

RESTORING FORESTS AND REWILDING *LUTRUWITA* TASMANIA

BUILDING BACK GREENER & FAIRER: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

BACKGROUND

lutruwita/Tasmania has some of the most spectacular, biodiverse and carbon-rich forests on Earth. They tell a story of ancient Gondwana, have been shaped over millennia by the *palawa*, and are now scarred by decades of rapacious greed.

Our incredible remaining forests are the shared common wealth of peoples everywhere, and we are their stewards. We must protect what is left and restore what is lost.

Recreational access to forests inspires and sustains our communities. Imagery from our forests underpins our clean, green brand, and the protection of forests sustains our wildlife, including unique and curious creatures that exist nowhere else.

Forested catchments help to secure clean, reliable water supplies for communities, for agriculture, and the environmental flows needed to sustain healthy ecosystems.

While Tasmania has significant areas of native forest protected in secure, formal conservation reserves, many areas that meet World Heritage or other reserve criteria remain under-protected or are being logged.

As stewards of this island's living forest ecosystems, the complex web of life they sustain and the climate solution they offer future generations, we have a solemn responsibility to turn around an unfolding ecological and human tragedy. And, we have the tools to do so in our hands.

A Just Transition out of Native Forest Logging

We will end native forest logging and post-clearfell burning on public lands and establish a *Just Transition Team* in the Department of State Growth.

This team will assist native forestry workers and businesses transition to processing plantation-grown timber or other activities, such as reforestation, carbon conservation, reserve management, retraining and career reorientation.

Non-Harvest Craft Timber Management

We will abandon the Specialty Timber Management Plan (2017) and ensure all forms of reserves under Tasmania's Nature Conservation Act (2002) explicitly prohibit all forms of timber harvest, including selective logging.

We will also reintroduce a ban on the cutting of live Huon pine trees and restrict all Huon pine supply to salvage operations only.

We will repurpose Island Specialty Timbers (IST) as a standalone specialty timber manager responsible for the sourcing, storage and sales of specialty timber at full cost recovery. IST will –

- Run a program to salvage of specialty timbers from logged coupes and road lines, and expand production of hydro wood.
- Instigate a purchase program of unused, historically-harvested specialty timber.
- Discourage the use of specialty timbers for low-value uses such as house cladding and flooring.
- Establish a full cost-recovery program of specialty timber selectively logged and salvaged from the Carbon Capture and Conservation land tenure, utilizing only existing infrastructure and minimizing disturbances.
- Establish a program to identify and best utilize macrocarpa pine that is cut from Tasmanian farmland and maximise the substitution of macrocarpa for traditional uses of celery top pine.

A Plantation Future for Logging

We will assist the plantation sector to meet the solid wood supply needs of processors and the market through regulatory and other settings that encourage pruning, thinning and other management actions that maximizes Tasmanian production of plantation-grown high-quality sawlogs.

We will end all public subsidies to native forest managers and processors to facilitate a rapid transition to plantation timber and to assist the plantation sector compete and replace demand for native forest logs.

Protecting and Restoring Tasmanian Forests

We will repurpose Forestry Tasmania and appropriate staff to a new agency, Forests Tasmania, tasked with restoring degraded forest landscapes to maximise carbon sequestration and managing lands to conserve existing and future carbon stores in Tasmania's forests.

We will formally protect under Tasmania's *Nature Conservation Act 2002* all areas of Future Potential Production Forest (FPPF) land, including the creation of a new Aboriginal-owned and managed National Park tenure that will allow the return of land to the Aboriginal Community as national parks.

Illegal Firewood Harvesting strategy

We will implement an Illegal Firewood Harvesting Strategy. This strategy will involve increased monitoring and enforcement efforts, a licencing, monitoring and reporting system for all firewood sellers, a post-harvest firewood salvage scheme, and a community education campaign to promote sustainable firewood harvest and purchase, as well as inform the public of the impacts of firewood theft and sale.

Carbon Capture and Reforestation

We will end the Regional Forest Agreement and lobby for a Carbon and Biodiversity Conservation Agreement with the Federal Government.

We will rezone Permanent Timber Production Zone Land to a Carbon Capture and Conservation tenure under the management of Forests Tasmania. These forests will be protected from logging and legislatively tasked with securing and conserving the maximum amount of carbon possible.

We will reforest logged lands, employing reskilled forestry workers, to increase carbon sequestration activities on both private, and Carbon Capture and Conservation tenured, land. This will be aligned with ecosystem restoration and Job Guarantee programs to maximise public and environmental benefit.

Monetising Avoided Native Forest Logging

We will work with other State Government's to change the rules and methodology relating to the Climate Solutions Fund, to ensure the carbon emission and sequestration benefits from avoided native forest logging are monetised and funds flow annually to the Tasmanian Budget.

Evidence-Based Burning Regime

We will abolish informal prescribed burning targets and ensure all fuel-reduction burning considers ecological values and the protection of the ecological integrity of identified areas.

We will initiate and support efforts to expand and integrate Aboriginal cultural burning in all aspects of fuel-reduction planning and delivery in Tasmania.

Supporting the Beekeeping Sector

We will maintain access to existing apiary sites across Tasmania's reserves and Carbon Capture and Conservation forest estate, including financial assistance for the maintenance of the existing road network, in recognition of the vital service the beekeeping sector provides the public through pollination of agricultural crops.

We will promote and prioritise, as part of Forests Tasmania's reforestation program, the re-establishment of leatherwood tree resources in areas commercially viable and already accessible for the beekeeping sector.

The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge and pay respect to the palawa/pakana people as the original owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We are committed to Truth, Treaty, Justice, and the return of lands.

GREEN NEW DEAL

