

Want to know what is going to be protected and what is in the never-never for Tasmanian forest protection?

Many numbers have been reported as to what area of forest will be protected in Tasmania as part of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement (TFA). The areas (totaling 493,482 ha, not 504,000 ha) can be broken down into the following categories:

- World Heritage Southern Forest areas – approximately 100,000 ha – that (subject to further Legislative Council approval) could be reserved in 2013.
- An additional 390,000 ha whose reservation is effectively postponed to the never-never as it cannot proceed before FSC certification of Forestry Tasmania, the support of future governments after federal and Tasmanian state elections, and is provisional on durability reports from the Special Council established as part of the TFA legislation..

When the Legislative Council's amendments passed, the TFA signatories obtained assurances from both the Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments concerning issues such as special-species logging and interim management of the future reserve land. Such assurances depend on the support and good will of the governments concerned and cannot be relied upon beyond forthcoming elections.

Below is a table produced for the Australian Greens that gives a comprehensive breakdown of the areas, timeframes, conditions and exceptions attached to forest protection, as stipulated in the Tasmanian Forests Agreement legislation that passed the Tasmanian Parliament on 30 April 2013.

Table of land categories created by the Tasmanian Forests Agreement legislation

Glossary:

FPA = Forest Practices Authority;

FT = Forestry Tasmania;

Leg.Co. = Legislative Council;

m3pa = cubic metres per annum;

PTPZ = Permanent Timber Production Zone land;

TFA = Tasmanian Forests Agreement, 22 November 2012

WH = World Heritage

Land Category and Description	Area	Status before TFA	Status in TFA	Status under TFA legislation	Timeline/issues for reservation and other comments
World Heritage Southern Forest Areas and West Wellington (part), including Styx, Weld, Florentine, Wedge, middle Huon, Picton, Navarre, Butlers, Mt Field fringing forest.	100,819 ha	Overwhelmingly Multiple Use Forest slated for logging	Part of 392,232-ha first tranche	Interim protection from logging apart from excluded areas (below). PTPZ until reservation.	Further Leg Co approval required in context of 'durability reports' and carbon credits. Earliest possible reserve gazettals approx. September/October 2013.

Non-World-Heritage-nominated proposed reserves. Includes the most substantial parts of the Tarkine, Blue Tier, NE Highlands, Bruny, Tasman Peninsula, East Coast etc. (Mulder amendment areas – Schedule AB)	256,872 ha	Overwhelmingly Multiple Use Forest slated for logging	Part of 392,232-ha first tranche (clause 35 TFA)	Interim protection from logging apart from excluded areas (below). PTPZ until reservation.	Further Leg .Co approval required in context of ‘durability reports’ and carbon credits. Reservation cannot proceed before October 2014 and even then not before full FSC certification for FT. Most optimistic scenario for earliest possible reserve gazettals is beyond October 2014 – after state and federal elections. But FSC process could add years to this.
Northern parts of the World Heritage minor modification – Great Western Tiers, Dove River, Mersey valley (Hall amendment areas – Schedule AC)	34,541 ha	Overwhelmingly Multiple Use Forest slated for logging	Part of 392,232-ha first tranche (clause 35 TFA)	Interim protection from logging apart from excluded areas (below). PTPZ until reservation.	Further Leg.Co. approval required in context of ‘durability reports’ and carbon credits. World Heritage listing for these forests and full FSC certification for FT are required before reservation can occur. Most optimistic scenario for earliest possible gazettals is beyond October 2014 – after state reserve and federal elections. But FSC process could add significantly to this.
‘Second-tranche areas’ Over 110 generally small areas scattered from Tarkine, to the far north-east, and as far south as Cygnet.	101,250 ha	Mostly Multiple Use Forest slated for logging	Part of (clause 35 TFA) for reservation by March 2015	Interim protection from logging apart from excluded areas (below). PTPZ until reservation.	Further Leg.Co. approval required in context of ‘durability reports’, carbon credits and full FSC certification for FT. Most optimistic scenario for earliest gazettal of reserves is beyond March 2015, well after state and federal elections, but FSC process could add significantly to this.
The ‘once-only-log-and-restore’ and the ‘log-of-last-resort’ areas scattered from the Tarkine to the far south. Includes 11,451 ha of the Wentworth Hills.	21,489 ha	Overwhelmingly Multiple Use Forest slated for logging	Part of PTPZ under FT. Logging allowed.	Once-only-log-and-restore and log-of-last-resort’ – clause 39 TFA.	Decision to be made on areas’ future in 2022 following durability reports, including analysis of contribution of plantations to wood supply.

<p>Schedule D: 42 logging coupes within the 493,482 ha of ‘protected forests’ in first four rows above. Defined in legislation by name and FT District only (not by grid reference, boundaries or hectares). 42 coupes scattered across the state, from the Tarkine (at least 6), Bruny Island (3), Ben Lomond (5), and Southern Forests.</p>	<p>Area not defined in Bill/Act. Between 1400 and 3000 ha.</p>	<p>Multiple Use Forest slated for logging.</p>	<p>These coupes excluded from interim protection.</p>	<p>These coupes excluded from interim protection.</p>	<p>7 coupes within proposed WH modification (Southern Forests) to be completed by mid-June 2013 (‘within a matter of weeks’, Annells, FT media release, 29/4/13). One of these already completed (May 2013). Discussions occurring about permanent removal of several remaining Schedule D coupes from the logging schedule.</p>
<p>24 ill-defined ‘special species contingency areas’ within 493,482 ha of ‘protected’ future reserve land. Defined in the legislation by name and District only (not by grid reference, boundaries or hectares).</p> <p>Largely in and around Tarkine, with 3 near Ringarooma, 2 near Lake Gordon, and 1 near Geeveston. None in proposed World Heritage minor modification.</p>	<p>Area in hectares not defined in Bill/Act.</p>	<p>Not fully known as locations of these areas are undefined in Bill/Act, but they appear to be Multiple Use Forests.</p>	<p>Not known as locations of these areas are undefined.</p>	<p>Interim protection applies until Parliament approves logging, based on Special Council’s advice to Minister.</p>	<p>‘Special species contingency areas’ cannot be reserved unless Parliament agrees to remove them from Schedule of ‘special timbers contingency areas’.</p>
<p>Taylor-amendment special-species areas. Any area identified for special-species logging by the Minister on advice of the Special Council. Special species include all current commercial species as well as ‘any other timber prescribed by the regulations’</p> <p>Could include future reserve land (categories 1 and 2 above) and even existing reserves.</p>	<p>Not defined</p>	<p>Not defined.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Logging plans under this section require the approval of Parliament.</p>	<p>Such areas identified by the Minister cannot be reserved unless Parliament agrees. This amendment designed to allow logging of future reserves (Hansard, Taylor, 16/4/2014) and could potentially be used to log existing reserves.</p>
<p>Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZ)</p>	<p>1.27 million ha.</p>	<p>Multiple Use State Forest</p>	<p>TFA clause 7</p>	<p>The legislation simply substitutes</p>	<p>The legislation appears to have breached the intent of the TFA. Clause 7 and Map A defined</p>

<p>Was to be all other areas of State Forest – other than formal Forest Reserves – that are not part of the 493,482 ha slated for reservation prior to 2022.</p> <p>But PTPZ appears to include ‘future reserve land’ (above). Includes many HCV areas (approx. 100,000 ha) that were part of the ENGOs’ 572,000-ha claim.</p>	<p>Amount to reduce as each ‘tranche’ of reserves is declared. If all tranche 1, 2 areas reserved, PTPZ = approx. 850,000 ha</p>		<p>and Map A show the PTPZ <u>outside</u> of the agreed reserves and the Specialty Craft and Timber Zones.</p>	<p>the term Permanent Timber Production Zone land for Multiple Use Forest land, swallowing all the proposed reserves on Multiple Use Forest Land.</p>	<p>the proposed PTPZ land <u>outside</u> the agreed reserves and other land identified for special species.</p> <p>The minimum legislated rate of logging in PTPZ has been reduced from 300,000 m3pa to 137,000 m3pa of high-quality sawlogs.</p> <p>Logging in PTPZ subject to amendments in Forest Practices Act requiring the forest-practices system to take into account the ‘social, economic and environmental outcomes of its decision-making processes’ and the obligations of FT in providing legislated minimum quantity of timber.</p>
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- **Special Council:** group of representatives from Part 4 of the TFA Bill establishes a ‘Special Council’ that formalizes the signatories’ negotiation process. The Special Council is to prepare **durability reports**, advise on whether special-species volumes can be met from outside the proposed reserves, and to generally report on implementation of the ‘peace deal’. Special Council’s membership is made up of three conservation representatives (ACF, TWS and ET), eight industry representatives (FIAT, AFCA, AFPA, CFMEU, TFCA, TSA, TCA and a special-species representative), and any other person appointed by the Minister. The Minister can alter the membership and ‘regulate the proceedings’ of the Special Council.
- **‘Durability reports’** prepared by the Special Council must explicitly state whether issues described in Clause 42 of the TFA have been addressed, including reserve gazettal; achievement of wood-supply commitments (including specialty timbers); ‘residue solutions’ (ie sale or processing of woodchip logs); support for the agreement in markets and the public arena; progress on FSC certification; implementation of government assistance packages; and ‘institutional arrangements’ (ie relating to structure of Forestry Tasmania). They must also state whether there have been ‘substantial active protests’ or ‘substantial market disruption’, meaning activities that have had a ‘negative material impact’ in each (case paras 3 and 9(1A)). If these issues have not been addressed to the satisfaction of either House of Parliament, the reserves cannot proceed.
- **The World Heritage Committee** will consider the Commonwealth Government’s proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) at its meeting in Cambodia that will take place from 13 to 27 June 2013. Areas in the Hall amendment (Schedule AC – Great Western Tiers, Mersey and Dove River) are still part of this proposed minor boundary modification.
- **All proposed reserves require further approval from the Legislative Council.**
- Hectare figures above based on amounts in Schedule A of TFA legislation. Sub-totals differ from those used in media (eg 392,232 ha of first-tranche areas, not 395,000 ha; 493,482 ha subject to interim protection, not 504,000 ha).