

Dear TFA Committee

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed changes that will occur if the Forestry Agreement is ratified in its current form. I am a small business operator at Garden Island Creek and my business relies heavily on the availability of specialty timbers. To the best of my current understanding the proposed permanent timber production zone has little to no special species and there is no proposed specialty timber zone in the Huon Valley. As I'm sure your aware there are a lot of small business and artisans in the Huon Community who rely on the availability of specialty timbers. Most, if not all of them operate with very sustainable business models, myself included. I want to raise three points that relate both to this community and my own business.

1. It seems critical to both specialty timber operators and the flow on effect into the state economy that a specialty timber zone is allocated to service the Huon Community. It seems difficult to suggest that there isn't an abundance of suitable forest for a specialty timber zone within the Huon region. No doubt the mapping and conservation value evaluating that occurred for the Forestry Agreement will have some current information on suitable zones. My personal suggestion is along Hermans Spur Rd. at area KD22A, which has a good concentration of specialty woods. But it is vital to the community that such a zone is included or else transport and supply costs will decimate the local specialty timber industry, with the closest current specialty timber zone being 3 hours drive away near Lake Pedder.

2. In conjunction with this, the continued salvaging of dead wood using discreet extraction is critical *within the proposed new reserve areas*. As stated the permanent zones have limited to no special species; what I propose is that the new reserve areas, particularly within my area of concern the Huon Valley, are available for salvage of dead wood, under the guardianship of Forestry Tas. This means that dead wood should remain available for 'soft' extraction by small operators. When this occurs within existing coupes of clear felled areas we use the existing fire containment lines as access tracks. We don't salvage any further than 20m either side of these perimeter snig tracks. Burnt wood that is within the perimeter of the coupe is taken. Also, we salvage trees damaged by the radiant heat of burning off in a coupe after clear-felling. We also remove trees that have fallen due to increased exposure to wind after surrounding trees have been cleared. This allows us to get the resources required at the same time as further tidying an area for regeneration.

3. Another proposal to take into consideration is the funding of a research forest farm, managed by Island Specialty Timbers and UTAS in a small part of the new reserve area with a high concentration of special species. This would primarily be a research station with a view of being profitable and repeated to encourage it as a new approach in forestry management. For further information in defining a forest farm and surrounding ideas please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Carter

Andrew Carter

55 Dalys Hill Rd, Garden Island Creek

Ph 03 62 978108

