

## Extended Regional Forest Agreement – Significant Changes

	1997 RFA (and 2005 supplement)	2017 RFA
<b>Timeframe</b>	20 years	20 years, with automatic renewals following each subsequent 5 year review, provided no dispute between parties
<b>CAR Reserves</b>	Reserves listed in Attachments 6 and 8, supplemented by additional reserves listed in the 2005 Community Forests Agreement.	CAR reserves illustrated from time to time by the Tasmanian Reserve Estate spatial layer available at <a href="http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au">www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a> . A <u>Conservation Assessment</u> reviewing the CAR Reserve system was released in support of the extension.
<b>Informal reserves</b>	Requirement to “maintain the level of protection of identified values at a regional scale” in informal reserves	Changes to informal reserve network must not “lead to deterioration in the representation or protection of identified CAR Values to below levels established in 1997, noting that minor changes to the levels of representation or protection of specific CAR Values may occur”
<b>Protection of threatened species</b>	<p>Provides for natural values to be protected through CAR reserves and management prescriptions.</p> <p>Provides for new or altered management prescriptions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide for the maintenance of the relevant species;</li> <li>• have a sound scientific basis;</li> <li>• be endorsed by the Tasmanian Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee where relevant; and</li> <li>• take note of public comment.</li> </ul> <p>This requirement is in Part 3, the legally binding section of the RFA.</p>	<p>Provides that Environment and Heritage Values <u>are</u> protected by CAR Reserves and the Forest Management System.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Same provision for new or altered management prescriptions, along with a commitment to implementing planning tools, and monitoring of their effectiveness.</p> <p>However, these requirements are now in Part 2, the non-legally binding section of the RFA.</p>
	<p><b>Note:</b> The Conservation Assessment released with the extended RFA states:</p> <p><i>All threatened species are protected through Commonwealth and State environmental legislation, and Tasmania’s Forest Practices System – refer to Tasmania’s Forest Management System: An Overview (2017) (Department of State Growth 2017). In the very few instances where forestry operations have been identified as a possible threat to a listed species, the Forest Practices System has required new management prescriptions to protect that species – Tasmania’s Forest Management System: An Overview (2017) has a case study demonstrating how swift parrot management has responded to new information and threats. Tasmania’s Forest Management System continues to be reviewed and updated in response to new information.</i></p> <p><i>For an alternative perspective on the extent to which the Forest Practices System is managing threatened species (including Swift Parrots), read <a href="#">State Forests, National Interests</a>.</i></p>	

<sup>1</sup> This is similar to the approach adopted following the Weilangta decision, in which the RFA was amended to replace a commitment to protect threatened species with an acknowledgement by the parties that the forest practices system did protect threatened species.

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<b>National / Commonwealth heritage values</b>	Parties agree to the management of National Estate Values	Provides that National Heritage and Commonwealth Heritage values <u>are</u> protected by the Forest Management System. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Aboriginal heritage</b>	Commitment to replace the <i>Aboriginal Relics Act 1975</i>	Commitment to “meaningful consultation on forest management with the Aboriginal Heritage Council and community in relation to protection of significant sites and places.”  Provides that Aboriginal heritage values <u>are</u> protected by the CAR Reserves and the Forest Management System. <sup>1</sup>
<b>World Heritage</b>	Prior to any World Heritage nomination, all related funding issues will be resolved to the satisfaction of both Parties.	No mention of funding as a pre-requisite to World Heritage nomination  Explicitly requires Parties to consider Special Species Timbers when assessing potential social and economic consequences of World Heritage nominations  Recognises that World Heritage values continue to be protected under EPBC Act, as exemption for Forestry Operations does not apply to World Heritage areas.
<b>Climate change</b>	<i>National Forest Policy Statement 1992</i> acknowledged the need to manage forests so as to maintain or increase their ‘carbon sink’ capacity and to minimise the net emission of greenhouse gases from forest activities, but no explicit provisions in RFA.	Commits the State government to have regard to climate change, and to manage forests for the “effective management of carbon within the carbon cycle.”  There is no explicit requirement to consider climate when calculating sustainable yields, but this is arguably caught by the requirements for managing forests with regard to carbo.
<b>Special Species Timber</b>	Tasmania will facilitate industry development and related employment for wood craft industries dependent on special species timbers, and commit to sustainable yields for such timber  Commonwealth to assist Tasmania to maximise recovery of special species timbers from Forests managed for these timbers and from all other harvested Forests	Expressly recognises that Special Species Timbers have “unique geographic location” and can be harvested on public land in accordance with statutory management plans (such as the proposed Special Species Management Plan currently out for comment).  Explicitly requires Parties to consider Special Species Timbers when assessing potential social and economic consequences of World Heritage nominations.

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Sawlog quotas	RFA designed to provide for a minimum 300,000 cubic metres per year of high quality eucalypt sawlog/veneer log and 10,000 cubic metres per year of blackwood sawlogs from public land	No references to minimum supply targets (though the <i>Forest Management Act 2013</i> continues to set a mandatory minimum supply). The State will report against set sustainable yields, which can be obtained from “ areas available for timber harvesting in accordance with [the RFA] and the law of Tasmania.”
Native Forest Estate	Tasmania to maintain “extensive and permanent Native Forest Estate with the objective of increasing the sustainability of the total Forest Estate”, and to develop a policy consistent with Attachment 9. 2005 Agreement committed to “ A phase out of clearing and conversion of native forest to retain at least 95 per cent of the 1996 native forest extent”, and phasing out broadscale clearing on private land by 2015.	Commits the State govt to a policy managing the extent of native vegetation clearing, but removes the explicit 95% retention goal. The Policy is to be consistent with Attachment 9, but provisions for minimum maintenance levels in each IBRA region and 1:1 offsetting for native vegetation cleared on private land have been deleted. Endorses the provisions regulating native vegetation clearance under the <i>Forest Practices Act 1995</i> and <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> as meeting National Forest Policy Statement requirements. Commits Tasmania to continuing to support voluntary conservation on private land, but stresses any uptake must be voluntary. <b>Note:</b> The Permanent Native Forest Policy prohibits broadscale clearing, other than on agricultural land or where there is a substantial public benefit, and is no longer subject to a 95% retention objective.
Apiaries	-	Parties support access to, and management of, selected areas of public land to provide beekeepers with access to apiary sites, including leatherwood forest
Monitoring and Reviews	Five yearly reviews to measure progress against milestones in Attachment 3	Five yearly reviews will report against sustainability indicators, and be conducted following the publication of the 5 yearly <i>State of the Forests Report</i> Parties to meet annually to discuss implementation issues, and may instigate an audit or review
Access to information	Agreement for mutual access to information between Commonwealth and State parties	Commitment to “ a policy of open access to information.”