

WEST WELLINGTON

Regional Development Proposal

**West Wellington Protection Group
March 2012**



West Wellington Regional Development Proposal

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West Wellington Regional Development Proposal

Executive Summary

The WWPG contends that the West Wellington range satisfies the criteria of all the FSC's high conservation value levels. It ought therefore to be managed in a manner that *'shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests'* (Principle 9: maintenance of high conservation value forests). Clearfelling and burning on any scale will destroy the values of West Wellington.

Given its accessibility, unique beauty, proximity to Hobart and existing trails, a great opportunity exists for developing the tourism potential of West Wellington. This is an area that has sat alongside human habitation for 200yrs – it is not an area that we propose should be locked up without any development or human access. It is a living, working forest that can provide amenity and recreation and wilderness experiences for locals, other Australians and overseas visitors – without damaging the values that make West Wellington so special.

The benefits that would accrue to the Huon Valley from the promotion and branding of West Wellington (and similar accessible forest areas) would in time greatly outweigh the losses to the region from the downsizing of the forest industry—and be wholly sustainable into the longer term.



Logging in RU043H: a high altitude West Wellington coupe within the 430,000Ha that was designated for full and immediate protection in the IGA

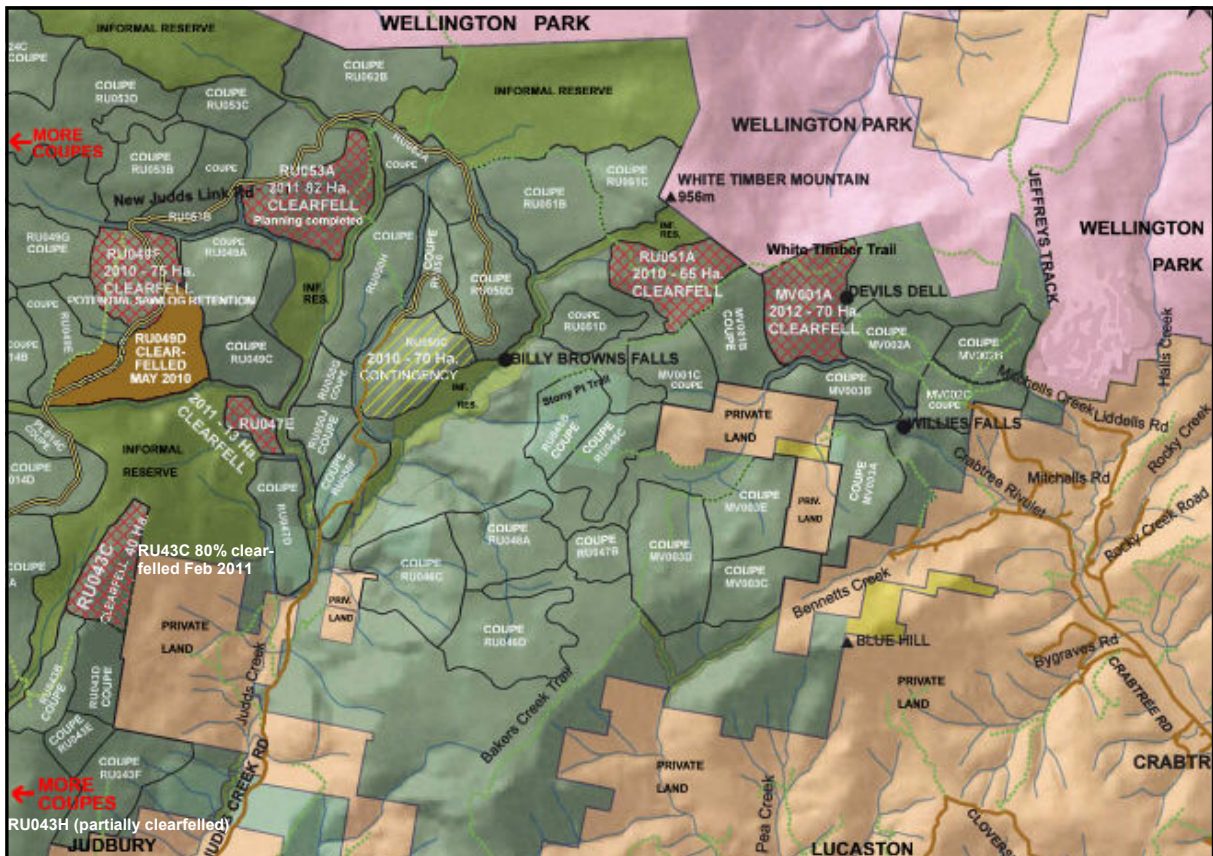
West Wellington Regional Development Proposal

1. Introduction

West Wellington is the western-most stretch of the Wellington Range, which starts in Hobart and contains the often snow-covered peaks of Mount Wellington and Sleeping Beauty. Whilst much of this range is protected within Wellington Park, the high plateau adjoining the Park on its south-west boundary is State Forest. Forestry Tasmania (FT) has moved into this area in the last three years and has driven a fully-formed 11km logging road through from Judbury to Plenty (the Plenty Link Road). A further logging road has been pushed into coupes directly adjacent to Wellington Park (Judds Link Road). Many more are on the drawing board, including access roads from Jeffreys Track - a heritage trail between Crabtree and Lachlan.



Aerial photo (from Google Maps) showing location of West Wellington



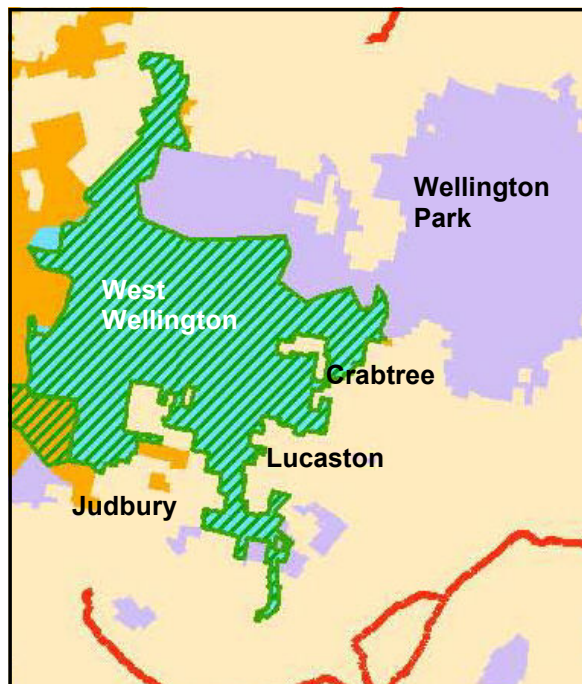
Coupe map for West Wellington

The West Wellington Protection Group (WWPG) was formed in early 2010 in response to Forestry Tasmania's actions. There had been no community consultation regarding FT's operations, despite coupes destined for clearfelling in FT's 3-yr plan being adjacent to residents. Likewise, the Wellington Park Management Trust had not been informed, although many of the planned coupes are contiguous with the Park. The ~100 members of the WWPG mostly reside in the local townships of Crabtree, Lucaston and Judbury. The 900+ fans on Facebook are also mostly locals including Hobart citizens concerned re the effects of FT's proposals on Wellington Park. Approximately 70% of West Wellington is included within the 430,000ha identified in the (August 2011) Intergovernmental Agreement on forestry which was to be 'immediately protected'. Unfortunately, despite this agreement, FT continued to log within the 430,000ha in coupes to the West of Judbury.

The WWPG contends that West Wellington has the same values as those of Wellington Park and should be protected from clearfelling and further roading. The WWPG's preferred goal is for West Wellington to be included in an extended Wellington Park under the same tenure and governance. The coupe map (pg 4) shows the geographic logic of this, since there are three sizeable informal reserves in and around West Wellington (areas where logging would be uneconomic or impractical but which have high biodiversity value), which should rationally be linked together into a larger reserve area. At present West Wellington provides a narrow and vital wildlife corridor between the Park and the wilderness areas of the south and west.

This proposal sets out the High Conservation Values of West Wellington using the Forest Stewardship Council guidelines as a framework; identifies where the current and planned actions of Forestry Tasmania are or will be to the detriment of these values, and proposes a more sustainable – and in the longer term more economic - way forward for the area as a recreational and tourist hub and biodiversity incubator. Given the accessibility of West Wellington; its proximity to Wellington Park and Hobart; its natural beauty, and existing walking and 4WD tracks, the WWPG believes West Wellington will pay for itself over the longer term. Given the Wellington Park Management Trust's current appraisal of the Park and its uses and value to the community; this proposal is timely and should be included in the Park's future vision.

Historically, around 70% of the timber from clearfelled coupes in the Huon District has been sold for chipping. The price/ tonne of woodchips is low and demand has fallen, hence FT has needed to employ low cost harvesting methods such as clearfell. Now, FT is obliged to supply 265,000 cubic metres of timber billets to Ta Ann's veneer mills, including that located at Southwood in the Huon Valley. This has driven FT into coupes with younger and sparser trees than would previously have been considered economic (Ta Ann can accept billets down to 200mm diameter and 900mm length). In the past these coupes would have either have been left unfelled, or grown on to increase the sawlog potential prior to harvesting. FT's own figures show that West Wellington coupes will yield only 5-7% sawlogs, 20-30% of billets suitable for veneer and that the rest will be burnt or chipped for virtually no profit.



West Wellington reserve proposal area (hashed in green)

The WWPG calls on the state and federal governments to legislate to protect the biodiversity, heritage, amenity and tourist values of West Wellington.

2. High Conservation Values of West Wellington

2.1 FSC HCV 1: Forest areas containing habitat for state-listed or threatened species/ ecosystems or species/ ecosystems of high significance at the bioregional level

2.1.1 Mountain and rain-forest flora

The West Wellington Range comprises a network of gullies, creeks, peaks and escarpments. It is at an altitude of 600-850m and supports a unique montane ecosystem. Although the area was affected by the 1967 fires and is therefore classified as regrowth, much old-growth remains. In addition, many of the affected eucalypts that appear as dead white stags above the canopy are actually alive and thriving beneath it. These are the very trees

(150yrs or older) that would contain hollows on which much of the forest fauna are dependent. In the Forest Practices Plan for coupe RU053A, there is a section on giant trees: 'The harvest area has the potential to contain giant trees, if the harvesting contractor finds a tree with a breast height diameter greater than 4.5m, no forest activities will be carried out within 100m of the tree pending detailed height and diameter measurements' (FPP no: TJW0199, 12/04/2010).



Library picture of *Allocasuarina Duncanii*, or conical sheoak

Several coupes destined for clear-fell in Forestry Tasmania's plans are on the slopes of White Timber Mountain (936m). The dominant eucalypt species in these coupes is *E. delegatensis*, the pale trunks of which gave rise to the mountain's name. Other eucalypts present include *regnans*, *subcrenulata* and *johnstonii*. Owing to a relatively high rainfall (1,000-1,500mm/yr) the forest contains a dense understory of rainforest species, including myrtle, celery-top pine and sassafras, which are slow-growing and would be merely burnt as waste in Forestry Tasmania's clearfelling operations. Other species include native laurel, *pandanii*, snowberry and mountain fuchsia. If left to grow to full maturity, much of the area will revert to rainforest. West Wellington is also listed as one of the few remaining refuges for *Allocasuarina Duncanii*, or conical sheoak, a threatened flora species.



View into coupe MV001A showing myrtle, sassafras, celery-top pine etc



Example large tree in West Wellington — this photo taken close to Billy Browns Falls in Judbury

No formal botanical survey has been carried out by Forestry Tasmania, nor has the impact of clearfelling and burning on the flora of West Wellington been adequately assessed. FT's own scientists have criticised the practice of clearfelling as ecologically damaging, pointing out that clearfelling and regeneration reduces forest complexity (Grove & Meggs, 2003, p265). The removal of mixed-age trees and their replacement (through clearfell and sowing) by even-age young trees disturbs fauna that require older and malformed trees for habitat.

2.1.2 Problems with regeneration

Whilst Forestry Tasmania intends to return the area to mixed native forest following clearfelling and burning, it re-seeds only with eucalypts and relies on other species to regenerate unaided. Many of the minor species will not have matured sufficiently to set seed and hence may never regenerate. They would certainly never have the opportunity to grow to maturity under FT's stated planned regime of 80 yr clearfell rotations in West Wellington. These rainforest species' seeds are also less tolerant to the intense burning carried out following clearfell.

Given the steepness of most of the coupes in West Wellington it is quite possible that many of the nutrients required for regeneration will wash into the creeks before regeneration can take place. Coupes in which even the eucalypts are struggling to regenerate are evident on Jacobsens Road, on the western fringes of West Wellington. Much of West Wellington is exposed and at high altitude. In coupe RU051A for instance, which straddles the watershed between the Upper Judbury and Crabtree catchments, the recoverable trees are relatively sparse, of small diameter (~200-350mm as measured in surveys by the WWPG) and limited to around 40m in height. Nonetheless it is the opinion of the Forest Practices Officer who reviewed the coupe, that the trees had largely escaped the '67 fires and their stunted size was owing to altitude, exposure and eroded soil. This particular coupe is slated for partial clearfell under FT's current 1-year plan. Given the length of time the existing trees may have taken to reach their current size, regeneration will be slow and unpredictable.

2.1.3 Iconic and endangered fauna

The forest is home to many endangered species of endemic wildlife, including Tasmanian Devils, spotted-tail quolls, eastern barred bandicoots, wedge-tailed eagles and grey goshawks. All of these species are regularly seen on adjoining properties. Currently there are at least two pairs of wedge-tailed eagles nesting within West Wellington (on Blue Hill in Lucaston and close to Judds Creek in Judbury). Part of West Wellington also comprises territory for a pair of nesting eagles on Buzzietop (between Crabtree and Mountain River). In addition, the clear creek water throughout the area contains platypus, crayfish and shrimps.



Wedge-tailed eagle with young, photographed in West wellington (photo courtesy Bill Brown)

The WWPG's infrared camera has captured footage of spotted tailed quolls and apparently healthy devils. The most recent footage (November 2011 in coupe MV001A) was of a female devil with a distended pouch, suggesting she is carrying cubs (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lhWFWqRusk>)



Still from footage of apparently healthy female devil with heavy pouch, taken with the WWPG's infrared camera in coupe MV001A, November 2011

No scientific study has been carried out by Forestry Tasmania to identify, locate and quantify the species present in West Wellington. No study has been undertaken into the effect of clear-felling and burning on the endangered species population in the area. Forestry Tasmania's view expressed to the WWPG was that "devils have legs" and can just move to a different area as their habitat is clearfelled. This runs contrary to our understanding that devils are reluctant to leave their dens and relocate and since they are nocturnal as well, are quite likely to be destroyed in their homes when the bulldozers move in.

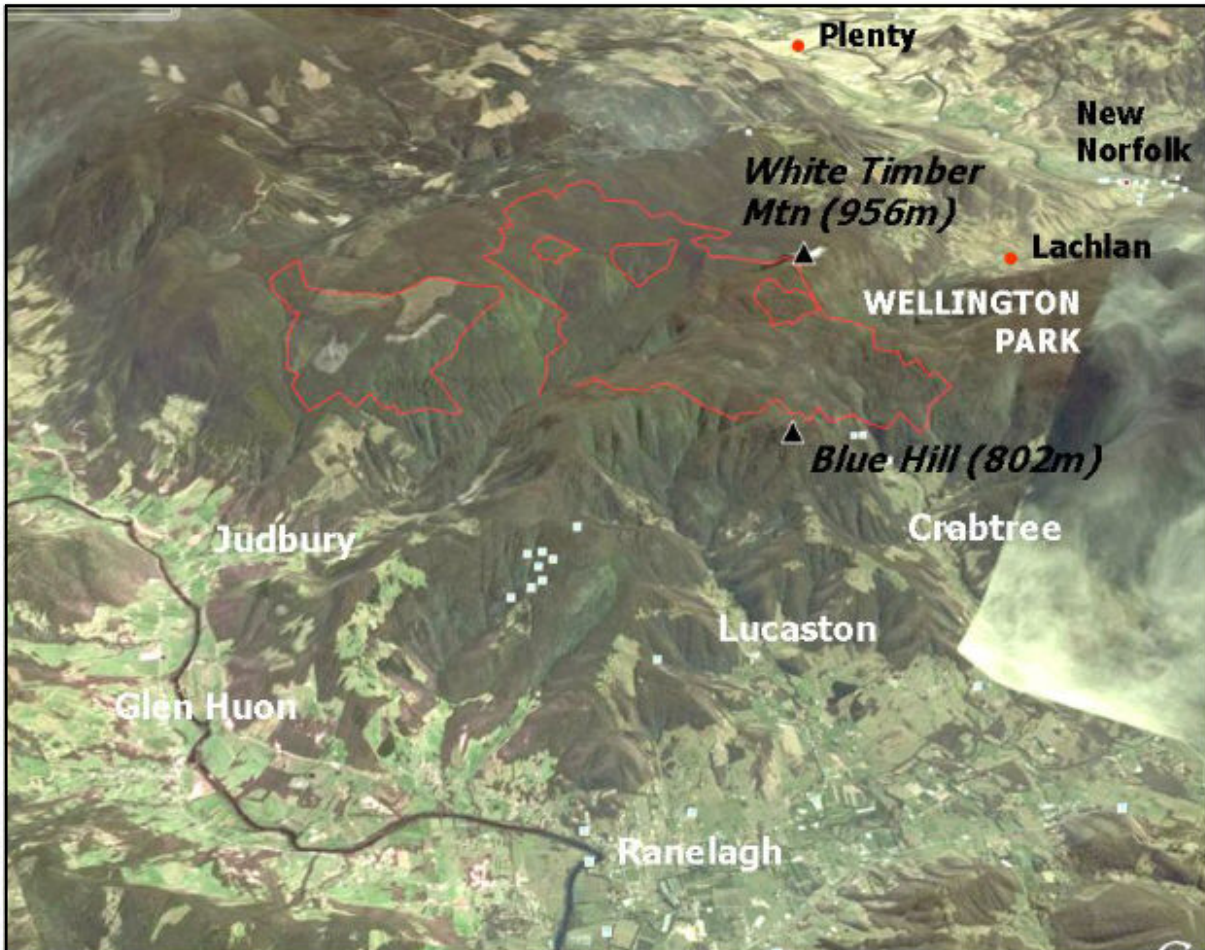
FT's own guidelines charge Forest Practices Officers, when developing Forest Practices Plans, to leave wildlife habitat clumps (WHC) comprising older and hollow trees. In addition under the Forest Practices Code 2000, FT must develop and maintain a network of wildlife habitat strips (WHS) which are meant to be a minimum of 100m in width and together comprise a web of interconnecting corridors for species to cross between habitat types and from one unlogged area to another. Within West Wellington this network is patchy and inconsistent. A recent study into the effectiveness of this network and FT's practices within West Wellington (Simon Gatenby, Oct 2011, KGA223), reveals that WHSs largely follow riparian boundaries, are absent in some areas, are at the minimum of 100m in nearly all cases and are crossed by roads exceeding the recommended 15m width.

The study also concludes that WHCs are not representative of the variety of vegetation and habitats that exist in West Wellington and often do not include trees including hollows (despite evidence of these in the 'waste' left on the ground to be burnt). Also studies in Australia and worldwide, show that habitat 'strips' and 'clumps' do not suit many species which require larger reserved areas to thrive (MacDonald and Grove 2005).

2.2 FSC HCV 2: Forest areas containing globally (includes World Heritage), nationally or bioregional significant large landscape level forests Where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution

2.2.1 Impacts on Wellington Park

West Wellington comprises an area of around 15,000Ha which directly adjoins the western and south-western boundaries of Wellington Park. Together with the Park it comprises a large landscape level forest containing viable populations of most Tasmanian endemic species – both of flora and fauna. On aerial maps it can be seen that West Wellington provides a vital bridge between the Park and the western wilderness areas (although this link is threatened to be severed by Forestry Tasmania around Lonnvale).



Aerial map (from Google Maps) from a viewpoint above Huonville, showing West Wellington is an elevated oasis of green linking Wellington Park with the western wilderness

The Wellington Park Management Trust (WPMT) has expressed grave concerns re the clearfelling plans. Many of the coupes share a boundary with the Park. Forestry Tasmania did not notify the Trust of their clearfell plans and when first approached by the WWPG had no intention of leaving a buffer zone between the coupes and the Park. The WWPG was told only that FT would try to stop felled trees from falling across the boundary into the Park. Having received objections from the WWPG and the WPMT, FT undertook a study resulting in their proposal that a 90m buffer strip would be left between coupes and the Park. This would help reduce edge effects, but there will still be risks to the Park and significant landscape and aesthetic impacts such that clearfelled scars will be easily visible from within the Park and its surrounding areas.

Fire is a major risk for Wellington Park. To date Forestry Tasmania has put forward no satisfactory management plan for how it will ensure fire from its 'regeneration' burns cannot escape into the Park. Its only comment to the WWPG has been that it will "make sure the wind is blowing in the opposite direction". Forestry Tasmania's burn-offs have threatened Mount Field National Park twice in recent years, causing it to be closed on at least one occasion.

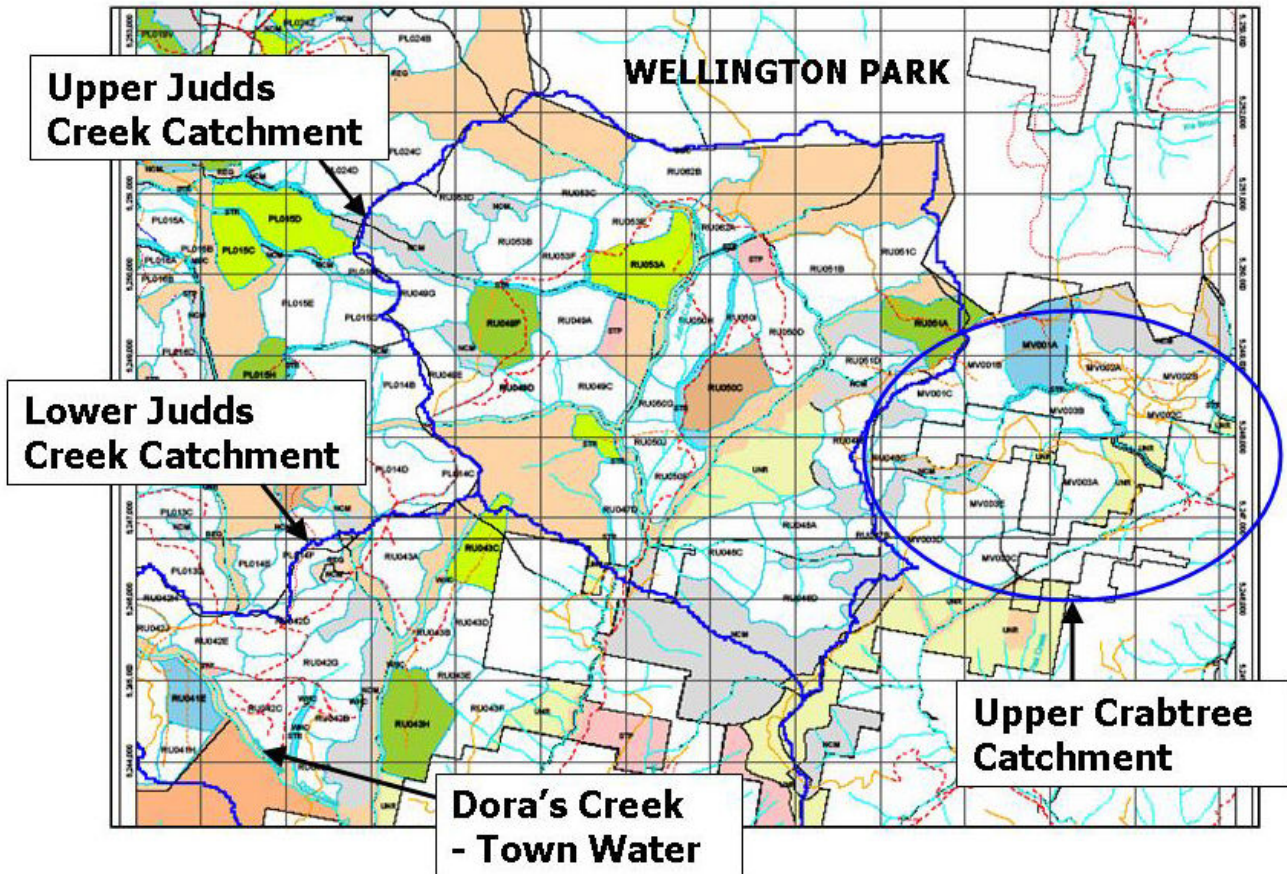
Although Forestry Tasmania's Forest Practices Plans contain wash-down procedures for vehicles and machinery, it is evident that wherever logging occurs, weeds such as Californian Thistle follow. Once established in West Wellington (which is currently weed-free) and hence Wellington Park, it will be impossible to eradicate. The smallest bit of root is sufficient for Californian Thistle to propagate.



Library picture of Californian Thistle

2.3 FSC HCV 3: Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations

2.3.1 Major water catchments

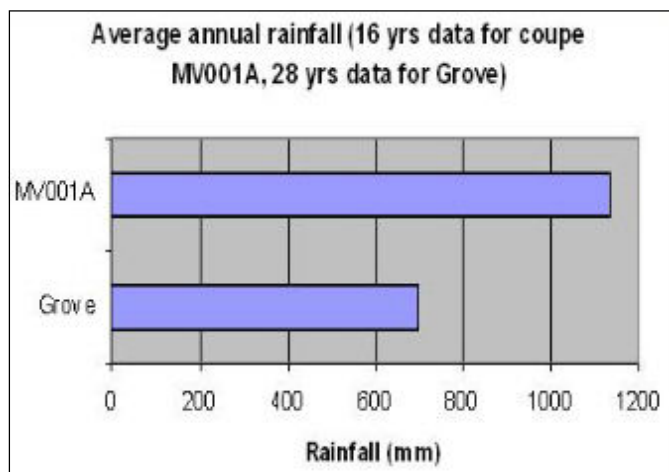


Forestry Tasmania West Wellington coupe map overlaid onto water catchments (outlined in blue)

West Wellington comprises the watershed between the Derwent and Huon rivers. It receives a considerably higher rainfall than surrounding valleys and is a vital water source for the catchments of local townships Judbury, Crabtree and Lucaston. The community fears the effect of clearfelling on the supply and quality of its creek and spring water which is relied upon for domestic supply, livestock watering and irrigation. A number of dams are fed from creeks and springs including those containing trout. Major creeks such as Crabtree Rivulet, Judds Creek and Bakers Creek arise here and flow into the Huon River, which supports healthy downstream aquaculture operations.

2.3.2 Sedimentation threat

These catchments are particularly vulnerable to industrial scale logging. Much of the area is steep and once cleared will be subject to wind erosion and run-off. Being a high rainfall area, run-off will be a

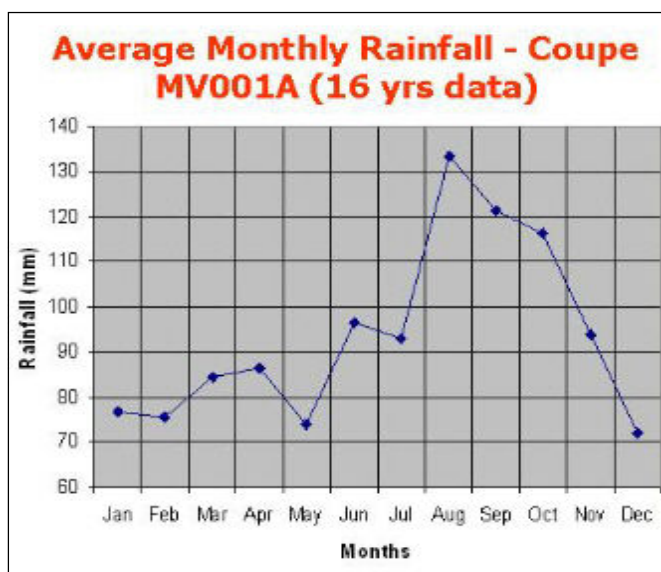


major issue. Soil, ash and other debris will inevitably be carried into creeks, despite the narrow streamside buffers. FT is obliged to leave buffers of between 10 and 40m width alongside streams, depending on the class of the watercourse. However, this classification system is quite inadequate for a high rainfall area that is heavily webbed with streams and springs, many of which are seasonal. These buffer strips are often affected by the post-harvest intense burning, which can take out the understory and organic material which help prevent sediment reaching watercourses.

Independent studies in Australia and overseas show that stream quality is directly affected by logging operations. The TEER Tamar Catchment Model (March 2010) forecast that sedimentation from forestry operations would be much greater in high rainfall areas and quoted various other Australian studies to support this assertion. The impact of commercial selective logging on stream hydrology, chemistry and sediment loads in the Ulu Segama rainforest in Sabah, Malaysia is reported at <http://www.jstor.org/pss/55626>. Five months after the logging had taken place, the monthly suspended sediment yield was still 18 times greater than that of a nearby unlogged catchment.

2.3.3 Water flow and drought

Forestry Tasmania’s hydrological models look at the effect of clearfelling on *average annual* creek flow but do not take into account the fact that rainfall comes in peaks and troughs, *not* as a steady precipitation throughout the year. The chart to the right demonstrates the average monthly variation, but does not show that it is quite common to get heavy rainfalls of 50-60mm in a few hours – at any time of year. The actual effect of clearfelling therefore, is that there will be large peaks in creek flows following a rain event, such that downstream flooding and siltation may occur, but very low or no flow during drier months. **The existing forest moderates the flow of water, releasing it into creeks and springs steadily, such that water continues to flow even in drought conditions.**



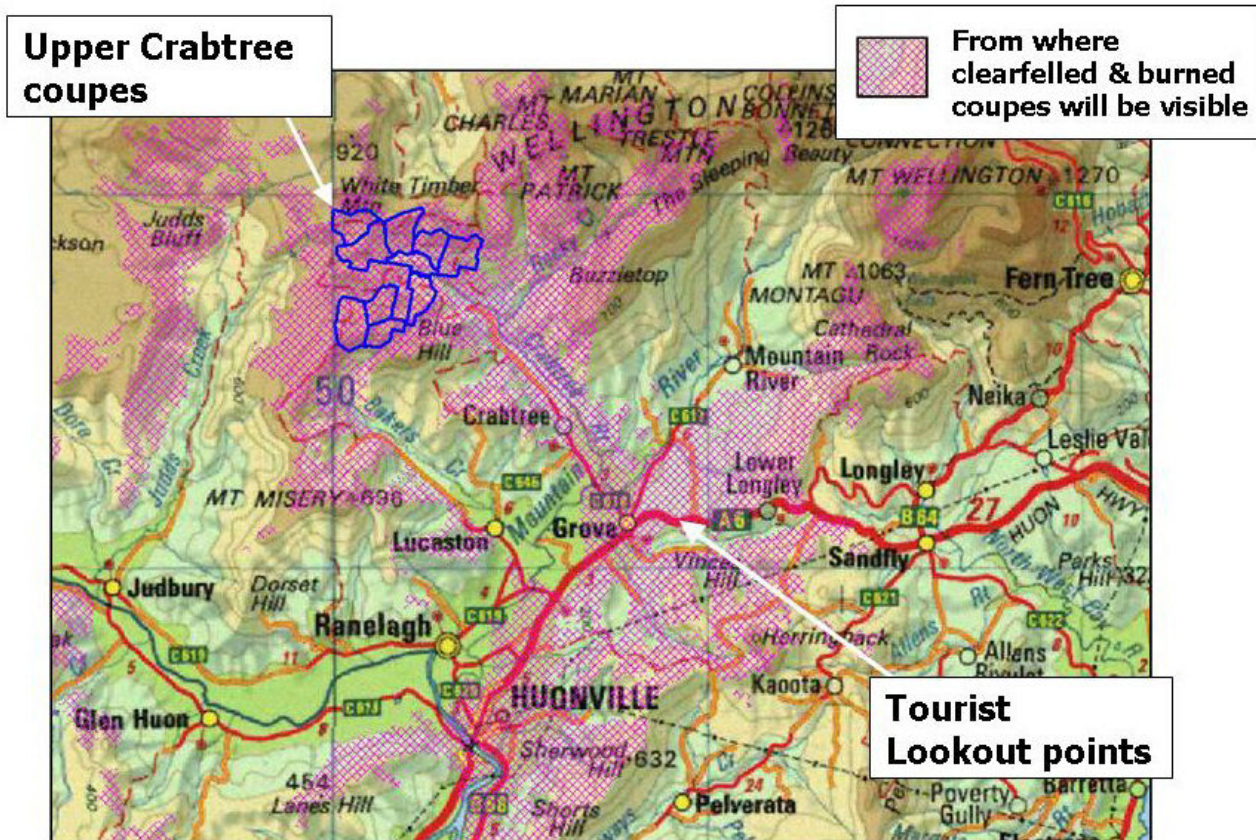
It is acknowledged that Tasmania, along with the rest of the world, is seeing more extreme weather events, therefore we can expect warmer, drier summers and heavier sporadic rainfall events in years to come. *Any* industrial scale logging in West Wellington will have a deleterious effect on water quality and water security for local residents. FT has a self-imposed limit of logging 5% of any water catchment in any one year, however, this may be exceeded in areas not supplying a town-water offtake or feeding directly into an aquaculture operation.

2.4 FSC HCV 4: Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities

2.4.1 High coupe visibility

Many of the coupes in West Wellington are steep and at altitude, therefore visibility will be a major issue. For instance coupes above Crabtree are visible from popular tourist look-outs on the Huon Highway as well as

from much of Huonville and surrounding townships. Even aggregate thinning or the leaving of visibility buffer strips will not disguise the ugliness of logging on these high slopes. Tourists visit the Huon Valley and people choose to live here for the natural beauty of the area more than for any other reason. The Huon Valley cannot afford to jeopardise income and growth from these sources.



Viewfield map showing from where the coupes in the upper Crabtree catchment will be visible

2.4.2 Neglected tourism potential

The pristine qualities of the West Wellington area are a great tourist drawcard. The Tasmanian Trail goes through the region and directly through coupes designated for clearfell. Currently, this section of the Trail is one of the most unspoilt along its entire length. At present Forestry Tasmania relocate the trail at will while logging operations are being undertaken – this is a highly unsatisfactory situation. Were the tourist potential of the area better promoted and facilities provided, the income generated for the local community could be far higher than that provided from forestry activities – and the forest and its dependent flora, fauna, creeks, springs and aesthetics, would also be protected.



Billy Browns Falls in Judbury

Tourist operators local to West Wellington are reliant on the landscape values remaining untouched to bring people to the area and encourage them to stay. Clearfelling and burning is to the direct detriment of tourism and hence to the tourist-based economy of the region. Already local businesses receive complaints about the excessive smoke from burn-offs for instance. The WWPG knows businesses that have been forced to move from areas such as The Weld when Forestry Tasmania built its logging roads and began clearfelling. Now those businesses are under threat again.

2.4.3 Amenity value

The tracks through West Wellington are used by a large cross-section of the local community including four-wheel drivers, mountain bikers, bushwalkers and horse-riders. The potential for extending responsible recreation and tourist activities in the region is huge, particularly if directed towards providing facilities, signage and maps for bushwalkers. Local tourist operators are keen to promote a Judbury to Hobart walk for instance, which could become as iconic as Tasmania's other well-known walks (see section 3. for further details).



Four wheel driving on White Timber Trail

2.5 FSC HCV 5: Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (both indigenous and post-colonisation)

2.5.1 Community opposition

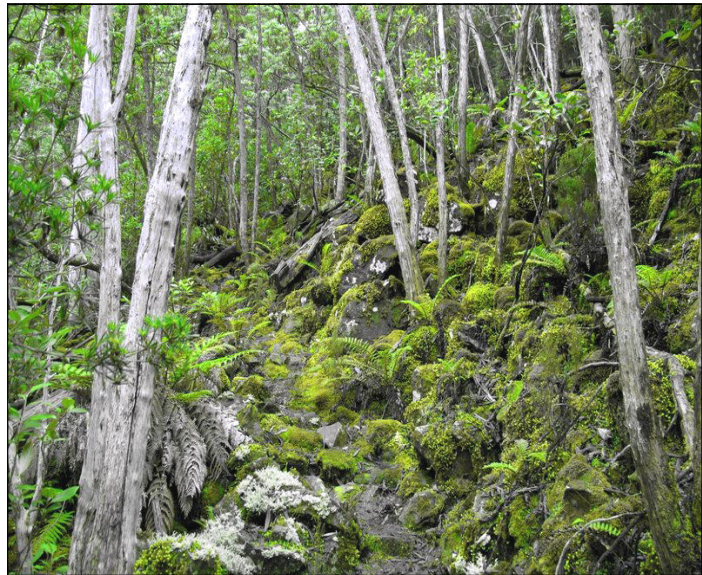
There is a large groundswell of opinion within the communities local to West Wellington, against the existing and planned activities of Forestry Tasmania. The West Wellington Protection Group has a dedicated mailing list of 100 local residents and its facebook page has over 700 friends, mostly local including Hobart residents alarmed at the impacts on Wellington Park.

It is not just activists who are concerned. The repeated comment the members of the WWPG hear (from established families and landowners, farmers, householders and business owners local to West Wellington) is "they've got to stop somewhere". Many of these people support the forestry industry but not the industrial-scale and indiscriminate nature of clearfelling. The townships of Judbury, Crabtree and Lucaston are growing on the back of their natural values, rural charm and proximity to Hobart. There is no community endorsement for industrial logging in these native forests. It should also be noted that the actions of Forestry Tasmania are creating a great deal of stress and conflict between peoples living in these neighbouring communities.

2.5.2 Heritage values

Many of the tracks within West Wellington are old and have significant heritage value. Jeffreys Track for instance, which links Crabtree in the south to Lachlan and the Derwent Valley in the north, was believed to have been cut soon after 1850. It is suspected that it followed an old aboriginal trail. There are still remnants of the original cobbled banks in places and short sections of the old track that have been bypassed by subsequent bulldozing. The stretch of the Tasmanian Trail between Judbury and Lachlan is a similar heritage trail and was used for the same purposes as Jeffreys Track, ie to bring stock to market, to enable families from the two valleys to meet and inter-wed and also to look for work in a different area.

Some walking tracks are more recent such as that cut in the early 1990s to the awesome geological formation of Billy Browns Falls. It was cut by an ex-sawmiller and logger who is now in his late 70's and still lives locally. Since then it has become an established and much-loved walking track. Judbury residents justifiably take pride in the Billy Browns Falls, which are named after an early Judbury settler. FT wants to clear-fell the coupe through which the walk meanders, and says it will create a new, "better" route to the Falls. The current walk passes through stands of old growth forest of exceptional beauty. Whilst a buffer zone has been created around the falls themselves it is narrow and comprises the steep valley sides which are in any case unloggable.



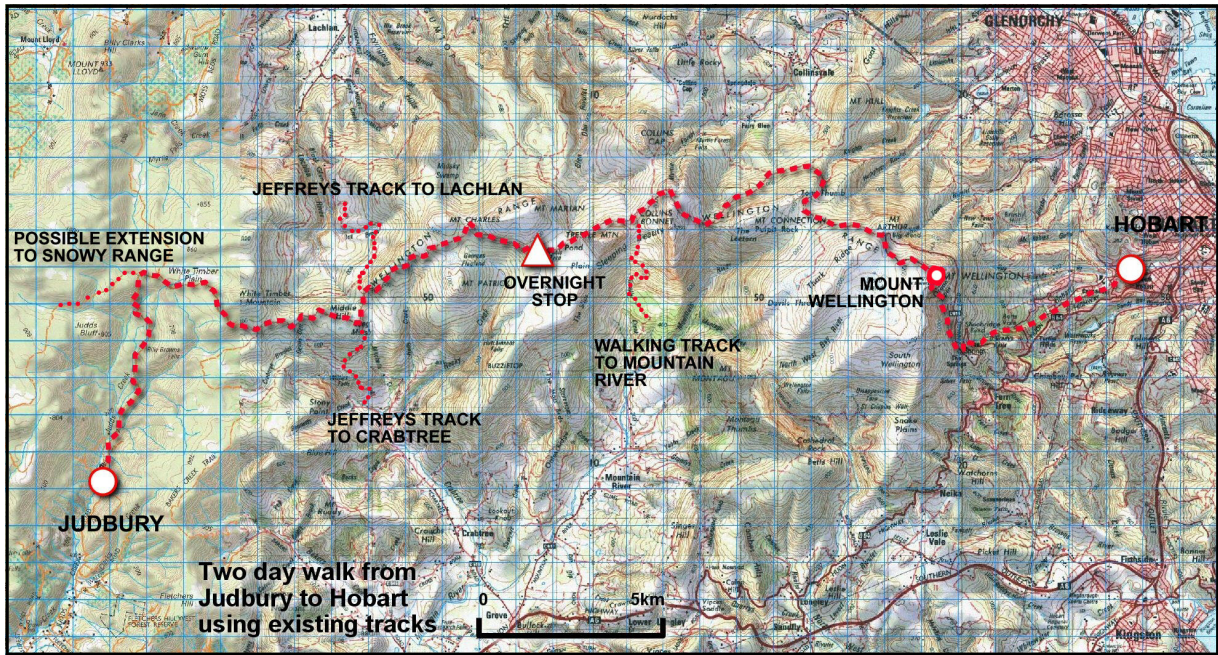
Track to Billy Browns Falls cut by local residents

3.0 Tourism proposal

3.1 The Wellington Trail

The proposition of a 2-day trail between Judbury and Hobart, has been developed by the WWPG and is supported by local tourist operators. The proposal is to use existing trails as per the map shown overpage. The infrastructure is largely in place, all that is required is promotion, signage and the possible addition of a sleeping hut at the half-way mark. The walk has the advantage of being accessible at various points, with adjoining walks to and from Collins Cap, Mountain River, Crabtree and Judbury. The walk would pass through Wellington Park and West Wellington, would be at high altitude and comprises stunning mountain scenery. It has the dual advantages of providing a wilderness experience in a safe and accessible fashion. A similar walk is being championed by Senator Bob Brown who proposes an extension to The Styx and the Snowy Ranges. Our present iconic walks are becoming overcrowded and a walk such as The Wellington Trail would provide an attractive alternative to people coming from Tasmania, interstate and overseas.

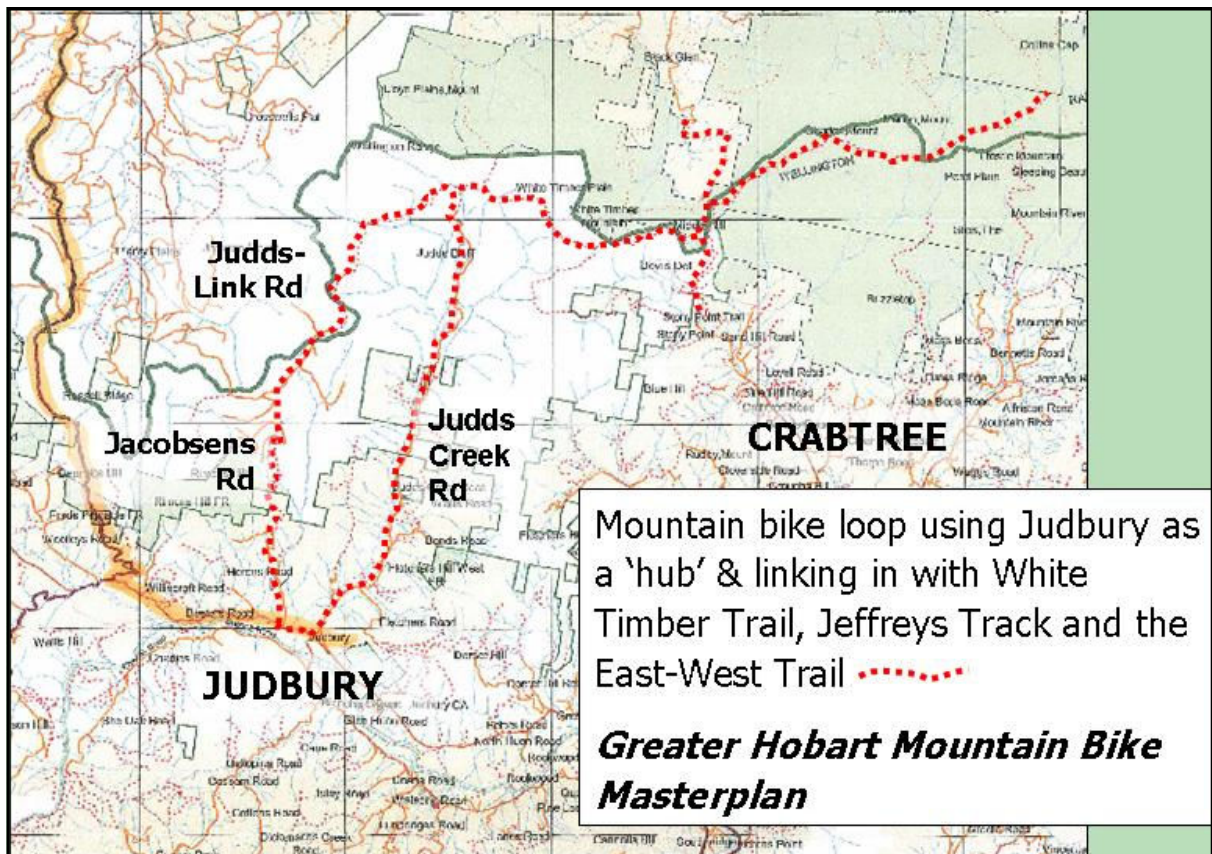
(see pg 15 for map)



Proposed route of The Wellington Trail

3.2 Mountain biking

The WWPG has held conversations with the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Masterplan Steering Committee which has drawn up proposals for mountain bike trails in Wellington Park and North Hobart. The committee was enthusiastic about including West Wellington in the plan and a route was surveyed by the WWPG which would provide a mix of family level biking with difficult and narrow downhill sections. This loop would utilise Judbury as a hub which already has facilities such as a toilet, parking, BBQ facilities and a kayak ramp. The route would link to the Wellington Trail and the Tasmanian Trail. Again most of the route is already in place and only short sections would require development.



3.3 Other tourist opportunities

The Tasmanian Trail already goes through the heart of West Wellington. Unfortunately, FT has turned a portion of White Timber Trail (a leafy 4WD track down which the Tasmanian Trail passes) into a wide and soul-less logging road with smashed trees on either side. This is not the type of scenery that will attract tourists or compel them to revisit. Most of the Trail however, remains intact and scenic and this is a brand that could be readily built upon.

Other possibilities include the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse-riding (there are already operators offering horse-riding experiences in West Wellington, but unfortunately FT's sharp gravel roads make them impassable for horses) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four-wheel driving (linking White Timber Trail, Jeffreys Track and the East-West Trail)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails for disabled people (such as boardwalk loops and viewing points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic drives (linking in with the Huon Trail)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage walks (viewing massive stumps showing evidence of manual felling, old sawmilling machinery etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife experiences (guided walks, night-time spotting)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adventure tourism utilising various experiences such as mountain biking, scaling peaks, 4Wdriving etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field study groups (wildlife, flora, biodiversity studies etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed small-scale operators removing specialist timber and milling on site (as per iconic forests in UK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sculpture trails and art workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller-scale bushwalking experiences such as to Billy Browns Falls (walkers can drive to the start of the walk and it is an hour or so return trek). The WWPG has developed a walking guide to Billy Browns Falls in the absence of any other promotional material. 	

3.4 Requirements

Clearly there is some infrastructure development required to maximise the tourism potential of the area and there must be a sustained marketing drive. We cannot sit back and expect tourists to arrive without first knowing about the opportunities and secondly, the infrastructure being in place to support their needs.



Walking track in West Wellington following snow

Some of the requirements are as listed:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the West Wellington brand (locally, interstate and overseas) – may require full-time marketing officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures, guides and maps on walking, horse-riding, mountain biking, driving and 4W driving routes, plus guides to the flora, fauna and history of the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking, signage and other facilities at other starting points into West Wellington (eg Crabtree) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic areas, boardwalks, interpretation signs, huts and toilets, plus some improvements to existing tracks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible long-term improvement of Jeffreys Track to become for example a single-lane tourist route with passing places, car parking etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big reduction in logging intensity. Clearfelling and tourism are mutually exclusive. Preferably West Wellington to become an extension to Wellington Park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and re-training for people to become trackworkers, hospitality workers, guides etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible incentives for tourism operators to set up in the area – help for locals to set up their own enterprises
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone/ <i>somebody</i> to take leadership! 	

Possible funding sources for recommended improvements and campaigns include:

- Foundations and other grant bodies
- State and federal governments (eg funding for regional development under the Intergovernmental Agreement)
- Councils
- Beneficiary businesses
- Tourism Tasmania
- Parks and Wildlife

3.5 Outcomes and benefits

Some of the benefits and outcomes of developing West Wellington into a tourist hub are as follows:

- Creation of new tourism ventures such as hospitality and catering (B&Bs, cafés etc); hire of mountain bikes; walking gear hire/ sale; guided walks and rides; operators of adventure and eco-tourism experiences
- Businesses producing signage, leaflets, walking guides and other promotional material
- Demand for people to build and maintain tracks
- Increased specialist timber crafts
- Increased economic wealth through job creation and general longer-term viability of region
- West Wellington’s biodiversity and other values protected through reduced or no logging

4. Conclusion

The WWPG contends that the West Wellington range satisfies the definition of all the FSC's high conservation value levels. It ought therefore to be managed in a manner that *'shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests'* (Principle 9: maintenance of high conservation value forests). Clearfelling and burning on any scale will destroy the values of West Wellington.

Given its accessibility, unique beauty, proximity to Hobart and existing trails, a great opportunity exists for developing the tourism potential of West Wellington. This is an area that has sat alongside human habitation for 200yrs – it is not an area that we propose should be locked up without any development or human access. It is a living, working forest that can provide amenity and recreation and wilderness experiences for locals, other Australians and overseas visitors – without damaging the values that make West Wellington so special.

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