

/// TASMANIAN FORESTS AGREEMENT BILL 2012 - BACKGROUND

On the 21 June 2012 the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012* (the “Bill”) was first introduced to Parliament as a requirement under the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement. The Bill was designed to facilitate any outcome agreed by the Reference Group of Signatories (the Signatories). On the 22 November 2012 the Signatories presented their Tasmanian Forest Agreement 2012 (the Agreement) to the Governments. Amendments to the Bill based on the Agreement were tabled and it was passed through the House of Assembly on the 23 November 2012.

/// WHAT THE BILL DOES

The *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012* provides wood supply guarantees by amending to the *Forestry Act 1920* and establishes a special process for reserving land, identified by the Signatories under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

The Bill:

- Is a comprehensive legal framework that facilitates outcomes agreed by the Reference Group of Signatories (the “Signatories)
- Gives Parliament the central role in the implementation of the Agreement over time
- Ensures Parliament will be informed of the durability of the Agreement over given timeframes
- Allows for the implementation of a new annual minimum high quality sawlog supply of 137 000 cubic metres
- Provides for volumes of other wood products to be prescribed in regulations if required
- Establishes a framework to enable proclamation of reserves over time in accordance with a legislative process under the *Nature Conservation Act*, and provides interim protection for those proposed reserves pending their proclamation
- Recognises the potential value of carbon storage and avoided greenhouse gas emissions in the making of reserves and the reservation process requires Parliament to be advised if any proposed reserve cannot be considered as part of a carbon farming project under the Commonwealth Government’s Carbon Farming Initiative scheme
- Provides for a Special Council to advise the Minister on implementation of the Agreement

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Step	Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill passed	Protection Order made and accepted	Proposed Reserve Order accepted	Proclamation Making Reserves
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New wood production policy for Forestry Tasmania comes into place including changing the minimum annual high quality sawlog supply from 300 000 to 137 000 cubic metres - Protection Order to be prepared within 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contains first Proposed Reserve Order and enables further process to commence - Prevents prohibited activities such as forest harvesting in protected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple Use Forest Land becomes Permanent Timber Production Zone Land - The land processed to become reserves - Boundaries, values and purpose of the proposed reserves validated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land is reserved as Nature Conservation Act reserves - Reserve is managed under the National Parks and Reserve Management Act