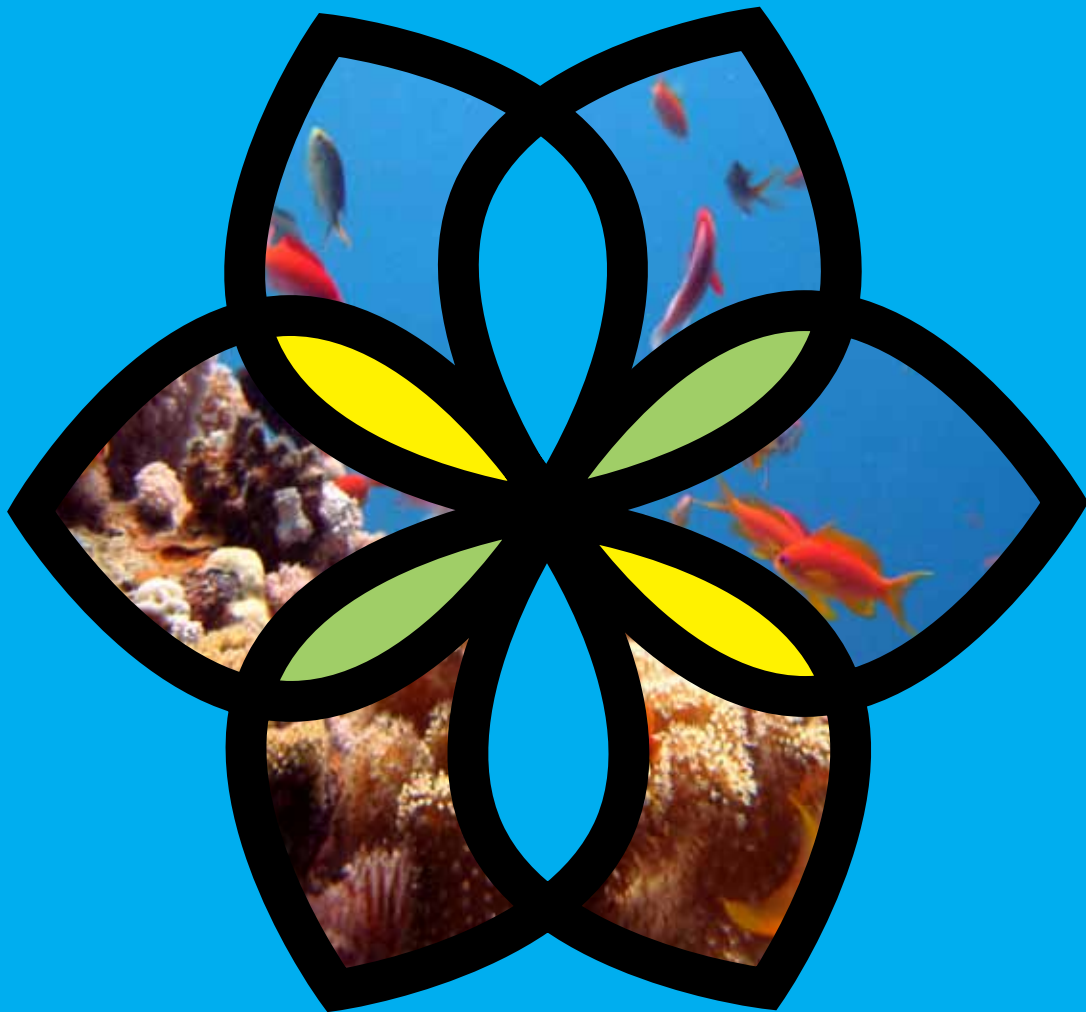




Issue 2 - Environment Tasmania Newsletter

[www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au)



Environment Tasmania is the peak body for over  
20 Tasmanian environment groups with collective  
representation of over 5000 Tasmanians.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR PHILL PULLINGER

We live in challenging and turbulent times for conservation in Tasmania. If all goes well, there are before us through the Forests Principles agreement immense opportunities to achieve nature conservation outcomes through the protection of critical areas of native forests, the delivery of a native forests transition, integrated water catchment management, plantation reforms and other critical land management reforms.



However, it is unfortunately no surprise there have also been immense challenges with what has been a very difficult process. Major obstacles to getting these reforms through remain, including a slowness of government to act, the institutional power and constraints around the role of Forestry Tasmania, and parts of the timber industry and bureaucracy that are resistant to change - along with the difficulty of managing all of our collective hopes and anxieties about what needs to be achieved for nature in Tasmania.

The unfortunate juxtaposition of the proposed pulp mill in the Tamar Valley has also been incredibly difficult - with the mill having achieved final Commonwealth approvals and still being pushed ahead by the proponents and government despite ongoing opposition from the local community and the environment movement.

It is critical to Tasmania's future that our native forests are protected, that this range of critical reforms are delivered, and that a lasting and holistic solution to the conflict over forestry in Tasmania occurs - and ET will do whatever possible to work towards these goals.

There are other critical emerging nature conservation issues that we are also focussing strongly on that will be increasingly important in the years to come.

One of these is the need to establish strong protection for our marine environment. Tassie's marine environment is just as unique as the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area and our famous natural landscapes - but has been neglected for too long. Only a tiny fraction of our marine waters are protected as dedicated Marine National parks, despite a whole range of threats to the sustainability of these unique ecosystems. ET through the work of our Marine Coordinator, Rebecca Hubbard, is working on building the case for the protection of our marine environment through the establishment of a strong system of Marine national parks. This is an area of nature conservation in Tasmania

that has had too little focus for too long - and one that we see as critically important.

Tasmania has one of the most undisturbed and stunning coastal landscapes across the planet - yet it is faced by a multitude of threats - and has little adequate protection - with a weak and very poorly enforced state coastal policy. For these reasons ET has engaged Dr Thomas Moore to build and coordinate a coasts campaign. Thomas has a PhD in oceanography, is a founding member of Save Ralphs Bay Inc, a scientific adviser to the Surfrider Foundation Australia as well as a co-founder of Tasmania's online coastal community "CoastView" which successfully gained a national award for coastal education & information services. ET sees the development of a strong state coastal policy as absolutely crucial to the long-term protection of the values that make Tasmania's coasts so special.

Keeping our member groups closely informed of the progress on the forests talks, particularly during some of the turbulence that has occurred over recent months has been challenging - and immense thanks must go to Emma, Gemma, the forests team, all of our staff, members and our management committee for your collective support during this difficult process. Over coming months our focus will be to work with members and the broader community to inspire the State and Commonwealth governments to act and act strongly on this incredible opportunity to solve the conflict over forests in Tassie. With your help we will succeed and create a positive future for Tasmania that ensures the protection of Tasmania's iconic wilderness areas and forests for future generations. ✿



A handwritten signature of Dr. Phill Pullinger.

Dr Phill Pullinger is a medical doctor and current Director of Environment Tasmania

# 2011 – THE YEAR FOR OCEAN PROTECTION

REBECCA HUBBARD

2011 is shaping up to be the year of marine protection... well that's the word all over Australia. As the Federal Government deliberates over the final sanctuary areas for commonwealth waters off south-west Australia, in South Australia they are finalising their marine park boundaries and protection levels. In Tasmania, marine stakeholders are waiting for the announcement that the planning of a state-wide network of marine national parks will begin.

And it couldn't come at a better time. The Rock Lobster fishery in Tasmania is currently suffering one of its hardest years due to low populations, there is increasing ecosystem devastation along our east coast caused by invading pest the long-spined urchin *Centrostephanus rogersii*, pollution, and warming waters. A number of favourite recreational fish such as Striped Trumpeter and Banded Morwong also continue to suffer chronically low populations. Now is obviously the time to protect Tasmania's unique and diverse marine life, and provide some insurance to our fisheries.

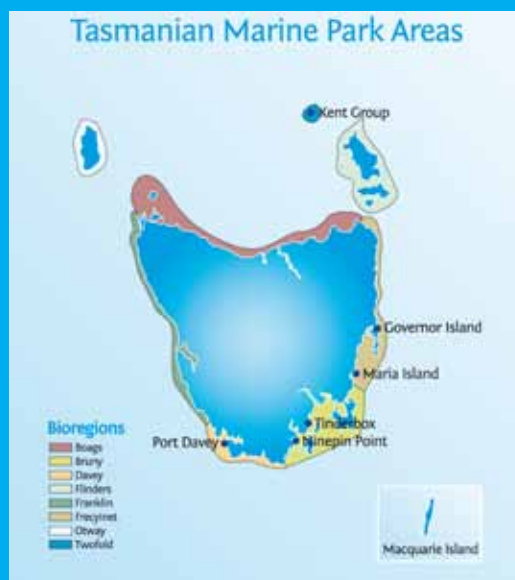
The Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy is a Government adopted plan that was developed by all marine stakeholders including conservationists, commercial and recreational fishers, government and scientists in 2001. It provides a clear process for planning the establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas to protect Tasmania's marine biodiversity.

Marine national parks are just like national parks on land – they allow for recreation such as diving, snorkelling, surfing and boating, but you can't take anything out. This protection ensures the full range of marine life and habitats can exist in their natural balance, helps to regenerate over-exploited fish populations, and help to build resilience against climate change impacts and resist marine pests. Yet just 1% of Tasmania's marine environment is protected. It's time the Tasmania Government got back on track and started to plan a system of marine national parks that will protect our incredibly unique marine life, and safeguard our fisheries for future generations.

Environment Tasmania and Ocean Planet have launched a new short film – Tasmania's Unique Marine Environment – to highlight the incredible diversity and uniqueness that characterises our marine life. Over a thousand copies of the film are being distributed to schools, councils, community groups and at events across Tasmania. Contact [marine@et.org.au](mailto:marine@et.org.au) if you would like a copy to show at your school or group event.

To order our fantastic new Handfish t-shirts and hoodies, to view the short film online, or for more information check [www.oceanplanet.org.au](http://www.oceanplanet.org.au) or [www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au)

Rebecca Hubbard is the current Marine Coordinator for Environment Tasmania and Coordinator of Ocean Planet



# OUR TASMANIAN COAST

DR THOMAS MOORE

As reported in the National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (2006) the coastal zone is a vital asset to Australia. Our unique coastal values and resources are an integral part of life for Australian communities. Ensuring the ecologically sustainable use and development of the coastal zone is imperative moving into a future full of difficult management challenges.



In Tasmania, Australia's island state with more coastline per unit land area than any other mainland state and more coastline than Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) combined, these challenges hold especially true. Tasmanian coastal values support a wide range of commercial and non-commercial pursuits. Coastal activities dependent on healthy coastal environments include commercial and recreational fishing; tourism;

recreation; urban development; and aquaculture. Our Tasmanian coast also has important social, cultural and indigenous values, including recreation, coastal landscapes, amenity, sense of place, and access.

Economic, social, and industrial trends are placing greater pressure on coastal resources, threatening core values and presenting difficult resource use challenges. Tackling these challenges

will require both awareness and action at the community level. Engaging, educating, and empowering the community on coastal values over the long term is the vision for the "Our Tasmanian Coast" campaign.

For more information or to donate to the "Our Tasmanian Coast" effort please contact Dr. Thomas Moore via email ([thomas.moore@et.org.au](mailto:thomas.moore@et.org.au)) or phone (0488334733). ☎



Head to [www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au) and get involved with Environment Tasmania your conservation council, as a friend, supporter, donor or member group

## THE PROPOSED TAMAR VALLEY PULP MILL

On Thursday March 10, the Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke gave the final approvals on the remaining EPBC modules for the proposed Tamar Valley Pulp Mill. The approvals came with some new conditions for the proposed pulp mill, including a condition which precludes the mill from using native forests as feedstock. This was a welcomed change, however, ET remains opposed to the Tamar mill, as there are still a number of major outstanding concerns that ET and our member groups have about the proposal.

ET is concerned about the impact of the ocean disposal of between 23 - 51 GL per year of industrial process effluent from the proposed Mill. The effluent will have impacts on the coastal environment, marine industries, marine ecosystems, and human health.

The approval for the proposed Pulp Mill has gone against the basic standards of assessment and environmental governance, since Gunns abandoned the independent pulp mill assessment and it was later revealed the head of that assessment had found the project to be 'critically non-compliant'. The proposed Mill has polarised the community and most residents in the Tamar Valley are opposed to the proposed Mill.

ET has concerns about the plantations that would feed the proposed Mill including their industrial scale, their location and management practices. ET would like to see plantation management reform, integrated water catchment management and some plantations restored back to native forests, particularly where they intersect with water catchments.

The development of any project for the downstream processing of plantations within the timber sector should be in line with the Tasmanian Environment Groups' Joint Forest Policy. Go to the ET website - [www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au) - to view the policy or the Joint Environment Groups' Position on the Development of a new Pulp Mill in Tasmania - November 09 ☎

## MEMBER FEATURE, NORTH EAST BIOREGIONAL NETWORK – SKYLINE TIER RESTORATION PROJECT

Since July 2007, the Northeast Bioregional Network (NEBN) has worked consistently on ecological restoration at the Skyline Tier, Scamander Pine Plantation. NEBN has actively managed the site and they've removed pines and regenerated the native vegetation. The work has restored habitat for threatened species, threatened vegetation communities, native riparian buffer zones, high conservation value catchment areas and connected regenerating native forest. A review of the project conducted by Bushways Environmental Services Tasmania, reports that the restoration work could potentially restore Giant Velvet Worm

habitat. In addition the restoration has greatly enhanced habitat for threatened species including regenerating Thatch Saw Sedge, Blue and Black Gums for Swift Parrots and habitat for Chaostola Skipper.

“As well as having great environmental benefits, restoration work can be seen as a ‘circuit breaker’ in the economy verses ecology conflict” says Todd Dudley, coordinator of the project. “The Skyline Tier project is a great example of how environmental projects can benefit rural communities and create employment. Already, forest workers have been engaged to remove large pines with their machinery. A ‘restoration industry’ has the potential to create a significant amount of long-term paid positions, especially if the protection and restoration of land is eligible under the carbon trading scheme to be implemented in Australia in 2012. The restoration work is hands-on, labour intensive, requires knowledge of forests species and is a viable transition industry for forestry workers.”

The Skyline Tier Restoration Project has been made possible through the

resourcefulness and dedication of NEBN and the many volunteers who have pulled out small pines by hand and manually cut the trees. Covering an area of 350 ha (and this is growing), the Skyline Tier Restoration project is extremely significant in its protection of high conservation values and possibly represents the largest ecological restoration project in Tasmania.

If you would like to help with the restoration, you can volunteer on a Wednesday or Thursday starting at 8.30 am. Contact Todd Dudley and NEBN <http://www.northeastbioregionalnetwork.org.au/>



## THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND FOREST PROTECTION

In 2010 a series of talks were held between lead timber industry organisations and environment non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) from Tasmania and Australia. These talks led to a Statement of Principles that requested a number of actions be undertaken by the State and Federal Government.

This included a specific requirement to implement a moratorium on the logging of forests in identified high conservation value (HCV) forest reserve proposals within 3 months. It has been a key requirement of the ENGO's that a moratorium on logging in these valuable forests be in place while talks continue.

At the time of press Environment Tasmania is participating in a process to deliver a moratorium on logging in the ENGO identified high conservation value forest reserve areas with the other signatories, Bill Kelty, the Government appointed facilitator and Forestry Tasmania

## WHAT ARE ENGO HCV FOREST RESERVE PROPOSALS?

The mapped ENGO HCV forest reserve proposals are the result of many different inputs collated by the ENGO's – from the work of governments, community groups, scientists and World Heritage authorities – over many years.

Broadly, the following conservation values have been used in determining the HCV forest reserve proposals requiring immediate protection:

- Large intact natural forest area;
- Forest areas displaying ecological maturity;
- Forest areas of social, cultural and spiritual importance to local, national and/or international communities;

- Forest ecosystems and habitat with important biodiversity values;
- Forest areas that contribute to good reserve design (eg. buffering and ecological connectivity); and,
- Forests with important ecosystem service functions (eg. carbon rich forests, water catchments).

ET considers most areas of the native forest in Tasmania to have high conservation values present – for this reason we want to see a transition of commodity timber production out of native forests on public land and private land occurs to ensure for the protection of our native forests





## CLIMATE ACTION

In 2010 ET worked collaboratively with Climate Action Hobart (CAH) and The Wilderness Society to organise the Global Work Party International Day of Action Recycling Drive at the Royal Hobart Show and Walk Against Warming. Well over 1000 people participated in the Walk Against Warming events in both Hobart and Launceston and marched under the slogan “Walk with the people, not the big polluters”. In Tasmania the greatest single contribution we can make in combating climate change is to protect our native forests and we are working hard to make this happen.

In October 2010, the Global Work Party International Day of Action saw 7,000 climate action events in 183 countries, including a Recycling Drive at the Royal Hobart Show organised by ET and CAH. Recyclable aluminium cans and other materials from the Hobart Showgrounds Sunday Market were diverted to raise awareness about the carbon emissions produced by landfill and waste. The global work parties, which ranged from solar installations to tree plantings, were designed to send a clear message: people are getting to work on climate solutions and so should their politicians. In 2011 ET will continue to work with member groups to take action on climate change. 🌱

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION UPDATE

A number of Tasmania’s largest timber companies are actively seeking Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC). Although the FSC process does have significant limitations to force reform on timber companies, it does offer some opportunity for the community to challenge companies about the way they manage their native forests and plantations and to force some changes.

Two companies, Gunns and SFM, are currently at various stages of seeking FSC certification for their forest management. Currently only two parties in Tasmania have FSC accreditation certification for forest management; Peter Downey, a central highlands landholder and Norske Skogg.

In the case of Gunns, they are seeking certification for the land they own or effectively manage through leases. Gunns’ certification application does not relate to its State Forest operations or wood coming from State Forests. Gunns is also seeking Controlled Wood status for wood taken from its plantations and privately owned forests. They had a number of major Corrective Action Requests in relation to their initial application and have currently suspended their application for Controlled Wood from Tasmania while they address those Corrective Action Requests, some of which related to High Conservation Value forest protection. FSC is currently in the process of developing an Australian Standard and ET is providing input to this process. This is just one of many ways that environment groups can look to achieve change, and if you want to know more about the FSC process and how your group can get involved, contact Russell Warman at ET – [Russell.Warman@et.org.au](mailto:Russell.Warman@et.org.au) - or FSC directly -<http://www.fiscaustralia.org/get-involved> 🌱



Become a member.



Get involved.



Volunteer.



Donate.

## ET VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

For many people who are passionate about conservation, working in the environment sector is a dream job – imagine working to protect our unique marine ecosystems, to create a connected conservation landscape across the state, or to turn Tasmania into a world-leader in self-sufficiency and renewable energy.

The ET Volunteer and Internship Program aims to provide motivated individuals with experience and training in conservation campaigning while working alongside the dynamic team at ET. Key areas of focus include the marine, coasts and forest conservation programmes; media and communications; and supporting ET's member groups with their diverse and wide ranging campaigns. Email [members@et.org.au](mailto:members@et.org.au) for more information 🌱

## BECOME AN ET MEMBER GROUP

ET is the peak body for environment groups across the state. We work to represent and campaign for nature conservation outcomes for our member groups in the public arena, and to government and industry. As an ET member, you get voting rights at our quarterly General Meetings and access to a range of resources to help build your group's capacity.

Being a member of ET connects you to a network of other organisations across Tasmania who, like you, care about the environment and are working hard to make a difference.

Collectively we can carry out activities which could not be accomplished alone!

There are a few rules about what kind of groups can become members. Does your group operate in Tasmania? Do your primary activities include safeguarding the environment? Are you community based?

If the answers to these questions are YES, then you are eligible to be a member group. If the answer to any of these questions is NO - you can still be involved. We'd love to have you as an affiliate, financial supporter or donor. Email [members@et.org.au](mailto:members@et.org.au) or give us a call if your group is interested in becoming a member'. 🌱  
[www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW FUNDRAISER

For any Not-For-Profit organisation, fundraising is a critical arm of an organisation's existence. In December 2010, ET appointed a fundraiser and we are pleased to welcome on board Anne Nunn. Anne was integral in helping ET in 2008 as a volunteer to successfully gain funding from grants and major donors. She brings with her an abundance of enthusiasm and experience which will ensure our fundraising strategy will achieve goals for the ongoing financial security and growth of our organisation. Her activism history of more than eleven years extends across Australia and overseas including Tasmania where she was involved with the Global Rescue Station in the Styx Valley Tasmania in 2003 - 04, and the protection of Recherche Bay in 2006. Anne brings with her valuable tools that are available for ET's member groups. We welcome Anne and look forward to a prosperous future.

Contact Anne to donate call 03 6270 1733 or email [anne.nunn@et.org.au](mailto:anne.nunn@et.org.au) 🌱



Environment Tasmania is working with members to protect, conserve and rehabilitate Tasmania's natural environment

## WHO'S ALREADY IN?

Our current members are; [Tarkine Nation Coalition](#), Mole Creek Caving Club, [Pedder Restoration Committee](#), The Wilderness Society Inc., [North East Tasmania Land Trust](#), Future Tasmania, [Save Our Sister](#), Panama Forest & Denison River Catchment Group, [Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc.](#), Wild Wielangta, [Peninsula Environment Network](#), North-East Bioregional Network Inc., [Spirit of Bruny](#), West Wellington Protection Group, [Still Wild Still Threatened](#), Friends of the Earth Tasmania, [Break O' Day Catchment Risk Group](#), Florentine Protection Society Inc., [Ocean Planet](#), Launceston Environment Centre, [Tasmanian Public & Environmental Health Network](#), Nature Photographers Tasmania, [Friends of Jackeys Marsh](#), Peak Oil Tasmania and [Climate Action Hobart](#).

# YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO OUR EXISTENCE!

Environment Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation and we exist because of the generous donations of individuals and businesses. So our work can continue, we need your ongoing financial support. All funding goes directly to our work on conservation issues.

In becoming one of our supporters you will feel fantastic knowing that you are helping to preserve this island for generations. You will also receive bi-annual newsletters, invitations to events and more.

## JOIN US! TIME IS IMPERATIVE.

I want to contribute to Environment Tasmania and will give:

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  \$20  \$50  \$150  \$500

each month  one off donation

*All donations \$2 or more are tax deductible.*

### Contact details

Title and Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. option 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. option 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Details

Card Type:  Visa  Mastercard

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CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque / money orders are to be made payable to Environment Tasmania Inc.

Send this form to:

Environment Tasmania

GPO Box 1073 Hobart TAS 7001

Call 03 6224 6319 if you need to contact us.



I do not want to receive the bi-annual newsletter



I would like to receive other updates regarding events and workshops



I choose not to receive anything from ET

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Director: Dr Phill Pullinger  
Office Manager: Craig Allen  
Marine Coordinator: Rebecca Hubbard  
Coasts Coordinator: Thomas Moore  
Fundraiser: Anne Nunn  
Members, Policy, Communication:  
Emma Anglesey  
Intern: Sharon Roberts,  
Intern: Joe DeBeer

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Simon Branigan (Chairperson)  
Jenny Cambers-Smith (Deputy Chairperson)  
Louise Crossley (Secretary)  
Mark Harrison (Treasurer)  
Andrew Lohrey  
Pete Hay  
Vanessa Bleyer  
Gerard Castles  
Frank Giles (Public Officer)

### CONTACT US

Environment Tasmania  
2nd floor 100 Elizabeth Street Hobart  
GPO Box 1073 Hobart Tasmania 7001  
03 6224 6319  
[www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au)

