

August 31st 2011

Implementing the  
Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement

## **Advice from ENGO signatories on Clause 26**

*“where harvesting work has already begun in coupes within the nominated 430,000 hectares, rescheduling will occur as soon as practical.”*

Produced by the Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania and Australian Conservation Foundation



ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA  
The Conservation Council



AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION

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## **Abbreviations/glossary**

ENGO	Environmental groups who signed the Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles and directly involved in the forest round table talks.
FT	Forestry Tasmania
IGA	Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement
IVG	“Independent Verification Group” – a group of experts (including a geology/mineralogy expert) jointly nominated by, but independent of, both Governments and all other stakeholders and led by Professor Jonathan West to provide advice to the Prime Minister and the Tasmanian Premier on the results of an independent verification process to be undertaken in accordance with Terms of Reference jointly agreed by the Governments.

## Summary and main recommendations

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This is a submission on the rescheduling of logging out of the proposed native forest reserve area as part of the IGA. It analyses the status of logging coupes within the reserve area and specific recommendations for coupes within the 430,000 immediate reserve proposal based on a list provided by Forestry Tasmania on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Following an analysis of FT's coupe list and visual verification by aerial surveys, ENGO recommend the State and Commonwealth governments to urgently issue clear instructions to Forestry Tasmania to:

1. Immediately reschedule all logging operations – including those that are current or active – out of the 430,000 hectares native forest reserve proposal for immediate protection; and
2. Reschedule logging operations out of the full 572,000 hectares native forest reserve proposal as soon as practical.

For the 41 coupes from FT's coupe activity list that are within the 430,000 hectares for immediate protection, ENGOs specifically recommend:

1. None of the 12 logging coupes listed as 'new' should have logging operations started.
2. 16 of the 17 logging coupes listed as 'open' should not be logged – excluding coupe EP021B which appears to be complete.
3. Logging should not be started in coupes BT013A and PC015B – 2 of the 12 coupes listed as 'current'. An aerial survey on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August confirmed these two coupes were not being logged.
4. Ten of the 12 coupes listed as 'current' need to have operations re-scheduled as soon as practical, as per the coupe by coupe re-scheduling recommendations detailed in this report.

If FT advise that they can not or will not re-schedule the coupes outside of the 430,000 hectare immediate reserve area and the 572,000 hectare full reserve area, then the State and Commonwealth should trigger the relevant sections of clauses 26 and 27 of the IGA.

## 1. Background

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The IGA states that the State will: place 430,000 hectares of native forest for immediate protection into Informal Reserves; that these areas will be placed under a State-Commonwealth Conservation Agreement; and, during a verification process, that wood supply will be sourced from outside of the full 572,000 hectare reserve area (with caveats as per clause 26).

**The Forestry Tasmania Coupe List:** Forestry Tasmania provided a coupe activity list from within the 430,000 hectares of native forests identified for immediate protection as Informal Reserves to; the State and Commonwealth Government, Professor West, and the Signatories to the Statement of Principles. The Coupe Activity List is dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011, and lists 41 logging coupes within the 430,000 hectares that are scheduled for logging. Of these 41 coupes, 12 coupes are listed as 'current', 17 coupes are listed as 'open' and 12 coupes are listed as 'new'. According to information previously provided by Forestry Tasmania, if the coupe status is listed as "current", harvesting contractor(s) are present and actively logging the coupe; "open" coupes are coupes where harvesting operations have commenced, are not complete and are not currently active; and "new" coupes are coupes where harvesting operations have not commenced. The Coupe Activity List also provided a percentage of the coupe area that had been harvested. This data provides an indication of the area of the forest that was known to have been logged as of the 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

During the moratorium process, signatories were told that a logging figure of 0-10% of a coupe is usually indicates that a road has been built into the coupe but no logging activity has occurred. Aerial surveys broadly confirmed that coupes where 0-10% are listed were indeed roaded but essentially untouched.

## 2. Context to relevant sections of the IGA and subsequent agreements

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Clause 26 of the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement states:

*“The State will ensure that, until the further independent verification process required under Clause 20 is completed, wood supply required under Clause 17 will be sourced from outside the 572,000 hectares of ENGO-nominated HCV forest area unless the remaining State Forest area is insufficient to meet the contractually specified quality and quantity of wood supply. Where this is the case, the Tasmanian Government will ensure that wood supplies are sourced outside the 430,000 hectares placed in Informal Reserves. The Tasmanian Government will ensure that the 430,000 hectares of State Forest identified in Attachment A is not accessed. **Where harvesting work has already begun in coupes within the nominated 430,000 hectares, rescheduling will occur as soon as practical** and a list of coupes that will be harvested will be agreed by the Governments and the signatories, advised by the Independent Verification Group, within two weeks of the signing of this agreement. If sourcing of wood supply from within the 572,000 hectares is considered to be necessary under any circumstances, the Governments will immediately consult with the Reference Group of Signatories and the Independent Verification Group in order to inform them of the basis for sourcing wood supply in those areas, and with the intention of providing this supply in a way that minimizes impacts on conservation values.”*

At a meeting with Professor Jonathon west and officials from the Tasmanian and Australian Governments on 18<sup>th</sup> August, the signatories (TWS, ACF, ET, CFMEU, TCA, FIAT, TCSA, TFCA) and Allan Hansard from AFPA, discussed and gave in principle agreement to the Terms of reference for the proposed Tasmanian Forest Agreement Independent Verification Group.

Clause 1 of the **Tasmanian Forest Agreement Independent Verification Group: Terms of reference** (agreed draft provided 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011) states:

*“Where harvesting work has already commenced in coupes within the 430,000 hectares of native forest identified in attachment A to the Intergovernmental Agreement, provide advice to the Governments and Signatories before 22 August 2011 on the list of coupes where harvesting work is occurring and on a process for quickly determining practical rescheduling options (Clause 26).”*

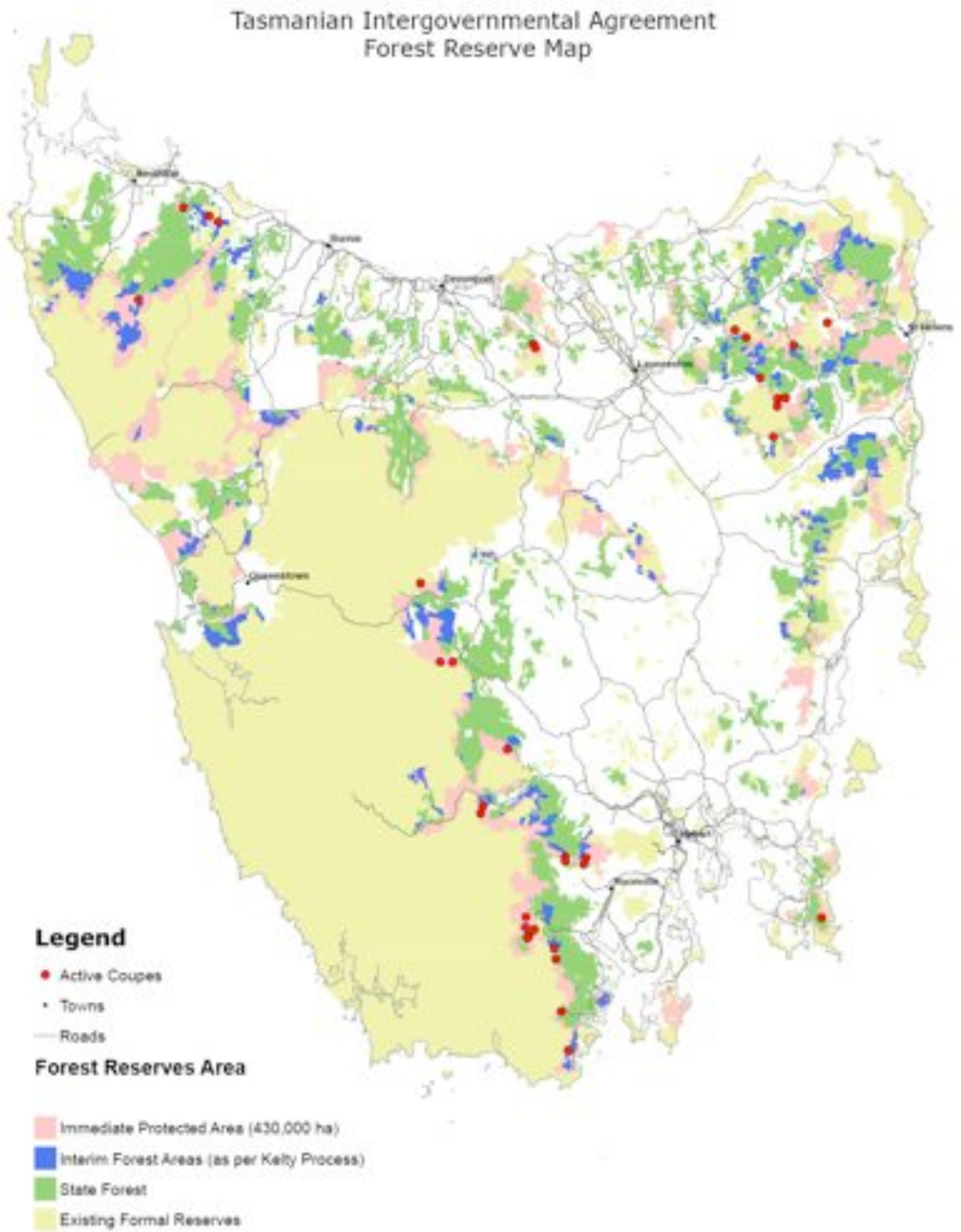
### 3.Verification and recommendations

This section covers the verification of harvesting work on current or proposed harvesting work in the nominated 430,000 hectares of forest for immediate protection and the ENGO recommendations for rescheduling.

#### 3.1 Coupe Activity List provided by Forestry Tasmania (dated 18 August 2011)

District	Coupe	Harvest % completed	Status	Harvesting Scheduled start	Coupe Area (ha)
Bass	CD102A	65	Current		80
Bass	TY021A	25	Current		45
Bass	TY022D	45	Current		110
Bass	TY025E	15	Current		80
Bass	TY030G	30	Current		58
Derwent	BT009D	20	Current		65
Derwent	BT013A	10	Current		95
Derwent	PL011A	99	Current		10
Huon	PC015B	15	Current		44
Huon	RU043C	85	Current		42
Huon	RU043H	20	Current		53
Murchison	CF041A	15	Current		50
Huon	AR002B	0	New	Aug-11	38
Huon	EP021B	90	Open	Aug-11	30
Bass	CD106C	10	Open	Sep-11	65
Bass	RS117C	10	Open	Sep-11	74
Derwent	DU020C	10	Open	Sep-11	30
Bass	FL112E	0	New	Oct-11	40
Bass	MO109A	5	Open	Oct-11	50
Bass	RM464W	10	Open	Oct-11	25
Derwent	TA013A	10	Open	Oct-11	20
Derwent	TN044B	10	Open	Oct-11	35
Huon	CM004C	10	Open	Oct-11	60
Huon	PC017C	60	Open	Oct-11	41
Huon	PC024B	0	New	Oct-11	55
Huon	PC085A	0	New	Oct-11	40
Bass	RM465Z	10	Open	Nov-11	30
Bass	SY005A	0	New	Nov-11	50
Derwent	CZ006C	10	Open	Nov-11	52
Derwent	DU029V	10	Open	Nov-11	10
Huon	EP048C	10	Open	Nov-11	42
Huon	PC083D	0	New	Nov-11	62
Murchison	BV011B	0	New	Nov-11	36
Bass	BS115H	10	Open	Dec-11	45
Bass	SA044B	0	New	Dec-11	25
Derwent	TN046A	10	Open	Dec-11	27
Huon	HA043F	0	New	Dec-11	40
Huon	PC070B	0	New	Dec-11	50
Murchison	MB011D	20	Open	Dec-11	40
Huon	RU032B	0	New		40
Murchison	CF027A	0	New		50

### 3.2 Coupe Activity List overlaid on the IGA Forest Reserve Map



Prepared by the Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania and Australian Conservation Foundation.  
\*This map is derived from the map shown in Appendix 6 of the Intergovernmental Agreement (7th August 2011)

### **3.3 Results of ENGO coupe verification and individual coupe reschedule recommendations**

#### **3.3.1 “Current” coupes within the 430 000 hectare area**

**DISTRICT: MURCHISON**

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##### **Coupe CF041A**

Mixed eucalypt with rainforest understory.

Harvesting is active in this coupe with numerous machines present. Approx 10-15% of the coupe has been logged, with the remainder intact. Roading appears complete..

There are piles of mixed grade saw logs and pulp logs on site.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe cease immediately, and be treated to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



### **Coupe CD102A**

Tall Eucalypt forest with rainforest understory and some stands of pure rainforest. Eucalypts are largely *E. amygdalina* and *E. dalrympleana*.

It is estimated that this coupe was commenced approximately one month ago and is well over half complete. Roding is complete.

Several machines are present and log piles contain a full range of log types and grades.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe cease immediately, and be treated to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



### **COUPE TY021A**

This coupe is currently active, during the aerial inspection machinery and cars were present. It is estimated that more than 25% of the coupe has been harvested. Piles of logs remain on site.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe cease immediately, and be treated to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



COUPE TY021A



COUPE TY021A

### **COUPE TY022D**

This coupe is currently active. Two cars were present during the aerial investigation and log loading machinery is on site. A substantial area has been logged already. Clumps of vegetation remain scattered through the coupe. Piles of logs remain on site.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe cease immediately, and be treated to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



### **COUPE TY030G**

This coupe is currently active. Two machines and cars were present during the aerial investigation. This coupe is listed as a contingency coupe on the FT 1 year plan.

ENGOS concur with FT's assessment that this coupe is approximately 30% complete.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe cease immediately, and be treated to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



COUPE TY030G

**DISTRICT: DERWENT**

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**COUPE BT009D**

Roading and logging have commenced in this coupe. One machine was present during the aerial inspection. It is estimated that more than 20% of the coupe has been logged, as advised in the Coupe Activity List 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe cease immediately, and be treated to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



## COUPE BT013A

Contrary to the advice in the FT Activity List, ENGOs do not believe that logging operations have commenced in this coupe and on inspection there were no contractors or machinery present. While roading appears complete, the forest remains intact.

It is imperative that contractors and machinery are not moved into this coupe, only for it to be rescheduled and contractors re-located.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe should not occur and this coupe must be rescheduled immediately.**



## COUPE PL011A

This coupe appears complete. At the time of ground inspection there was one machine remaining to load residual log piles. At the time of aerial inspection (22 August) no machinery was present.

**Recommendation: This coupe is complete so it does not need to be rescheduled.**



## DISTRICT: HUON

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### COUPE PC015B

Contains old growth wet sclerophyl forest, contiguous with the WHA. *Eucalyptus Obliqua* and *Delegatensis* with rainforest understorey.

The roading appears complete, having been undertaken in several sections, the last completed in approximately July 2011.

Harvesting in this coupe has not commenced and it is not active, but one log loader machine was observed sitting idle in the coupe during ground and aerial inspection.

A recent notification via the Forestry Tourism Protocol Agreement, issued 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011, indicated that logging was still planned and imminent despite a notified start date of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

At the time of signing of the IGA and inspection, this coupe was **not** active.

It is imperative that contractors and machinery are not moved into this coupe, only for it to be rescheduled and contractors re-located.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe should not commence, and this coupe must be rescheduled immediately.**



### **COUPE RU043C**

This is a 21ha coupe adjacent to private land in the West Wellington proposed reserve.

It is accessed from two directions and has logging crews working in each. There are large piles of high quality sawlogs of a large size.

Ground and Aerial inspections were conducted. It is estimated that this coupe is almost complete.

**Recommendation: There needs to be a site inspection of this coupe to ascertain log salvage opportunities and remediation needs before contractors exit.**

**No image available**

### **COUPE RU043H**

This coupe has a diverse range of vegetation including cutting grass and mixed understory typical of high altitude eucalypt forest. There are numerous exposed sections of rock

This coupe is in the West Wellington proposed reserve and is currently active with approx 8 machines operating in it. Large logs of various grades are piled, with a particularly large pile of HQSL. It appears only recently commenced and we concur with the FT advice that it is approximately 20% complete.

Roading in this coupe appears complete.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe should cease immediately and be subject to ecological remediation and log salvage operations.**



### 3.3.2 August 2011 logging operations within the 430 000 hectares area

#### DISTRICT: HUON

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##### **COUPE AR002B**

High altitude alpine rainforest with eucalypt over story. Includes pandanis, celery top pine, sassafras and Myrtles.

A recently completed road accesses the coupe, it is tagged with marking tag but harvesting operations have not commenced. ENGOs concur with FT advice that this is a new logging coupe that is 100% intact, apart from the construction of the access road.

The aerial inspection identified one machine on site. It is assumed this machined is being used on roadworks or other preparation.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe should not commence and this coupe must be rescheduled immediately.**



##### **COUPE EP021B**

Google Earth shows this coupe to be substantially completed and ENGOs concur with the FT advice that this coupe is 90% complete.

**Recommendation: It is recommended that logging contractors move back into this coupe to finish operations with ecological restoration and log salvage principles in mind.**

**No Image available.**

### 3.3.3 September 2011 logging operations within the 430 000 hectares

DISTRICT: BASS

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#### COUPE CD 106C

Roading has commenced in this coupe and it appears to be near completion. No harvesting has begun.

Consideration should be given to moving roading contractors to operations outside the 572,000ha forest reserve area to ensure money and effort is used to assist the reschedule of logging operations to outside of the nominated HCV reserve area.

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe should not occur and this coupe must be rescheduled immediately.**



**COUPE RS 117C**

Image: Aerial inspection: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

**Recommendation: Harvesting of this coupe should not occur and this coupe must be rescheduled immediately.**



## COUPE DU020C

No Information on the status of this coupe is available.

**Overall Recommendation:** That if there is a need for any field verification of practical re-scheduling and ecological treatment requirements for the above listed coupes, that the possibility of a site visit as needed be offered to representatives from the Reference Group

## 4. Recommendations to the Independent Verification Group and Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments

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### 4.1 Steps needed to Implement clause 26 (and 27)

A list of where harvesting work is active or planned in coupes within the nominated 430,000 hectares has been provided by Forestry Tasmania on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

This list, and the verification work outlined in this report, confirms that logging is occurring inside the nominated 430,000 ha. As such urgent steps are needed to progress a rescheduling operation and an exit of logging from these areas. The need to reschedule logging operations to outside of the 572,000 hectares of ENGO nominated reserve areas has been live since the government appointment of Mr Bill Kelty and the commencement of a moratorium process in December 2010. The moratorium was never delivered in full. The implementation of the rescheduling task captured by clause 26 has been on the record since this date.

Despite the longstanding reschedule task to protect the 572,000ha, available capacity in the form of human and financial capital has continued to be used to build new roads inside the nominated HCV reserve area to access new coupes. This has been done despite written requests from ENGOs to focus this roading effort on areas outside the HCV area, and public requests and formal requests from the government(s) to Forestry Tasmania to do all in its capacity to implement a logging moratorium.

In addition to the specific recommendations made above on rescheduling within the 430,000 ha, and to implement a rescheduling operation in line with the IGA, the ENGO signatories make the following additional recommendations:

1. The government must instruct FT to reschedule harvesting operations to outside of the 572,000 hectares of ENGO nominated native forests. This should include an instruction to immediately reschedule all logging operations out of the 430 000 hectares, including operations that may be current, or active.
2. The details of the re-scheduling recommendations from ENGOs for the 41 coupes within the 430 000 hectares, provided in Forestry Tasmania's coupe activity list, are as follows:
  - a. None of the 12 logging coupes listed as 'New' should have logging operations started.
  - b. 16 of the 17 logging coupes listed as 'Open' should not be logged, this excludes coupe EP021B which appears to be complete.
  - c. Logging should not be started in coupes BT013A and PC015B – 2 of the 12 coupes listed as 'current'. An aerial survey on 22nd of August confirmed these two coupes were not being logged.

- d. Ten of the 12 coupes listed as 'current' need to have operations re-scheduled as soon as practical, as per the coupe by coupe re-scheduling recommendations detailed in this report.
3. FT should report back to Government and Professor West on the capacity to successfully restructure all harvesting operations. If Forestry Tasmania advise that they can not re-schedule all the logging coupes outside of the 430,000 hectare immediate informal reserve area and provide wood supply from outside of the 572,000 hectares of ENGO-nominated High Conservation Value forest area, then the State and Commonwealth should trigger the relevant sections of clauses 26 and 27 of the IGA, i.e;
    - a. *If coupes can not be re-scheduled from the 430,000 hectares – appoint an independent expert to re-schedule the logging operations as per clause 27 of the IGA*
    - b. *If sourcing of wood supply from within the 572,000 hectares is considered to be necessary under any circumstances, consult with the Reference Group of Signatories and the Independent Verification Group as per clause 26 of the IGA*

#### **4.2 Data availability**

In several clauses (21, 27, 49) the IGA refers to the provision of Forestry Tasmania held data.

Clause 49 is a clear commitment to data provision stating “*The Governments recognise that the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement depends on appropriate mutual access to and accreditation of relevant information, including from Forestry Tasmania, and agree to provide such access and accreditation for the term of this Agreement.*”

Governments should immediately ensure full and unrestricted access and use of all data including images, required to perform the rescheduling task.

ENGO's believe that the release of base or raw data to the independent expert and independent Verification Group is critical in ensuring confidence in the process. Commissioning Forestry Tasmania to do the required modeling and provide advice is not considered acceptable.

Over the course of the Statement of Principles process, and in some cases previously via 'Right to Information' requests, ENGOs sought the release of information from Forestry Tasmania. The public release of this information was consistently refused.

ENGOs believe the release of this information is in the public interest and allows for independent analysis and assessment. This information relates to publicly owned forests and has been generated by a public entity with public funding.

Previous relevant data requests have included but are not limited to:

- A list of roading to coupes for the next six months inside and outside the 572 000 hectares including the time it is scheduled to occur.
- A list of current and 1yr plan coupes showing whether they are in, out or partly in the 572 000 hectare area
- A list of all coupes covered by a Forest Practices Plan and the current status of the Forest Practices Plan
- The roading status of all logging coupes outside of the 572 000 hectare area
- Basic resource demand data for next six months - by timber grade, month and region.

- The digital forest class layer for State Forest;
- The digital layer of plantations on State Forest;
- The full coupe layer for state forest (10 year plan);
- A history of clearfell coupes logged in the last 20 years;
- Digital copies of FPP's (at no charge) of all HCV coupes in the 572,000ha (recently completed or proposed);
- Plot data upon which Forestry Tasmania carbon storage analysis is based;
- The stem taper formula for *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (myrtle beech) including:
  - (a) the format of the formula clearly and unambiguously written
  - (b) all parameters in the formula, to the highest number of significant figures found in their derivation
  - (c) the minimum and maximum DBH and top height of data that were used to derive the formula
  - (d) the number of samples used to derive the formula
  - (e) statistics for the formula: e.g. R-squared, P value, and standard deviations of parameters [in (b)]
  - (f) rough location (e.g. mountain range or valley) of the samples used to derive the formula

Additionally, considering the rescheduling task, it is believed additional information would be useful in understanding the possibilities for rapid reschedule of logging out of the nominated 572,000 ha reserve area. As such, ENGOs also request from Forestry Tasmania data on:

- current road building operations within the ENGO nominated 572,000 ha
- Actual demand by log grade, and
- Volumes by log grade held in stockpiles

## **5. Forestry Tasmania correspondence on their ability to meet requirements in Intergovernmental Agreement.**

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Media commentary by FT indicated it does not believe it can meet contracts from outside the 430,000 ha. On 11<sup>th</sup> August, Managing Director Bob Gordon is reported as saying “we have consistently advised stakeholders that we could not afford to reserve more than an additional 300,000ha if we were expected to provide 265,00 cubic metres of peeler billets and 155,00 cubic metres of sawlogs.”<sup>1</sup>

However, the below communiqué was issued by FT to an unspecified list. It acknowledges that “Forestry Tasmania needs to provide the Tasmanian and Australian governments with an analysis of what will be required for it to continue to meet its contractual obligations, including by re-scheduling forest operations from within the identified 430,000 hectares to other areas of State forest.”

ENGOs urge this analysis be provided as soon as possible and made publicly available.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2011/08/11/252301\\_tasmania-news.html](http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2011/08/11/252301_tasmania-news.html)

**From:** Bob Gordon <[branchline@forestrytas.com.au](mailto:branchline@forestrytas.com.au)>  
**Date:** 16 August 2011 6:20:48 PM AEST  
**To:**  
**Subject: Providing the Expertise**

Dear

Last week, I happened to catch a news item on radio where Australian Greens Leader Bob Brown was complaining that resource modelling provided by Forestry Tasmania to the signatories of the forest peace talks had not been made public.

Of course, Senator Brown is wrong, but I think it is quite understandable that the release of the modelling might have escaped his attention. It must be difficult for the leader of a political party to keep his or her finger on every single issue around the country, but I did wonder if it escaped Senator Brown's attention, then perhaps others too might not be aware of the work we have been doing to assist ENGOs, timber processors and now the Australian and Tasmanian governments to resolve the dispute over forestry in Tasmania.

It's important for the community to understand that land use decisions, including areas available for wood production on State forests are matters for the Tasmanian Government and the Tasmanian Parliament.

As a Government Business Enterprise, we will work within the parameters and constraints set by the government and ultimately by State parliament and as a GBE, we ensure that all of our activities meet our legislative, contractual, fiduciary and sustainability obligations.

As you would expect, Forestry Tasmania knows more about State forest than any other organisation. It knows the 1.5 million hectares intimately. Experience gained over 90 years, coupled with the latest scientific modelling tools enables FT to know the composition of a particular area of forest and the volumes of wood that might be recovered from that area. That information is particularly valuable to organisations and governments trying to work out how much forests can be placed in conservation reserves and how much needs to be left in wood production zones to guarantee supplies to timber processors.

We have been providing that advice to environmental groups and industry negotiators for the best part of 18 months, culminating in a major report provided to Bill Kelty ([view report](#)), who had been charged with getting the ENGOs and industry groups to an agreement. This report [http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/ft\\_audit\\_commonwealth\\_2011.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/ft_audit_commonwealth_2011.pdf)[http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/final\\_report\\_signatories\\_resource\\_modelling.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/final_report_signatories_resource_modelling.pdf)[http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/final\\_report\\_signatories\\_resource\\_modelling.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/final_report_signatories_resource_modelling.pdf) is the one Senator Brown thought had remained secret. In fact, it was released last month, as part of the final Kelty report. We also provided a letter to Mr Kelty ([view letter](#)) confirming our findings, which Mr Kelty also included in his final report.

Just to make sure everything was above board, the Australian Government commissioned Professor Jerry Vanclay to look over our shoulder and confirm the accuracy of FT's assessment ([view here](#)). It is a reflection of our professionalism that Professor Vanclay concluded:

*The Reference Group can be confident that the scenarios presented by FT offer a reliable indication of resource availability, and that the scenarios are a reasonable basis for comparing options. While the underlying areas, inventory, and simulations conform to best practice, it is not possible to assert a precise long-term non-declining yield for any of the three scenarios without further specification of operational requirements (notably coupe dispersal and swift parrot requirements). Notwithstanding this limitation, the FT summaries offer a good basis for*

*comparing scenarios.*

We are now at the business end of this very long process. On August 7, the Prime Minister and the Premier of Tasmania signed the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement ([view here](#)). The agreement contains the dual objectives of guaranteeing resource supply to timber processors and a commitment to reserving for an interim period pending verification 430,000 hectares of State forest.

To achieve this, Forestry Tasmania needs to provide the Tasmanian and Australian governments with an analysis of what will be required for it to continue to meet its contractual obligations, including by re-scheduling forest operations from within the identified 430,000 hectares to other areas of State forest.

If FT finds that such rescheduling is not possible to the extent required to meet its contractual obligations, then the IGA allows compensation to be paid to contract holders from the \$7m allocated to FT to manage the additional reserves.

The difficulty is that the area nominated for informal reserve already contains about a dozen coupes where contractors are working, and there are some 87 coupes scheduled over the next 12 months. Foreseeing a potential conflict between the two objectives, the governments decided it would appoint a verification group working under the leadership of Professor Jonathon West to make a final decision or recommendation on the areas to be placed in interim reserves and the areas to be made available for wood production in order to meet the needs of timber processors.

We have already provided the following interim advice to Professor West.

*A total of 497 harvesting coupes are listed of which 87 fall within the TFIA430.  
A total of 124 roading coupes are listed of which 54 fall within the TFIA430.*

*Of the 87 harvesting coupes, 59 are critical to the supply of logs to Ta Ann (subject to verification).*

*There are currently 12 coupes being harvested within the TFIA430.  
For the remainder of 2011 a further 29 coupes (subject to verification) will be required to meet current contractual commitments.*

*A total of 27 harvesting contractors (subject to verification) rely on working within the TFIA430 during the remainder of 2011.*

*FT has also updated the regional comparisons of average annual yield in the Final Report to Signatories (Forestry Tasmania, 6 June 2011) using the method verified by Professor Jerry Vanclay. For the updated appendices - 4a,5a and 6a - ([view here](#))[http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/addition\\_to\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/addition_to_appendices.pdf)  
[http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/addition\\_to\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/addition_to_appendices.pdf)*

*The additional column headed "Intergovernmental Agreement" shows annual yields of sawlog, peeler billets and arisings by decade between 2011 and 2050. (A copy of the Final Report ([view here](#)) to Signatories for reference [http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/final\\_report\\_signatories\\_resource\\_modelling.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/pdf2011/final_report_signatories_resource_modelling.pdf)) To achieve this, Forestry Tasmania needs to provide the Tasmanian and Australian governments with an analysis of what will be required for it to continue to meet its contractual obligations, including by re-scheduling forest operations from within the identified 430,000 hectares to other areas of State forest. If FT finds that such*

*rescheduling is not possible to the extent*

*Based on this initial evaluation, FT reiterates (as advised to Bill Kelty) the view that the current reserve proposal of 430,000 hectares is inconsistent with the ability for FT to meet contractual commitments. It is likely that reserves in the order of 300,000 hectares, if located so as to minimise the area of regrowth native forest, may be compatible with resource supply obligations and sustainable forest management.*

Forestry Tasmania will continue to provide quality information to inform the process. At times, the information will not fit comfortably with everyone, but we see our role as providing fearless, independent, factual advice, and to assist where possible. We also intend to be as transparent as possible. In line with our policy of making freely available all information released under Right to Information legislation. For the material released to the Member for Huon, Mr Paul Harriss ([click here](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/rti2011/rti11_15_harriss.pdf))[http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/rti2011/rti11\\_15\\_harriss.pdf](http://www.forestrytas.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/rti2011/rti11_15_harriss.pdf)

I realise that this particular newsletter might be a little dry for many, but I think it is important to keep people fully informed of our role in these important discussions.

Until next time,

**Bob Gordon**  
Managing Director  
Forestry Tasmania  
6235 8225

## 6. Conclusion

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The ENGO signatories urge the State and Commonwealth governments move to quickly implement this critical first component of the Inter-Governmental Agreement by expeditiously completing a re-scheduling of logging coupes outside of the 572,000 hectares of ENGO nominated high conservation value forests, and by immediately placing the 430,000 hectares into Informal Reserves and protecting these forests via a State-Commonwealth Conservation agreement.

We believe that implementing this report's recommendations are critically important to progressing the IGA and building the momentum towards full implementation.

## 7. Contact

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For further information about this report, you can contact

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