



Media Release

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New report shows urgent need to protect Tasmania's high conservation value forests

Environment Tasmania, the Wilderness Society and the Australian Conservation Foundation today released "Tasmania's Native Forests: Places for Protection", a detailed report on the areas of Tasmania's native forests in need of protection as National Parks through the Forest Principles Agreement.

The Report's lead author, Russell Warman said that "Using studies and assessments of our forests over three decades, the Report shows that at least 572,000 ha of forests are too important to be logged."

The report provides a detailed description and background of important native forests with identified high conservation values. In the Statement of Principles agreement, industry and eNGO signatories have agreed these forests will be protected.

Vica Bayley from the Wilderness Society, said that "Most Australians want to protect the most unique and important habitats in our remaining native forests from the logging and burning of current commercial logging regimes."

Dr Phill Pullinger from Environment Tasmania added that, "Protecting these important remaining native forests will provide our best chance to save our globally unique flora and native wildlife. There will be benefits for our climate and economy through tourism, recreation, special events and by boosting Tasmania's clean-green brand."

ACF's Healthy Country Campaign Co-ordinator, Lindsay Hesketh said, "Tasmania will be a national leader in the emergent economic opportunities created by applying protective management to these enormous carbon assets."

The Forest Principles Agreement calls on the Commonwealth and State Governments to "immediately protect, maintain and enhance High Conservation Value Forests identified by ENGO's on public land" through legislative protection.

"Tasmania's Native Forests: Places for Protection" will be submitted to both the State and Federal Governments today.

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