatened species and ecological communities relevant to Tasmania (2017- July 2018).

Name	Status
Giant Freshwater Crayfish (<i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>) Recovery Plan	Adopted in 2017
Threatened Tasmanian Orchids Flora Recovery Plan (<i>Caladenia anthracina</i> , <i>Caladenia campbellii</i> , <i>Caladenia caudata</i> , <i>Caladenia dienema</i> , <i>Caladenia lindleyana</i> , <i>Caladenia pallida</i> , <i>Caladenia saggicola</i> , <i>Caladenia sylvicola</i> , <i>Caladenia tonellii</i> , <i>Corunastylis brachystachya</i> , <i>Corunastylis firthii</i> , <i>Diuris lanceolata</i> , <i>Prasophyllum amoenum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum apoxychilum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum atratum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum castaneum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum crebriflorum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum favonium</i> , <i>Prasophyllum incorrectum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum limnetes</i> , <i>Prasophyllum milfordense</i> , <i>Prasophyllum olidum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum perangustum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum pulchellum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum robustum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum secutum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum stellatum</i> , <i>Prasophyllum taphanyx</i> , <i>Prasophyllum tunbridgense</i> , <i>Pterostylis commutata</i> , <i>Pterostylis pratensis</i> , <i>Pterostylis rubenachii</i> , <i>Pterostylis wapstrarum</i> , <i>Pterostylis ziegeleri</i> , <i>Thelymitra jonesii</i> and <i>Thynniorchis nothofagicola</i>)	Adopted in 2017
Swift parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>) Recovery Plan	Update being prepared to 2011 plan
Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania Recovery Plan	In preparation

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TASMANIAN RFA ANNUAL MEETING 2 - 2019

DRAFT MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION:	Room 8.06, 8 th Floor, 18 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra, ACT, Department of Agriculture		
DATE:	24 July, 2019	TIME:	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
ATTENDEES:	Michelle Lauder, S22 [redacted] Australian Government Department of Agriculture (DA) S22 [redacted] Tasmanian Government Department of State Growth (DSG) Tia Stevens, S22 [redacted] Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE) S22 [redacted] Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)		
CHAIR & SECRETARIAT:	DA		

ITEM	ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
1. Welcome, introductions and confirmation of agenda	Decision	DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda
2. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes and action items	Decision	DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from Annual Meeting 1 Action items from Annual Meeting 1
3. Update on the Tasmanian Forest Management System <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to Tasmania's CAR reserve system 'Tasmania's Forest Management System: An Overview (2017)' document Update on review of the Forest Practices Code Forest Practices Authority compliance reporting and annual report 	Discussion	DPIPWE / DSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda paper Forest Management System: An Overview (draft 2018 version) Draft Forest Practices Code
4. Five-yearly reviews – mechanics (stages, data, processes, outcomes) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of Tasmanian State of the Forests Report (SoFR) data and assessment of its use as a baseline for the 2022 five-yearly review Discuss development of scoping agreement Overview of 'Sustainable high quality eucalypt sawlog supply from Tasmania's Permanent Timber Production Zone Land' 	Discussion	DSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda paper Draft Scoping Agreement Sustainable Yield Review Number 5 (2017) Three Year Wood Production Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22 (July 2019)

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DRAFT

5. RFA extension process – following completion of five-yearly review a) High level Tasmanian RFA rolling extension process	Decision	DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda paper• Tasmanian RFA rolling extension process document
6. Five year work Program (2018-2023) a) Updates to the work program document	Discussion	DSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda paper• Draft Five Year Work Plan
7. Impact of the 2019 Tasmanian bushfires on the RFA	Discussion	DSG / DPIPWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda paper
8. Other business a) Update on Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc VicForests Federal Court Case	N/A	DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil
9. Communique	Discussion	DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil
10. Next meeting	Decision	DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil

Tasmanian RFA Annual Meeting 2	Update on the Tasmanian Forest Management System AGENDA ITEM 3
Wednesday 24 July 2019 Department of Agriculture Canberra, ACT	

Recommendations

1. That officials **DISCUSS** any updates to:
 - a. Tasmania's CAR reserve system
 - b. 'Tasmania's Forest Management System: An Overview' document
 - c. Review of the Forest Practices Code
 - d. Forest Practices Authority compliance reporting and annual report

Key points

A) Changes to Tasmania's CAR reserve system

2. A preliminary Tasmanian Reserve Estate spatial layer (i.e. of the CAR reserve system) is created annually in early July for the purposes of DPIPWE Annual reporting.
3. The DPIPWE Annual Report uses the spatial layer to determine the "Proportion of Tasmanian land reserved" and "Area of Tasmanian private land reserved for a nature conservation purpose".
4. In late November, the final Tasmanian Reserve Estate spatial layer is publicly released on the DPIPWE website, along with the spreadsheet showing areas of reserve classes, and a statement on total area.
5. A summary of the CAR reserve system is also provided in the '*Tasmania's Forest Management System: An Overview*' document.
6. There have been no major changes to the reserve system in the past year.
7. Land protected either by legislation or by contract in conservation reserves, under covenant or heritage regimes (actual 2018-19) is 50.3%
8. Private land covered by voluntary binding conservation agreements (actual 2018-19) is 108 800 hectares.

[DoEE comment: The area of the CAR Reserve appears to have increased slightly, so this looks good.]

B) 'Tasmania's Forest Management System: An Overview (2017)' document

9. The extended Tasmanian RFA notes that the 5 yearly review will use and take into account Tasmania's *Forest Management System: An Overview* (the Overview), as updated from time to time.
10. The Overview describes the State's suite of legislation, policies, codes, plans and management practices related to forestry and forest management.
11. An update of the Overview was drafted in late 2018 and provided to the Department of Agriculture for review in January 2019.

12. The next review of the Overview is due to commence in August 2019. A new draft will be completed by November 2019. The aim is to have the revised Overview document published on the Department of State Growth website by January 2020.

[DoEE comment: We provided comment on the 2018 update late last year and have nothing further to add. Main comment for the 2019 update is to include the newly listed Tasmanian brooker gum ecological community (refer to Appendix 3), including updates to harvest areas, if required, to avoid harvest of this community; plus an update on the specific impacts to swift parrot habitat from the 2019 fires, including hollow loss (refer to ongoing adaptive management' in the case study at Appendix 2). Otherwise, this looks good, with most changes clarifications and fairly minor.]

C) Update on review of the Forest Practices Code

13. The FPA has completed a review of the Forest Practices Code (the Code) (commenced late 2017).
14. A final draft will be released for public comment on 20 July 2019. This public comment period will be advertised in major newspapers and will extend for 60 days.
15. Working groups have reviewed each section of the Code, focusing on the technical aspects to ensure the Code remains contemporary and consistent with modern forestry practices and environmental regulations.
16. Versions of the revised Code have been provided to all forest practices officers and the three statutory stakeholders (Forest Practices Advisory Council, Private Forests Tasmania and Sustainable Timber Tasmania) for further comment, prior to release for public comment.
17. The revised Code provides clarity on the regulatory scope of the forest practices system and provides technical updates to reflect the changes in technology that have occurred in the past 20 years.
18. Once public consultation has been completed, the Code will go to the statutory stakeholders for final comment.
19. There is no requirement for the Code to go through parliament as it is issued by the FPA (see Section 30, 31, 32 and 33 under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*). FPA anticipates that the amended Code will become final before the end of 2019.

[DoEE comment: We have not had the chance to review. Focus should be on updated information and protections for swift parrot and listed ecological communities, particularly following the 2019 fire impacts.]

D) Forest Practices Authority compliance reporting and annual report

20. The FPA Annual report provides data for both Permanent Timber Production Zone Land/industrial freehold and private freehold, including compliance data.

D1) Forest Practices Plans – certification trends

21. There has been a marked increase in eucalypt plantation harvesting operations.
22. Fifty per cent of Forest Practices Plans (FPPs) are from the private industrial sector (primarily plantations).

Key trends	2016-17	2017-18
Notifications requiring FPA specialist advice	365	352
# FPPs Certified	543	607
Area certified (ha)	30,636	32,936
# FPPs - Native forest	111	111
# FPPs – Plantation	317	368
# FPPs – Afforestation	17	22
# FPPs – Quarries	0	5
# FPPs – Roads	98	101
Area (ha) new plantations on previously cleared land	66	173
Area (ha) new plantations on cleared native forest	26	72
Conversion area (ha) of plantations to non-forest (primarily to agriculture)	2,982	2,856
Conversion area (ha) of native forest to other use (excluding dams)	514	524

[DoEE comment: Highlighted figures are of interest. It is presumed that plantations are monoculture plantings and therefore, there is a net loss of native forest. Are quarries inside the scope of the RFA Act, i.e. forestry operation? If not, potentially referable under the EPBC Act, depending upon the area being cleared.]

D2) Compliance report

23. Compliance protocols can be found on the FPA website.
24. The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) conducts investigations into all alleged breaches of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* (the Act).
25. Details of all fines, prosecutions and investigations are contained in the Annual Reports of the FPA.
26. Monitoring of compliance is carried out at three levels under the forest practices system:
 - a. Routine monitoring of operations by Forest Practice Officers (FPOs) – typically as part of formal environmental management systems and forest certification, which also involve third-party audits.
 - b. Formal reporting on compliance under s. 25A of the Act – required for all FPPs and is usually done by qualified FPOs.
 - c. Independent monitoring of a representative sample of FPPs – undertaken in accordance with s. 4E(1)(b) of the Act and reported in the Annual Report.

27. Compliance summary (2017-18)
- a. Assessment of 78 FPPs found that implementation and effectiveness across all assessment categories, applicant groups and land tenures is satisfactory.
 - b. Generally, the compliance performance ratings were higher on PTPZL and industrial freehold land than on private freehold and crown land (non PTPZL).
 - c. Four prescribed fines totalling \$23 000 were paid for offences under the Forest Practices Act.
 - d. There were no new prosecutions under the Act.
28. Compliance summary (draft figures for the year 2018-19)
- a. The FPA has dealt with twelve matters under section 47B of the Act. Fines totalling \$111 000 have been paid, including:
 - i. \$84 000 by a landowner who illegally cleared threatened native vegetation
 - ii. \$8 000 by a landowner as a result of a Court process and complaint laid in 2016-17 for various offences.
29. The fines by the FPA and as a result of laying a complaint in the courts over the previous six years are as follows:

Year	Number of fines offered	Amount received by FPA from prescribed fines settled in this year	Amount imposed by Courts (in the year the fine was determined)*
2017-18	4	\$23 000	
2016-17	3	\$14 000	\$50 000
2015-16	6	\$13 000	
2014-15	3	\$3 500	
2013-14	7	\$13 000	
2012-13	5	\$5 000	\$5 500

** Does not include any costs awarded to the FPA*

[DoEE comment: This is an excellent summary that provides good assurance on the effectiveness of Tasmania's forest management system.]

**Department of State Growth
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment**

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Forest Management System: An overview (draft 2018 version)**
- **Draft Forest Practices Code (to be circulated on 20 July 2019)**

<p>Tasmanian RFA Annual Meeting 2</p>	<p>Impact of the 2019 Tasmanian bushfires on the RFA AGENDA ITEM 7</p>
<p>Wednesday 24 July 2019 Department of Agriculture Canberra, ACT</p>	

Recommendations

1. **NOTE** the impact of the 2019 Tasmanian bushfires is still being assessed, but it is anticipated that there will be negligible impact on the RFA.

Key points

2. The fires burnt through 210 000 ha, which is approximately 3 per cent of the land mass of mainland Tasmania.
3. On production forest land, 40 000 ha or 5% of the public forest estate is estimated to be within the fire footprint and a further 36 000 ha of private land, affecting approximately 150 land owners, has also been burnt.
4. On reserved land, 95 430 ha of the total burnt area is in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (or about 6 per cent of the TWWHA) and a further 36 000 ha has been burnt in other reserved land outside the TWWHA.
5. The full extent of the damage caused by the fires is still being assessed.

Impacts on the forestry industry

6. The Southwood forest industry precinct in the Huon Valley was severely damaged. This includes the Ta Ann veneer processing facility and a Neville Smith Forest Products sawmill.
7. The Neville Smith sawmill re-opened in late May, however the owners and shareholders of the Ta Ann facility have yet to make a decision on whether the mill will re-open.
8. Limited salvage harvest operations have been undertaken, and others are being planned for some production forest areas, however significant logistical, market and supply chain issues need to be worked through before this can occur.
9. For most of the fire damaged resource, there is a relatively short window of opportunity where salvage can occur.

Impacts on natural values within the TWWHA

10. Approximately 82 per cent of the vegetation within the fire boundaries is fire adapted. Buttongrass has already begun to reshoot in many places, and threatened plant species in these communities are not expected to be adversely impacted by the fires.
11. Less than one per cent of extreme fire sensitive communities occur within the burnt area. Some pencil pines on the Denison Range were impacted; however this is the only impact to conifers currently known.

12. Other fire sensitive vegetation did not burn due to the patchiness of the fire and the low flammability of these communities.

Impacts on natural values outside of the TWWHA

13. Substantial areas of native forest on forestry industry and private lands have been impacted by the bushfires with the environmental impacts not fully known. However, confirmed losses include the 'Arve Big Tree' and at least fourteen other recognised giant Mountain Ash trees (*Eucalyptus regnans*) of which around 48 giant trees are known to occur within the area burnt by the Riveaux Road fire.
14. The fires occurred in areas containing known wedge-tailed eagle nests, and there is likely to have been some nest loss although this has not been quantified.
15. DPIPWE has provided advice to the Forest Practices Authority, private companies and their contractors, on the salvage operations planned to occur adjacent to nests to ensure any potential impacts on eagle breeding are avoided.
16. The fires in the south also impacted on some areas of swift parrot habitat, but as breeding this year was almost exclusively confined to Bruny Island, the fires did not have a direct impact on the species. No nest boxes are known to have been within the fire boundary.

[DoEE comments: Given fire impacts will last into the future and that swift parrots may breed in multiple locations, an assessment of the impacts on swift parrot habitat from the fires should be undertaken. See media on this matter, Hobart Mercury, 12 July 2019. It would also be useful to know if listed ecological communities have been impacted.]

**Department of State Growth
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment**

From: s22
To: s22
Subject: FW: TPs for Tas RFA launch [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 18 November 2019 12:27:17 PM
Attachments: [AMO DRAFT RUSTON TPs Tas RFA extension.docx](#)
[Australian Govt support for threatened species and ecological communitie....docx](#)
[Key messages - broader suite 20170724 \(002\).docx](#)

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 23 November 2017 11:53 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: TPs for Tas RFA launch [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 16 August 2017 3:19 PM
To: s22
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: TPs for Tas RFA launch [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s22

Please find attached:

- Talking points from Ag (significantly changed from last version also attached – broader suite no longer being worked on and not agreed with Tas)
- Our threatened species points.

Event taking place Friday 18 August at 12pm at the Neville Smith Forest Products Mill Mowbray. Pens will be huon pine and sassafras.

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 16 August 2017 3:01 PM
To: s22
Subject: TPs for Tas RFA launch [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

s22

Talking points as agreed with our office, FYI.

Regards,

s22

Director RFA Review Team
Forestry Branch
Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

s22

18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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Australian Government

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

15 August 2017

Media talking points - Ministerial Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement

Version 1.0

Key data

- The forest industry had a direct value to Australia's GDP of **\$8.6 billion in 2015–16**.
- The industry employs more than **64,000 people**, mainly in regional Australia.
- **Ten** RFAs were progressively signed between 1997 and 2001. They cover commercial native forestry regions—five in Victoria, three in New South Wales and one each in Western Australia and Tasmania.
- The 10 RFA regions cover **39.2 million hectares, including 22.3 million hectares (18 per cent)** of Australia's forests.
- The forests in RFA regions comprise **21.0 million hectares** of native forest and **1.3 million hectares** of plantation forest.
- Only around **30 per cent of the native forests in RFA regions is available for timber production** – and only a very small part of that is harvested and regenerated each year.
- Between 1997 and 2001, around **3.3 million hectares** of native forests, previously available for timber production was transferred to the reserve estate, **increasing the reserve system by 44 per cent**.

Tasmanian

- In Tasmania, the average employment reported in forest harvest, processing and manufacturing in May 2016 was 3658 positions:
 - 1500 positions in forestry operations
 - 1625 positions in wood product manufacturing
 - 533 positions in pulp and paper manufacturing.
- In its first 20 years of operation the Tasmanian RFA delivered:
 - an 80 per cent increase, or 800,000 hectares in the reserve estate
 - 58 per cent or 1,778,000 million hectares of Tasmania's native forests are now protected in reserves, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
 - more than 1 million hectares of old growth forest are now permanently reserved.
 - world-benchmarked ecologically sustainable forest management has been implemented
 - significant business savings for industry – under the RFA, export licenses and separate, individual Commonwealth environmental approvals are not required.

Key messages

- The forest industry is vital to our regional communities, employing more than 64,000 people, mainly in regional Australia, and with a direct value to Australia's gross domestic product of \$8.6 billion in 2015-16.
- Our forests provide significant economic and environmental benefits to all Australians—we need to make sure we're managing our forests sustainably to maximise these benefits into the future.
- Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) with the states are the key mechanism for making sure we're managing our forests sustainably.
- We are absolutely committed to achieving a balance of economic, environmental and social outcomes for all Australians through our management of forests—and RFAs are proving the most effective framework to achieving these outcomes.
- The 20-year extension of the Tasmanian RFA is great news for the state.
- Over the past 20 years, the Tasmanian RFA has proven to be a strong and effective framework for sustainable forest management, striking the right balance between economic, social and environmental demands.
- Its extension gives long-term stability to support and protect forests and access to Tasmania's sustainably managed forests for industry, ensuring the whole community can continue to enjoy the many benefits of Tasmanian forests into the future.
- The RFA ensures the continued supply of this renewable resource and foster a job-rich, competitive industry—one that currently employs upwards of 3,600 Tasmanians.
- It provides a significant business advantage, through reducing environmental and export regulation, while delivering some of the highest levels of biodiversity protection in the world.
- The RFA protects threatened species and the rich wilderness values of Tasmanian forests through a comprehensive system of reserves covering more than half of Tasmania's land area.
- It is a robust but adaptive framework, which allows forest management and forestry practices to evolve and improve with new information and innovation.
- The extended agreement will deliver a number of improvements to the RFA framework, including:
 - rolling five-year extensions, subject to performance and review
 - a more outcomes-focused review process—in line with international indicators and consistent with Australian and Tasmanian government State of the Forests Reports
 - the inclusion of clauses on matters of national environmental significance, as defined by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*

If asked

Environmental groups have called for RFAs to be abandoned, don't they favour the forestry industry?

- We are absolutely committed to achieving a balance of economic, environmental and social outcomes for all Australians through our management of forests.
- The Tasmanian RFA has proven to be a strong and effective framework for sustainable forest management.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- The RFA protects threatened species and the rich wilderness values of Tasmanian forests through a comprehensive system of reserves covering more than half of Tasmania's land area.
- The Tasmanian RFA provides a multi-layered approach for the protection of threatened species and ecological communities through:
 - the protection of forests in Tasmania's reserve system
 - developing and implementing threatened species recovery plans
 - prescribing management requirements to protect key environmental values (e.g. important nesting and foraging sites) in forestry production areas.
 - Forest management practices under the RFA are adaptable to changing circumstances:
 - Wood harvesting on Bruny Island has been temporarily ceased pending the completion of a management plan for the Swift parrot.
- In its first 20 years of operation the Tasmanian RFA delivered:
 - an 80 per cent increase, or 800,000 hectares in the reserve estate
 - 58 per cent or 1,778,000 million hectares of Tasmania's native forests are now protected in reserves, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
 - more than 1 million hectares of old growth forest are now permanently reserved.
 - world-benchmarked ecologically sustainable forest management has been implemented
- Despite the perception of some, the forest industry has the greatest incentive to manage forests sustainably. The ongoing profitability of the forestry relies on a stable and secure industry.
- Once harvested, Tasmania's native forests are replanted and the growing trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere.
- Harvested wood products also continue to store carbon throughout their life cycle.
- The RFA extension gives long-term stability to support and protect forests and access to Tasmania's sustainably managed forests for industry, ensuring the whole community can continue to enjoy the many benefits of Tasmanian forests into the future.

What consultation took place?

- The decision to extend the Tasmanian RFA is based on extensive assessment, public consultation, independent review and negotiation.
- The consultation on the extension of the Tasmanian RFA took place in two phases, with 56 submissions received:
 - 17 April to 12 June 2015— 28 submissions were received, this was undertaken as part of the third five-yearly review
 - 22 November to 23 December 2016— a further 28 submissions were received.

How does the industry benefit?

- The RFA ensures the continued supply of this renewable resource and fosters a job-rich, competitive industry—one that currently employs upwards of 3,600 Tasmanians.
- The benefits of a competitive and sustainable forestry industry in our regional communities cannot be underestimated.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- The RFA provides a significant business advantage, through reduced environmental and export regulation, while still providing some of the highest levels of biodiversity protection in the world.
- The extended agreement also includes clauses to recognise the importance of the Special Species Timber sector and its contribution to the retail and tourism sectors in Tasmania.

What is the history of RFAs?

- Ten RFAs were progressively signed between 1997 and 2001. They cover commercial native forestry regions—five in Victoria, three in New South Wales and one each in Western Australia and Tasmania?
- More than \$100 m worth of comprehensive scientific assessments of all forest values and uses, and consultation with stakeholders, was at the heart of establishing these RFAs.
- Together, these RFAs have resulted in a world-class forest conservation reserve system to protect biodiversity, old-growth forests and wilderness, while at the same time providing access to wood resources and delivering certainty for the forestry industry's future.

What have we learnt from 20 years of RFAs?

- One of the key benefits of RFAs are that they're regularly and comprehensively reviewed to make sure they're working as intended—and we're currently finalising the third, five-yearly review for the Tasmania and WA RFAs.
- RFA reviews include an opportunity for public submissions.
- These reviews provide a really useful opportunity to look back at what's working, what could be improved, and gives us the chance to tweak them as needed.
- For instance, for Tasmania, the Independent Reviewer, Dr Glen Kile, delivered the 3rd five-yearly review report in November 2015 and it was tabled in the Parliament on 2 December 2015.
- Dr Kile made 16 recommendations about improvements to the RFA system.
- In terms of compliance with the terms of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement, Dr Kile found that the "Parties have met the great majority of the commitments".
- There are always improvements to be made. The RFAs are based on adaptive management and continual improvement principles, and I expect future reviewers will recommend future improvements.

Why are RFA forestry operations exempt from the National Environmental laws?

- Forestry operations undertaken in accordance with the requirements of an RFA, and in an RFA area, do not have to seek approvals under Part 3 of the EPBC Act.
- This is because RFAs established comprehensive conservation reserve networks and because forestry operations must adhere to the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management.
- This includes applying adaptive forest management strategies to protect threatened flora and fauna.
- Forestry operations, for example, still need to adhere to the requirements of listed threatened species recovery plans and there are extensive codes of practice to achieve this.

But haven't there have been successful prosecutions of forest managers for environmental breaches?

- The fact that there may have been a successful prosecution in a particular state is disappointing. On-ground management is a state responsibility.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- However what it demonstrates is that the RFA is, in fact, working. Under RFAs the states have committed to implement robust forest monitoring, compliance and enforcement systems to ensure forests are protected.
- Of course we would prefer that there be no breaches of codes of practice in any forestry operation, but the fact that investigations are happening is a demonstration of the protections that are in place.

RFAs have been criticised because they have not been reviewed on time, haven't they?

- Delays in the review of RFAs have occurred for a number of reasons especially covering election periods.
- Review delays haven't impacted on the ongoing nature of the RFAs as they are backward looking documents to monitor progress with implementation.

Isn't there more money to be made from selling carbon credits by leaving the forests unharvested?

- There is no methodology, current or proposed, that allows for crediting of carbon for avoided harvesting of our native forests in the way some groups are suggesting.
- In any case, over the long term and when including carbon stored in harvested wood products, Australian research has shown that production forests provide a greater sequestration outcome than unharvested forests.
- This is not new.
- In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that: "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit".
- The science is clear on this.

Sensitivities (not for public use)

- Environmental Non-Government Organisations have been critical of Regional Forest Agreements and have called for RFAs to not be extended.
- Recent reports released by The Australia Institute and others have suggested that forests could earn money for the states in carbon sequestration rather than being harvested by the forestry industry.

Approval

Business area (AS or above)		Media team	
Name/Title	Michelle Lauder	Name	s22
Date approved	16/8/2017	Date seen	15/8/17
Comments	approved	Comments	drafted

Key messages on Australian Government support for threatened species and ecological communities in Regional Forest Agreement areas

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting and improving the conservation of Australia's threatened species and ecological communities in Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) areas.
- The Tasmanian Agreement protects threatened species and the rich wilderness values of Tasmanian forests through reserves covering over half of Tasmania's land area.
- In areas outside of the reserves, forest management adapts continually to new information on threatened species and how they should best be conserved.
- For example, information on habitat of the endangered swift parrot is considered in timber harvesting operations. Biodiversity evaluation, specialist Threatened Fauna Adviser recommendations and technical guidelines help determine important habitat for exclusion of timber harvesting.
- A number of threatened species including the swift parrot and the giant freshwater crayfish are protected through the RFA requirement to consider recovery plans or threat abatement plans in planning management actions.
- Recovery plans set out actions needed to stop the decline and support the long term recovery of threatened species and ecological communities.

Threatened Species Strategy

- The Australian Government has established a new national approach to threatened species. The Threatened Species Strategy is a plan for how we will prioritise effort and work in partnership with the community and state and territory governments over the next five years.
- The Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy sets out areas where the Australian Government will focus its efforts to achieve significant, positive impacts on threatened species.
- Threatened species in Tasmania that are the target of Australian Government funding include:
 - Swift parrot – The Australian Government is funding over \$3 million for projects that support recovery of the swift parrot, and tackle the threat of invasive predators.
 - Orange-bellied parrot – The Australian Government is funding \$525,000 to support a captive breeding and recovery program.
 - Australasian bittern - The Australian Government currently supports funding for seven projects through the National Landcare Programme to help restore bittern habitat.
- The Department has also sought further applications through the Threatened Species Recovery Fund, to fund projects that actively protect threatened species and assist with delivering on targets and action areas in the Threatened Species Strategy.

Key messages

Top messages

The Tasmania Regional Forest Agreement—For forests. For you. For the future.

- The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement has proven to be a strong and effective framework for sustainable forest management.
- It has been extended by 20 years to ensure the whole community continues to enjoy the many benefits that our forests provide.
- The RFA finds balance between the many values and uses of Tasmania's forests. Under the RFA, biodiversity and wilderness are cared for, industry and jobs are fostered, and social and cultural needs are met, ensuring everyone can share the use and enjoyment of forests, now and into the future.
- The Australian and Tasmanian governments have agreed to a rolling life of 20 years for the RFA which means it will be extended by five years if it has been found to be successfully sustaining and protecting Tasmania's forests at each of its five-yearly reviews.

Understanding the RFA

- The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement is a 20-year plan for the sustainable management and conservation of Tasmania's forests, agreed between the Australian and Tasmanian governments.
- The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement covers the entire land area of Tasmania from coast to coast. It ensures all forests, public and privately owned, are managed in an ecologically sustainable way.
 - The RFA sets out a framework for the management of all forests in Tasmania, and sets out what we want to achieve and how we will protect various values.
 - This includes things like identifying areas of environmental and cultural significance that must be preserved, and putting in place protections to ensure future generations can also enjoy the full range of benefits we get from our forests today.
- The agreement does not favour the industry over the environment, or the environment over the community. The RFA balances the use and management of forests so all values are maintained and protected sustainably.
- The RFA is the framework for achieving sustainable forest management. We are delivering greater longevity and security of this objective by extending the RFA for a rolling life of 20 years.
- Under this framework is a range of legislation, policies, and codes of practice to ensure the day-to-day management of the forest is done sustainably, and so all values are maintained and protected.

Extending the RFA

- The Australian and Tasmanian governments have extended the Tasmanian RFA by 20 years as it has proven to be a strong and effective framework for the sustainable management of Tasmania's forests.

Key messages for the extended Tasmanian RFA – July 2017

- The governments also agreed to introduce a rolling life for the RFA, which means it will be extended by five years if it is found to be successfully sustaining Tasmania's forests at each of its five-yearly reviews.
- Extending the RFA gives long-term stability to protections for biodiversity and heritage, and surety of resource access for industry, ensuring the whole community can continue to enjoy the many benefits that Tasmanian forests provide well into the future.
- The extension was formalised on 18 August 2017, following extensive assessment, public consultation, independent review and negotiation.

What's changed?

- The extended RFA delivers a number of improvements to the RFA framework:
 - a 20 year extension to the current agreement
 - rolling five-year extensions to the agreement, subject to satisfactory performance and review
 - a more outcomes focused five-yearly RFA review process
 - strengthened communication between governments
 - specific clauses referring to matters of national environmental significance in the EPBC Act and climate change have been included.
- Importantly, the objectives of the RFA have not changed. We will continue to maintain the comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, certainty of resource access and supply to industry; and ecologically sustainable forest management for areas outside of reserves.
- The RFA has been further streamlined by bringing any outstanding commitments from the 2005 Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement into the extended Regional Forest Agreement.
 - This means that the Community Forest Agreement no longer exists as an administrative document, but all outstanding or ongoing commitments have been carried forward in the simplified, extended RFA.
- We have also developed a consolidated document that allows you to read the agreement without having to refer to three variations and work out what has been adjusted.

Consultation

- The governments sought public submissions when reviewing and extending the RFA to ensure all voices and needs were considered and represented in the balance of forest use.
- Views, feedback and concerns from the public or interested stakeholders about forestry practices are listened to, considered seriously and addressed where needed. These have resulted in continual improvements to the RFA and associated policies and documents during the past 20 years.

Performance

- In its first 20 years of operation the RFA delivered an expanded forest conservation estate, ecologically sustainable forest management and significantly deregulated resource access and supply to industry.

Key messages for the extended Tasmanian RFA – July 2017

- The most recent independent review found that over 90 per cent of the 231 specific actions, commitments or recommendations in the RFA had been completed, implemented or superseded.
- In 2007, a Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry report, led by Yale University, found that the Tasmanian Forest Management System contained the most stringent and comprehensive endangered species protections compared to 38 other jurisdictions examined.
- In 2006 Tasmania had more area protected in wilderness areas and national parks than any of the case study countries – including Australia, as a whole. Since then, more areas have been added to the reserve estate.

A constantly improving system

- The RFA is a robust but adaptable framework which requires forest management and forestry practices to evolve and improve with new information and innovation, to better support and protect the many values of our forests.
- The RFA has not meant that we have been locked into the way we did things in the 1990s. Just as we are not locked in to 2017 practices by the extension of the RFA.
- As new information and innovation comes about, forestry practices become smarter, less wasteful and can find new ways to protect and even benefit local ecosystems.
- It has worked well so far and will work even better into the future – the RFA will continue to improve and evolve, as will the forest management systems and forestry practices underlying it, while keeping firmly to the essential forest values it balances and protects
- The RFA is not a set-and-forget arrangement. It has been keenly examined and independently reviewed every five years to determine how well it has worked and what can be improved. Over time there have been a number of recommendations for improvement and these have been acted on by the governments.
- One of the key changes will be to focus future reviews on forest management outcomes rather than an administrative audit of the agreement.
- We implement sustainable management thoroughly and well and take environmental custodianship seriously – this improves the international reputation of our systems, and the demand for our sustainably produced wood.

Industry

- The RFA gives industry certainty of access to timber from Tasmania's sustainably managed forests, ensuring continued supply of this renewable resource and fostering a job-rich, competitive industry into the future.
- The RFA is a robust framework which allows forest management and forestry practices to evolve and improve in response to new information and changing industry needs and community attitudes.
- RFAs are a very significant deregulatory mechanism while still providing some of the highest levels of biodiversity protection in the world (Yale Uni report).
- The Comprehensive Regional Assessments undertaken before the RFA was entered into allowed governments to make decisions on land use and protections in a much more strategic way, considering the full range of forest uses and values across the landscape.

Key messages for the extended Tasmanian RFA – July 2017

- These decisions created protected areas and specified management so as to preserve the full range of values and uses in the forests. It also provided secure and efficient resource access so industry could focus on productivity and innovation.
- Jobs in regional communities are not always easy to find. The benefits of a competitive and sustainable forestry industry in our regional communities must not be underestimated.
- There is an increasing demand for sustainably sourced wood as a low-carbon, renewable resource.

Environment

- The RFA protects threatened species and the rich wilderness values of Tasmanian forests through a comprehensive system of reserves covering over half of Tasmania's land area. This is complemented by ecologically sustainable forest management practices in forests outside of reserves.
- The reserve estate has increased by 30 per cent, or 684 000 hectares, since the RFA was signed
- Fifty-two per cent of Tasmania's land area is now protected in reserves, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Outside of reserves, forestry operations are managed in accordance with the Tasmanian forest practices system which is recognised to be among the world's best, giving practical effect to ecologically sustainable management.
- Planning before harvest is a complex and rigorous process where forest managers assess and respond to any environmental concerns in the area.
- There is independent and careful assessment of the forest for features of ecological importance, and the strict codes and standards they must conform to are applied and audited.
- The RFA is consistent with the objectives of the EPBC Act as it: provides for the protection of the environment; promotes ecologically sustainable development; promotes the conservation of biodiversity; and provides for the protection and conservation of heritage.
- The RFA provides a framework that can adapt to new information on threatened species. For example, information on nesting and foraging habitat of the endangered swift parrot is incorporated into the forest management system to protect this habitat through the exclusion of timber harvesting.
- A number of threatened species including the swift parrot and the giant freshwater lobster were protected through the RFA requirement to apply and implement management prescriptions or actions from recovery plans or threat abatement plans as a priority.

Enforceable protections (in the state)

- Forest management operations are monitored regularly in the field. Monitoring involves checking that operational objectives and procedures are being met, that work is undertaken safely, and environmental prescriptions are implemented appropriately.
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania implements an internal audit program that assesses overall compliance with its forest management system requirements. This is in addition to audits by regulators (e.g. FPA) and forest management certifying bodies.
- The results of external audits are published on relevant websites.

Climate change and carbon

- Tasmania's forests and the forestry industry have a key role to play in storing carbon and addressing climate change.
- All forests harvested by the forestry industry under the RFA are regenerated so that there is no net forest loss.
- The Tasmanian Government has recently banned forest clearing and conversion for other uses under its Permanent Native Forest Estate policy.
 - Some clearing for productive agriculture can continue, subject to state and Commonwealth planning and environmental approvals.
 - RFAs do not lead to deforestation.
- Regenerating forests store more carbon from the atmosphere.
- Wood products continue to store the carbon during their life – this includes building materials, timber flooring, and furniture.
- Wood waste can also be a secure, carbon neutral bio-fuel producing baseload electricity, along with Tasmania's hydroelectric capacity.