



Consultation Report
Properties of Interest to
Forestry Tasmania
in the West Coast Municipality

Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, WATER AND
ENVIRONMENT

May 2006

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In early July 2004, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment commenced the Crown Land Assessment and Classification (CLAC) Project. The project has its beginnings in the inquiry and recommendations of the Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission into Tasmanian Crown land classifications. The project is also a response to commitments under the Regional Forest Agreement and the recent Statewide Partnership Agreement on Financial Reform between the State Government and Tasmanian Councils.

The project is assessing and classifying all the unallocated Crown land in Tasmania and all the Public Reserves created under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*. The aim of the project is to enable informed decisions to be made on the most appropriate future tenure of the properties, thus completing the Crown land classification process.

The initial assessment of the properties, and suggested allocations for them, has drawn on information that is readily available and accessible on computer databases. This data includes information on the location of the land, any known conservation or heritage values, the current use of the land, and any identified potential public use of the land.

During public consultation for the West Coast Municipality, Forestry Tasmania identified a number of properties or parts of properties that they suggested would be suitable to adhere to State Forest. The properties ranged in size from approximately 70 hectares, made up of a group of small properties around Williamsford, to approximately 2000 hectares in the vicinity of Mt Huxley. Because of the size and locations of the properties, a supplementary consultation on the Forestry Tasmania proposals was held. A list of the properties and the proposals for them was released for information and comment.

1.2 Forestry Tasmania Proposals

Forestry Tasmania recommended dedication as State Forest for the nominated properties primarily for land management and boundary rationalisation reasons. Some of these properties may contain pockets of commercial resource, but not of significant commercial or strategic value.

Of particular significance is the area around Mt Huxley (2000 ha), which contains fire killed King Billy Pine and Huon Pine salvage resource. This resource is estimated by Forestry Tasmania to be no more than five to ten years supply and only marginally commercial. Nevertheless, the resource is seen as important as part of ongoing special species craft wood supply to west coast sawmills, especially given the iconic importance of craft wood in Tasmania. Forestry Tasmania identified this resource as also particularly important for salvage following the reservation of over 79,000 hectares of such forests in the west and north west as part of the recent Community Forest Agreement.

1.3 Consultation Process

The supplementary consultation process for the properties of interest to Forestry Tasmania in the West Coast Municipality was advertised in the three major Tasmanian newspapers on Saturday 19 November 2005. Key stakeholders were directly notified of the proposals, including all those who provided a submission on the original suggested allocations of property in the West Coast Municipality. The comment period closed on Friday 3 February 2006.

2 CONSULTATION REPORT

2.1 Introduction

This report summarises the comments and information received on the Forestry Tasmania proposals for certain properties in the Municipality of West Coast. All comments received have been included in the report.

The Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project Steering Committee will consider the report before making recommendations to the Minister.

2.2 Summary of Comments

In this Section, comments and information received during the consultation period are summarised and discussed. Three submissions were received. All submissions supported the suggested allocations of the properties to State Forest. Some comments were specific to particular properties.

- One respondent supported all the suggested allocations on the basis that they would make the boundaries clear for management purposes as well as make management of issues like fire and spans of control (*complexity*) easier.
- Another respondent broadly supported the rationalisation of boundaries and consolidation of tenures, subject to ground truthing of the efficacy of the proposed boundaries. The respondent noted that in map localities A-E the likelihood of commercial quantities of timber is relatively small, but that small quantities of special species of timber could be salvaged. Of particular interest to this respondent was the high potential for a reasonable quantity and quality of special species timber in map locality F, particularly fire killed King Billy Pine and Huon Pine. The relative scarcity of this resource and its importance for the viability of sawmillers and the craft wood industry was identified as a key reason why its recovery is warranted.
- Another respondent also identified the importance that the properties could have in supplementing the limited supply of special species timber (such as Huon Pine) to craftsmen and country sawmills based on the West Coast. The allocation of the properties to State Forest was identified as an important opportunity to salvage fire-killed craft timbers. The proposed allocation of the properties to State Forest was seen to have little commercial value to Forestry Tasmania, but to nevertheless be of assistance to local craftsmen and timber workers with a flow on effect to small business.

Crown Land Suggested as State Forest in the West Coast Municipality

Locality referred to on Map*	Approx Area of Locality	Property ID (PID)	Forestry Tasmania Proposal	Comments Received
A	500 hectares	2278049 (part)	Watershed boundary selected for land management / fire management reasons. No commercial timber values.	All respondents supported the identified part of the property being adhered to State Forest
B	500 hectares	2271891 (part) 2277935 (part) 2531876 (part) 2271867 2272018 2576820 2576871 6032038 6032062 7765807	Group of properties between road and railway, reduces State Forest boundary. Selected boundary is logical land and fire management boundary. Little if any commercial forest value.	All respondents supported the identified properties or parts of properties being adhered to State Forest
C	90 hectares	2515227	Contiguous to State Forest informal reserves. Consolidates management in one tenure. No commercial forest values.	All respondents supported the property being adhered to State Forest

D	70 hectares	2278153 2278161 2278188 2278196 2278225 2278233 2278241 2278903 2278946 2278989 2510610	Group of properties surrounding the town of Williamsford, which is surrounded by State Forest. Rationalises tenure and assists land management (recognises that there are private freehold within this area. Not investigated for timber resource.	All respondents supported the identified properties being adhered to State Forest
E	200 hectares	6021427 (part)	Rationalises State Forest boundaries and assists land management. The south east corner is contiguous with informal reserve. Little if any commercial value.	All respondents supported the identified part of the property being adhered to State Forest
F	2000 hectares	7768960 (part)	Mt Huxley area. Contains 5-10 years supply of fire killed King Billy Pine and Huon Pine salvage resource scattered throughout the area. Important for ongoing craft wood / special species timber supply to west coast sawmills. A site investigation will confirm resource locations and a logical boundary. Marginal commercial returns.	All respondents supported the identified part of the property being adhered to State Forest

* The localities are shown on the map included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1

List of Submitters

Name

Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania
C. Arthur

