

Our plan to protect lutruwita / Tasmania's forests

Lutruwita/Tasmania is home to millions of hectares of native forests full of unique beauty and ecology that is the envy of the world. It's critical that we care for Tasmania's wild places, to protect our climate and prevent irreversible extinctions.

Carbon stored in the vegetation, debris and soil of Tasmania's native forests is estimated to be as much as 4,300 Mt CO₂e, the equivalent of over a decade's worth of all of Australia's emissions from fossil fuels¹. These forests are also home to many of Australia's most endangered and critically endangered species, like the swift parrot, Tasmanian devil and the wedge-tailed eagle.

The forests are intimately tied to cultural values and heritage. These lands and waters have been cared for by First Nations for thousands of generations. Our plan will protect First Nations heritage sites and allow Traditional Owners to maintain a connection with their Country.

The Greens have a plan to protect lutruwita/Tasmania's forests and wild places, safeguard culturally important heritage sites, and end the native forest logging that is destroying wildlife habitat and carbon stores, while providing new employment opportunities for forestry workers and long term investment in ecosystem restoration.

Ending native forest logging and protecting lutruwita/Tasmania's vast, biodiverse carbon stores is key to Australia tackling climate change and part of the wider Greens policy package to protect the environment and protect our future².

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Invest \$1 billion over 10 years to create Ecosystem Restoration Fund
- ▲ Nominate World Heritage listing for takayna/Tarkine
- ▲ End the Tasmanian regional forest agreement

¹ https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/172789/ForestCarbonStudy_Report.pdf

² <https://greens.org.au/platform/enviro>

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

FIGHTING FOR OUR FORESTS

Lutruwita/Tasmania's forests are of world significance for their biodiversity and for their value for carbon, water, recreation, tourism and other forest resources including honey production.

Researchers have recently found that a notable drop in carbon emissions occurred in 2011, following a significant reduction in native forest logging³. This contributed to lutruwita/Tasmania becoming one of the first jurisdictions in the world to become net

carbon negative⁴. To achieve further reduction through other means such as other carbon offsets or credits would cost \$1 billion, so on carbon value alone a billion dollar grant to lutruwita/Tasmania to achieve this is money well spent.

The Greens will commit \$1 billion, to be granted to lutruwita/Tasmania over 10 years to maintain, enhance and restore biologically diverse forests in lutruwita/Tasmania.

This money would be spent on

3

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-03/tas-carbon-negative-emission-levels-credited-to-stopping-logging/101032008>

4

<https://news.griffith.edu.au/2022/05/03/tasmania-first-to-become-carbon-negative/>

- Forest management, including through joint management with traditional owners
- Ecological restoration including rectifying failed and poor quality regeneration
- Reforestation of biologically diverse forest, including creating connectivity between fragmented habitat
- Fire management
- Management of pest animals and weeds
- Ecological research

The money would be granted to lutruwita/Tasmania on the basis that lutruwita/Tasmania ends all native forest logging immediately and protects all ecologically significant forests including takayna/Tarkine, Styx and Krushka, amongst others.

To achieve a safe climate and keep the world below 1.5 degrees C of global heating we need to be stopping both the burning of fossil fuels and maintaining and increasing our carbon stores and the ability of the environment to soak up or sequester carbon. We cannot afford to be trading one off against the other.

The carbon that would continue to be stored in these forests would be able to be 'banked' by lutruwita/Tasmania and Australia in carbon accounts, but would not be monetised or be able to be traded.

By providing a secure funding stream for new projects, the Greens will ensure that ecosystem restoration can become a core

part of the Tasmanian economy, diversify regional employment opportunities and begin the work of undoing decades of damage to Tasmania's wild places.

WORLD HERITAGE LISTING FOR TAKAYNA/TARKINE

The takayna/Tarkine is home to Australia's largest temperate rainforest, full of First Nations sites of significance and enormous ecological value. It's a unique place that needs protecting from the threats of logging, mining and other industrial activities.

But despite recommendations from the Australian Heritage Council that it be listed for protection, previous governments have rejected this advice.

The Greens will ensure that takayna/Tarkine and its beauty, First Nations heritage, diverse habitats and carbon is protected for generations to come by pursuing its inclusion in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. We will work closely with and be guided by Traditional Owners.

END THE TASMANIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Through Regional Forest Agreements, native forest logging activities are currently exempted from our national environment

laws - the Greens would end these exemptions.

Our national environment laws are designed to protect our threatened species, wetlands, World Heritage sites and other matters of national environmental significance.

And while they are incomplete and need better governance (for example the Greens believe new national laws are needed to cover greenhouse gas emissions), no industry should be exempted from them.

Almost 400,000 hectares of old-growth, rainforest and other high conservation value

native forest was set to be protected under the Tasmanian Forest Agreement secured by the state Greens/Labor Government.

But under the state Liberal government, these reserves were rezoned as "Future Potential Production Forest", with the logging moratorium now lifted. These forests need urgent protection, and the federal Greens will push for these areas to be made into national parks and other formal reserves.

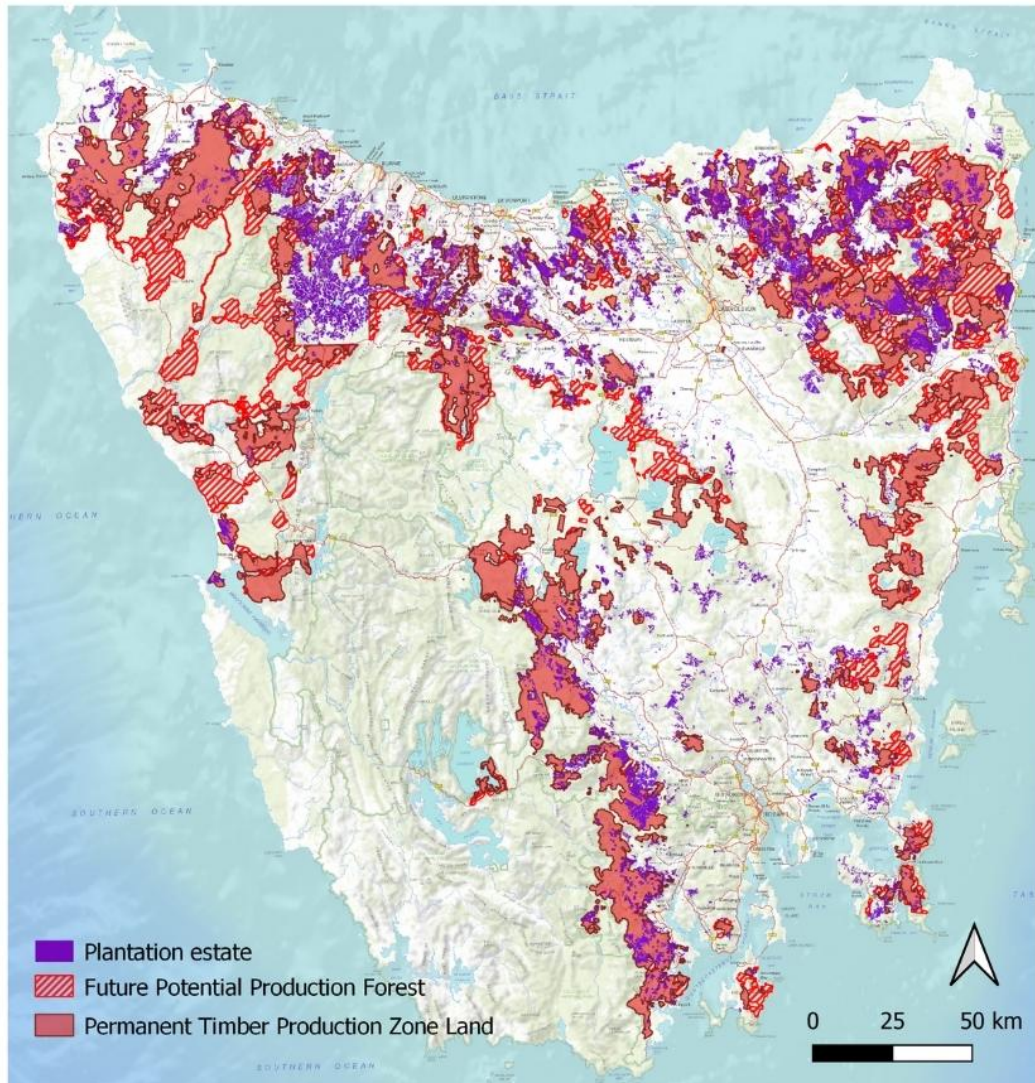


Image 1: Current zoning for Future Potential Production Forest and other timber production zones (source: TreeMod, May, B. (2020) Climate protection opportunities for Tasmanian forests 2020 Update)

Proposed Extensions to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

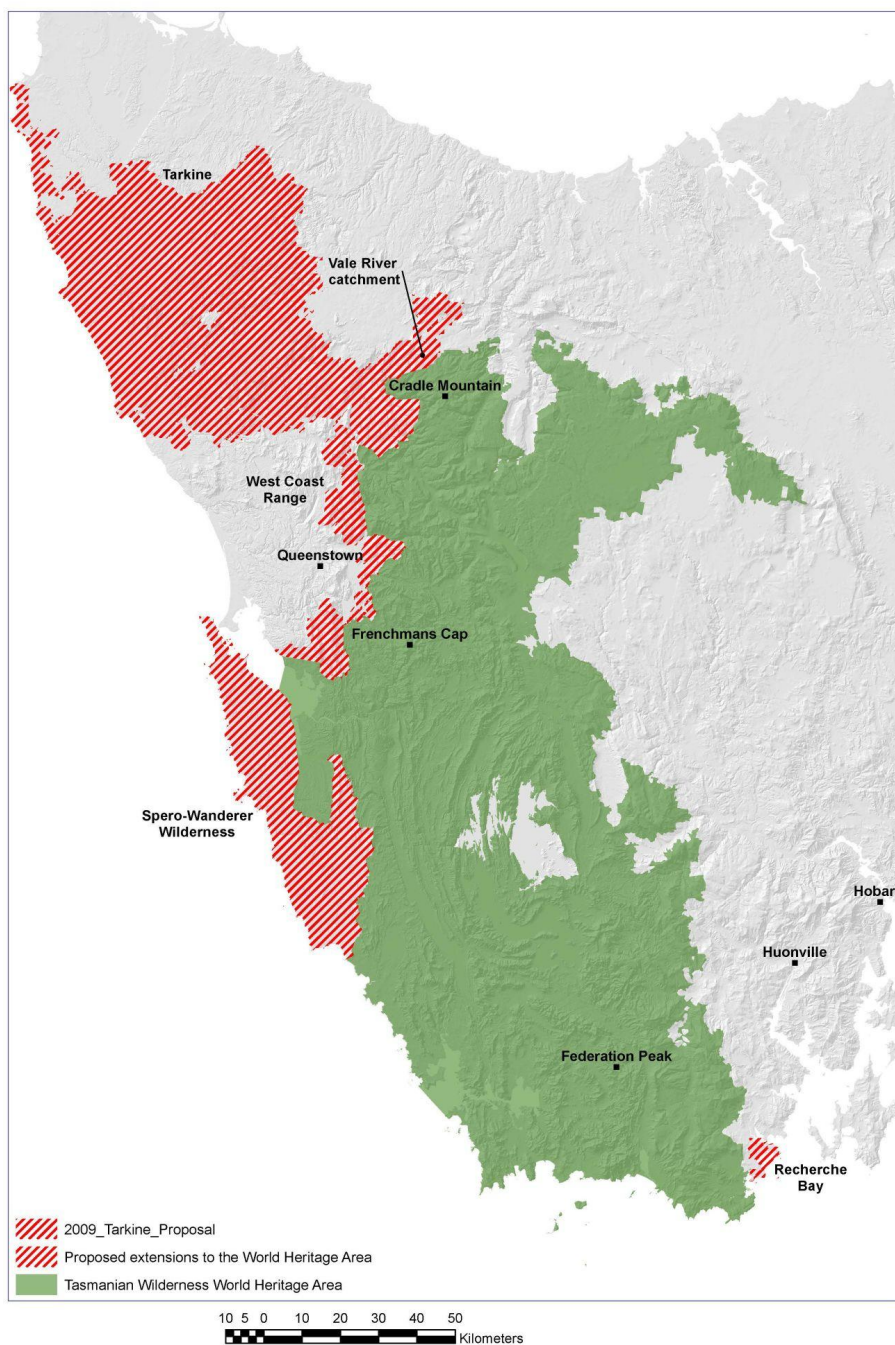


Image 2: One proposal for expansion of the TWWHA to include takayna/Tarkine⁵

⁵ Given the size of the proposed boundary adjustment to include takayna/Tarkine, the World Heritage committee would effectively regard this as a new nomination, and therefore requires a full 18 month assessment of heritage criteria and Outstanding Universal Value. It is through this process that a specific boundary would be determined