

September 20th 2011

Implementing the
Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement

Update on 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
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Summary of updates

This is an update to the submission provided to Governments on the rescheduling of logging out of the proposed native forest reserve area as part of the IGA. It provides updated analyses of the status of some 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 18th August 2011.

Following aerial surveys on the 17th of September ENGOs have found that since the 21st of August 2011 in the Huon area alone:

- Logging has started in coupe PC015B – This is one of the 12 coupes listed as ‘current’ in Forestry Tasmania’s coupe activity list. This coupe was listed as ‘current’, however the aerial survey on 22nd of August showed the coupes was not being logged.
- Logging has started in coupe AR002B – This coupe was listed as ‘new’ (meaning it had not been opened or commenced) in the coupe activity list. At the time of the aerial survey on the 22nd of August
- Logging has progressed in coupe RU043H.

(See attached photos of these coupes)

The ENGOs recommend the State and Commonwealth governments 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. Logging should cease in Coupe AR002B. This coupe was listed as ‘new’ (meaning it had not been opened or commenced) in the coupe activity list but is currently being logged.
2. Logging should cease in PC015B. This coupe had not commenced on the 22nd August but has since been then (see photos attached)
3. None of the 11 remaining logging coupes listed as ‘new’ should have logging operations started.
4. 16 of the 17 logging coupes listed as ‘open’ should not be logged – excluding coupe EP021B which appears to be complete. Logging should cease in Coupe AR002B. This coupe was listed as ‘new’ in the coupe activity list but is currently being logged.
5. Logging should not be started in coupes BT013A–this is one of the 12 coupes listed as ‘current’. That the aerial survey on 22nd of August confirmed that this coupe was not being logged.

6. 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.

Forestry Tasmania is not taking actions to re-schedule the coupes outside of the 430,000 hectare immediate reserve area and the 572,000 hectare full reserve area, so the State and Commonwealth should trigger the relevant sections of clauses 26 and 27 of the IGA, including the appointment of an independent expert to review the re-scheduling

Conclusion

The ENGO signatories urge the State and Commonwealth governments to 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.

Contact

For further information about this report, you can contact

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Photos from verification flights (over)

August 22 2011

Coupe AR002B - Eastern slopes of Hartz Mountains



September 17 2011



August 22 2011

Coupe RU043H - West Wellington



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August 22 2011

Coupe PC015B - Northern slopes of Hartz Mountains



September 17 2011

