

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement. Would you please note that this is a private submission and I do not want my email address to be published on the web site.

Unfortunately, time constraints mean I am not able to make a detailed submission and I am also unable to respond using the online questionnaire. I have instead listed the points below for your consideration:

1. The RFA should come under the provisions of the EPBC Act to ensure better protection of the biodiversity in State forests and provide equity of legislation across all land tenures in Tasmania.
2. Logging operations should be confined to areas that are currently under plantations and there should be no more logging of native forests.
3. The RFA should have the capacity to remain flexible to meet any challenges that arise during the life of the Agreement. Examples could be worsening status of threatened species and the risks posed by climate change.
4. I would encourage Governments to investigate the role that Tasmania's forests can play in helping to combat rising levels of CO₂ through their storage of carbon and also the threats to them from a changing climate. I would also encourage a comprehensive audit of the carbon footprint of forestry activities in State forests and research into ways that this could be reduced.
5. Opportunities for earning revenue through trading in carbon credits should be investigated. I understand, for example, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy already has a successful program in place that could perhaps used as a model for State forests.
6. The RFA should also give equitable access and consideration to other users of State forests, providing their activities are sustainable. Examples are: eco-tourism operators, honey producers and specialist craft workers.

Forestry Tasmania's recent failure to gain Forest Stewardship Certification for their activities in State forests was extremely disappointing and reflects very poorly on the State. I hope that lessons have been learnt and changes will be made to make a future application successful, which can only enhance Tasmania's reputation.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment,

Yours faithfully,

Patricia Ellison