
TASMANIA'S
FOREST
CARBON
2025 Update
THE TREE PROJECTS
TASMANIAN CLIMATE COLLECTIVE
Wilderness Society
Life. Support.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022, our research found that native forest logging was the highest emitting sector in the state. We found that the average emissions from the industry, between 2016 to 2020, was two and a half times the emissions of the state's entire transport sector.

Unfortunately, since our initial report, there has been no substantial reduction in emissions from the native forest sector. Emissions from 2020 to 2024 were down only 5% compared to the preceding five years.

A growing concern for Tasmania's forests is the increasing use of biomass as an energy source. Native forests could be burned to power energy-intensive industries, under the misleading label of renewable energy. There are five current and proposed projects that require wood biomass as a fuel or carbon source. Yet there is only enough sustainable plantation-based sources to meet 35% of the biomass needed for these facilities. The rest is likely to come from native forests, which could exacerbate native forest logging.

Carbon offsets are another new issue facing our native forests. Globally, there are major concerns about carbon offset schemes, as recent research has found many lack integrity. There is a high chance that carbon offsets for Tasmania will be exploited, as credits may be claimed for areas that were never intended to be logged. Income from selling carbon credits will only prolong the native forest logging industry.

Ending native forest logging in Tasmania would help our state move beyond our current net zero achievement and become carbon negative, by millions of tonnes of carbon each year. Protecting our native forests is the best thing that Tasmania can do to take real climate action.

# EMISSIONS FROM FORESTRY

Native forest logging is the highest emitting sector in Tasmania. It produces two and half times the emissions than the state's entire transport sector. This is because the majority of the forest is turned into woodchips and waste, with very little of the forest's carbon stored in long-term products.

## HIGHEST EMITTER

The logging of Tasmania's native forests releases vast amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Research conducted for our 2022 report found that greenhouse gas emissions from native forest logging were on average 4.65 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($CO_2e$) per year, from 2016 to 2020. This makes native forest logging the highest emitting industry in Tasmania.[1]

Emissions from native forest logging are close to two and a half times those emitted by the transport sector, which includes all of Tasmania's cars, trucks, domestic aviation and shipping. It is also equivalent to the annual emissions from 1.1 million cars, or equivalent to 422,000 return flights to London from Tasmania.[1]

## SOURCES OF CARBON

When native forests are logged in Tasmania, the vast majority of the forest ends up as woodchips and waste. After logging, around 60% of the forest's biomass remains on site, which is often burned in high intensity fires.

Only a small proportion of the forest ends up as usable timber products. As little as 1% gets turned into sawn timber, which is used for building houses and furniture, and a further 5% goes into what is referred to as engineered wood products, such as laminated veneer and plywood.[1] The rest goes into short-lived products such as paper and cardboard.

Since only a very small proportion of the forest is turned into long-term wood products, the majority of the forest is either wood-chipped or burned as waste. This means that most of the forest's carbon is released into the atmosphere within a few years.

**The 4.65 million tonnes of carbon emitted by forestry in 2022 is equivalent to[1]:**

**THE ANNUAL EMISSIONS OF 1.1 MILLION CARS**

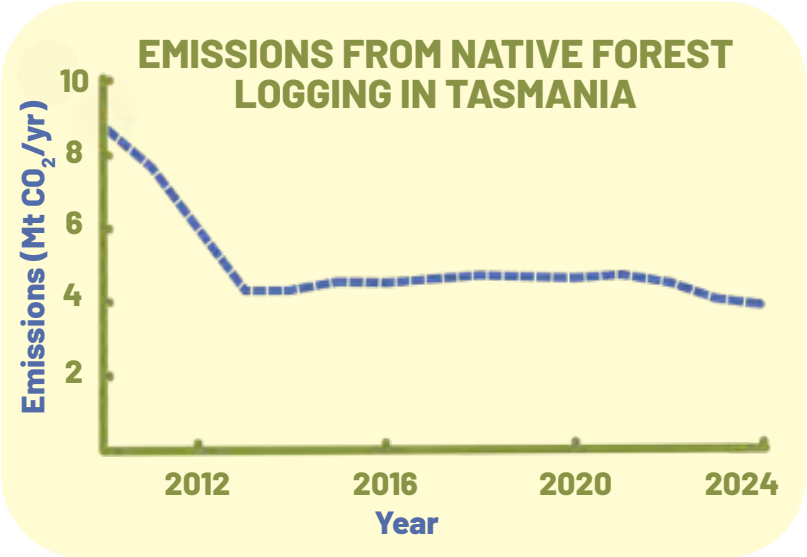
**422,000 RETURN FLIGHTS TO LONDON FROM TASMANIA**

# CHANGES IN EMISSIONS IN RECENT YEARS

Over the last few years, emissions have dropped by 5% due to a lower rate in logging. However, it remains the highest emitting sector in Tasmania. The best way to reduce Tasmania's emissions is to end native forest logging.

## HOW HAVE EMISSIONS CHANGED?

Annual emissions between 2020 to 2024 averaged 4.43 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($CO_2e$). Current emissions from native forest logging have dropped slightly compared to the previous five years, with a 5% reduction in average yearly emissions.This is due to a slight reduction in the amount of forest being logged in Tasmania. This reduction is due to the 2019 bushfires damaging large areas of forest, and because most of the forests which are easy to access have been logged already.




## THE MORE WE LOG, THE MORE WE EMIT

The graph below shows the amount of emissions from native forest logging over the last 20 years. As you can see, there was a significant reduction in emissions in 2012 due to changes in legislation, which led to a 50% reduction in the amount of forest being logged every year.

Tasmania has some of the most carbon dense forests in the world, and our old growth forests are particularly carbon dense.[2] Logging these forests leads to large amounts of emissions. Essentially, the more that we log, the more that our state emits.

## LOGGING IS NOT CARBON NEUTRAL

A forest will draw down carbon from the atmosphere as it regrows after logging, but it may take centuries for the regenerating forest to absorb the same amount of carbon that was lost during logging. We cannot wait centuries for regrowing forests to re-capture carbon, we need to reduce our emissions now.

Additionally, as climate change intensifies, impacts such as bushfires, insect attack and heat stress may impact the ability of trees to regenerate. Healthy, mature forests need to be protected as they are the most resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change.

# GROVE OF GIANTS CARBON STUDY

In November 2023, The Tree Projects invited 15 of Australia and New Zealand's best tree climbers to participate in a first-of-its-kind carbon study. The aim was to measure how much carbon was stored in the Grove of Giants, a remarkable old-growth forest in the Huon Valley of Tasmania, which at the time was threatened by logging.

By involving professional tree climbers, we were able to accurately measure the tree's volumes, which gave us a precise estimation of how much carbon the giant trees store. Teams of volunteers also measured the understory trees, the fallen logs and the soil carbon.

What we found was that the Grove of Giants stored 1,312 tonnes of carbon per hectare, which is equivalent to 4,815 tonnes of carbon dioxide.[2] This makes the Grove of Giants the most carbon dense forest measured in Tasmania. The carbon stored in a single hectare of this forest is equivalent to the yearly household emissions of 320 Australian homes.

# FORESTRY BURNS

Every autumn, Tasmania's clear skies are filled with the smoke from the industrial burning of logging waste. The burning of logged areas adds additional greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, and can damage remaining trees and surrounding forests, as well as resulting in serious public health concerns.

## UP IN SMOKE

After logging, around 60% of the forest ends up as waste, with branches, stumps and smaller trees left on site. In order to get rid of this waste, the forestry industry ignites high intensity fires that fill Tasmania's skies with smoke every autumn.

When wood is burned, it generates additional greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxides. These two gases have 80 to 280 times the warming effect of carbon dioxide.[3]

This means that when forestry uses industrial fires to clear the sites for planting, it is generating 50% more greenhouse gas warming potential.[1] This makes the emissions from native forest logging even worse.

The emissions from these industrial scale burns alone produce 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($CO_2e$) annually.

Smoke from forestry fires can cause various health issues beyond short-term respiratory problems. It can worsen pre-existing conditions like asthma and heart disease, and increase the risk of death in vulnerable populations.[4]

**1.6**

**MILLION TONNES OF $CO_2$**

**is emitted from the burning of forestry waste after logging**

## BURNING IS DANGEROUS

The industrial fires lit by forestry each year can often escape and burn into protected areas. For instance, in 2006, Tasmania's then-largest tree, El Grande, was killed in a fire lit by forestry. Small, unlogged patches of forest that are retained for habitat are often badly burnt in these fires.

In recent years, Forestry Tasmania have been trialing a method for protecting big trees by not logging trees over 2.5 metres in diameter. However, these isolated trees often do not survive these industrial burns. In some sites, as few as 50% of trees have survived these high intensity fires.

# BIOMASS: IS IT REALLY RENEWABLE?

The use of biomass as an energy source is gaining momentum over recent years. Pitched under the title of renewable energy, it is seen as a cheap alternative to fossil fuels. However, not all sources of biomass are the same, and the use of biomass in Tasmania could mean an acceleration of native forest logging across the state.

## WHAT IS BIOMASS?

Biomass is any organic plant material, and can come from a variety of sources such as forests or agricultural crops. Biomass contains carbon, which is produced by plants through photosynthesis. Biomass is burned to create energy which can be used for heating, electricity or other industrial purposes.

## QUESTIONABLE CLAIMS

Biomass is often classed as a renewable, carbon-neutral form of energy. However, this depends on the source of the biomass and how long it takes to grow. When forests are used, there is the assumption that forests will grow back and reabsorb the carbon that has been emitted during the process. However, forests can take decades or centuries to regrow. We simply cannot wait that long for carbon to be 'reabsorbed', we need to dramatically reduce our emissions now.[5]

There is no guarantee that forests will grow back. Land use changes may stop forests from regrowing, or the effects of climate change, such as bushfires, droughts and increased insect attack, could prevent forests from regrowing properly.[5]

## FORESTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

From a climate change perspective, the best use for our forests is to leave them standing. Forests store a significant amount of carbon, and when they are used as biomass, the carbon is released into the atmosphere. Tasmania's mature forests are important to protect, as they are some of the most carbon dense forests in the world.[2] It's also important to protect younger forests, as they can draw down carbon from the atmosphere as they grow and store it long-term.

# TASMANIA'S PLANS FOR BIOMASS:

Tasmania has some big plans for biomass. The Government is backing two e-fuel developments and are aiming to use biomass as alternatives to fossil fuels for energy intensive industries. All of these proposals will need forest biomass.

## CURRENT AND PROPOSED BIOMASS FACILITIES IN TASMANIA:

### E-FUEL FACILITIES

**WHAT:** Two plants propose to use wood biomass to turn hydrogen into e-fuel

**HOW MUCH:** 675,000 tonnes of wood biomass per year

**SOURCE:** Both facilities claim biomass will come from plantation residues, but there is only enough available for 40% of demand[6]

**FUNDING:** Potentially up to $2 billion from Federal Government

**STATUS:** Proposed for completion in 2027 and 2028

### RAILTON CEMENT PLANT

**WHAT:** Wood biomass burning for kiln processing

**HOW MUCH:** Initially 100,000 tonnes of wood biomass per year, but could be upscaled to more

**SOURCE:** Federal Government has confirmed plant will be using biomass from native forests

**FUNDING:** $52.9 million from Federal Government

**STATUS:** Currently in development

### LIBERTY BELL BAY SMELTER

**WHAT:** Biomass burning as an alternative to coke in smelting process

**HOW MUCH:** Trial to begin with 1,500 tonnes of wood biomass per year, but could expand if successful

**SOURCE:** Unknown - there has been no public statement made about where biomass will be sourced

**FUNDING:** $700,000 from Federal Government

**STATUS:** Unknown, company is currently under limited operations

### GREENHAM'S ABATTOIR

**WHAT:** To power a wood-chip fired boiler for an abattoir in Smithton

**HOW MUCH:** 10,250 tones of biomass per year

**SOURCE:** States that it will source waste wood from softwood plantations

**FUNDING:** Unknown

**STATUS:** Currently in development

# NEW THREAT TO TASMANIA'S FORESTS

The Tasmanian Government has big plans for biomass and e-fuels, marketed under the misleading label of renewable energy. There are not enough sustainable sources of biomass to meet the growing demand, meaning biomass will ultimately come from native forests.

## WHERE WILL THE BIOMASS COME FROM?

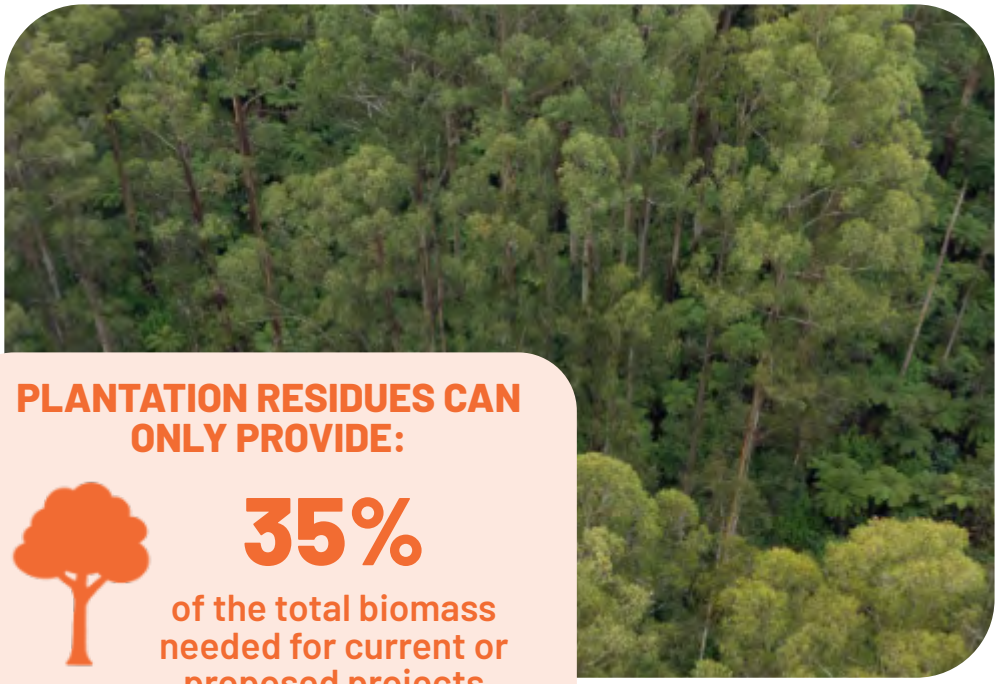
Many of the facilities have claimed that they will source their biomass from plantation residues. Residues refer to the branches, bark, stumps and leaves of logged trees. However, there is only a limited source available in northern Tasmania where these facilities are based, as only 272,000 tonnes are available annually. This will only meet approximately 35% of the demand for biomass by these facilities.

There is not enough plantation residues to supply all of the current and proposed projects. It is unlikely that plantation woodchips will make up this short-fall, as they are high quality and can fetch a better price through export markets.

## NATIVE FORESTS UNDER THREAT

Conservation groups are concerned that the additional biomass will ultimately come from native forests, where government subsidies already create an artificially cheap supply of low-quality woodchips. This was confirmed in August 2024, when a letter from the Federal Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen stated that the new kiln at the Railton cement facility will be burning woodchips from a number of sources, including native forests.

The collection of native forest residues for biomass is too expensive to be feasible.[8] It is much more likely that low-quality native forest logs will be used instead, as there is already infrastructure in place to extract logs as opposed to resides, which would require different machinery.



**PLANTATION RESIDUES CAN ONLY PROVIDE:**

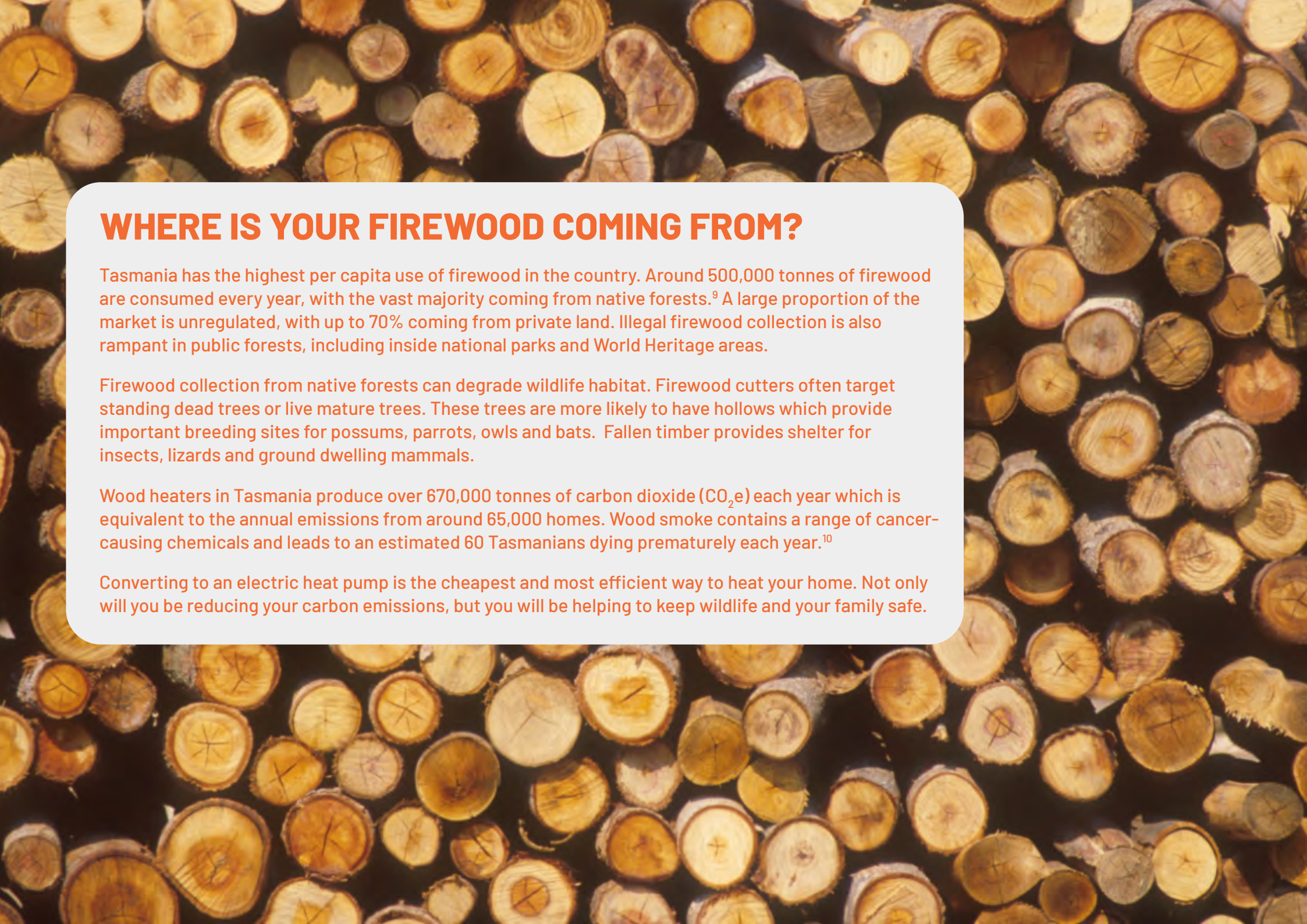
**35%**

**of the total biomass needed for current or proposed projects**

## BIOMASS PLANS FOR TASMANIA'S FUTURE

The Tasmanian Government has plans to expand the use of biomass for e-fuels and industry.[9] There is not enough sustainable plantation sources of biomass to meet the needs of current and proposed projects, so inevitably the biomass will be sourced from native forests.

The use of native forests for biomass is a significant concern as it could lead to an increase in native forest logging, under the pretence of renewable energy. This, however, is the exact opposite of reality: instead of reducing emissions, the use of native forests for energy generation will only increase the emissions from native forest logging.



# WHERE IS YOUR FIREWOOD COMING FROM?

Tasmania has the highest per capita use of firewood in the country. Around 500,000 tonnes of firewood are consumed every year, with the vast majority coming from native forests.[9] A large proportion of the market is unregulated, with up to 70% coming from private land. Illegal firewood collection is also rampant in public forests, including inside national parks and World Heritage areas.

Firewood collection from native forests can degrade wildlife habitat. Firewood cutters often target standing dead trees or live mature trees. These trees are more likely to have hollows which provide important breeding sites for possums, parrots, owls and bats.  Fallen timber provides shelter for insects, lizards and ground dwelling mammals.

Wood heaters in Tasmania produce over 670,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide ($CO_2e$) each year which is equivalent to the annual emissions from around 65,000 homes. Wood smoke contains a range of cancer-causing chemicals and leads to an estimated 60 Tasmanians dying prematurely each year.[10]

Converting to an electric heat pump is the cheapest and most efficient way to heat your home. Not only will you be reducing your carbon emissions, but you will be helping to keep wildlife and your family safe.

# CARBON OFFSETS ARE A SCAM

Carbon offsets have been heavily promoted by the Australian Government as a way to meet its net zero target. A large amount of carbon credits will be coming from the forest and land sectors. There has been heavy criticism of the use of these credits, as many have integrity issues because they do not represent real offsets.

## WHAT ARE CARBON OFFSETS?

As the world demands action on climate change, climate polluting businesses are looking for ways to reduce their emissions. When it is difficult or expensive to reduce emissions, businesses can buy carbon credits to 'offset' them instead. Carbon credits are created by projects that reduce or avoid emissions, such as planting trees or preventing forests from being cut down.

In the case of native forests, credits could be generated by preventing emissions by avoiding logging. They could also arise from regenerating degraded forests, or from lengthening logging rotations. While the protection and regeneration of forests is an excellent step forward for the climate and the environment, offsets are highly problematic.

## WHY OFFSETS DON'T WORK

Carbon offsets allow polluting companies to continue 'business as usual' and to not make any real reduction in their own emissions. It's a form of greenwashing, where companies can market under the label of 'carbon neutral', while still producing large amounts of emissions.

The use of offsets has been heavily criticised by the scientific community, as they are not a legitimate substitute for directly reducing emissions.[11] Offsets are nothing more than an accounting trick, and are a licence for polluters to keep polluting.

In order to combat climate change we need to be making drastic reductions across all sectors, not just reducing emissions in one sector and pretending it applies to another. Protecting forests so that it allows more fossil fuels to be burned is not enough; we need to be protecting forests and reducing fossil fuel use at the same time. This is the only way to reduce our overall emissions.

# FOR AN OFFSET TO BE LEGITIMATE, IT NEEDS TO BE:

## REAL

**The carbon removal or emission reductions have actually taken place**

## ADDITIONAL

**The activity would not have occurred without the carbon credit scheme**

## PERMANENT

**The carbon will be stored long term, for at least 100 years**

# SOME PROPOSED FORESTRY OFFSETS INCLUDE:

### Reducing or stopping native forest logging

Referred to as the Improved Native Forest Management method, native forest logging is stopped or reduced, and the landholder receives carbon credits for avoiding emissions that would have been generated from the logging practice.

**REAL:** ✓ Native forest logging produces huge emissions by releasing stored carbon. Stopping logging is a real and effective way of immediately reducing emissions.

**ADDITIONAL:** ? It depends if the forest was truly intended to be logged. Carbon credits could be issued for forests that are too steep or unprofitable to log, or they may already be earmarked for future protection.

**PERMANENT:** ? Healthy, intact forests are resilient to the occasional bushfire or extreme weather event. However, the likelihood of natural disasters will increase under climate change. This may impact the ability of forests to store carbon over time.

### Longer rotations of logging

Forestry agencies extend the length of time that a native forest or plantation is logged, for instance, from 40 years to 80 years. The larger trees store more carbon and managers receive credits for the additional carbon sequestered.

**REAL:** ? This depends on the final product being produced. Smaller logs are often used for wood-chips, which release carbon after a few years. Larger logs have a higher chance of producing sawn timber which is used in building and furniture.

**ADDITIONAL:** ✗ Larger trees are more likely to produce sawn timber which has a higher value, so the financial incentive to create them already exists.[12]

**PERMANENT:** ✗ Sawn timber has a variable lifespan, with the average only 35 years. This is much less than the 100 years needed for it to be classified as ‘permanent’ and is a lot less than the remaining lifespan of the tree if it was left unlogged.

### Forest thinning

This method is proposed by the forestry industry and involves selectively removing trees from a forest, which theoretically allows other trees to grow faster. Carbon credits are issued to the landholder for additional carbon sequestered.

**REAL:** ? Forest thinning can increase the carbon storage of a forest, although it depends on the intensity and type of thinning. Many of the smaller trees that are removed are wood-chipped which releases carbon into the atmosphere. Machinery can also disturb soil which can impact on soil carbon.

**ADDITIONAL:** ✗ Forest thinning happens anyway. It is not additional, and claiming it as carbon credits is purely a way for forestry agencies to gain an additional income stream.

**PERMANENT:** ✗ Thinning damages a forest and makes it more fire prone, which increases the severity of bushfires.[13] High intensity, repetitive fires may limit the ability of a forest to store carbon.

# CARBON CREDIT INTEGRITY ISSUES

There are major concerns about carbon offset schemes, as recent research has found that many lack integrity.

## MAJOR FAILINGS IN CARBON OFFSET PROJECTS

Over the last few years, as carbon offset schemes have exploded into the market, there have been countless claims of integrity issues. This is especially true for forest-based offset schemes. Many major companies have been selling credits that amount to little to no carbon reduction.

Misleading offsets often claim climate benefits that would have happened anyway. For instance, landholders have been given credits for not clearing land that they were never going to clear in the first place.[15]

### EXAMPLES OF OFFSETS SCHEMES FAILING:

1. Out of the top 50 global carbon offset organisations, not a single one was deemed to have credible offsets.[14]
2. One study found that out of one billion tonnes of carbon credits, only 16% represented real emissions reduction.[15]
3. More than 90% of rainforest offsets sold by Verra, the world's largest certifier of carbon offsets, have been found to not represent real emissions reduction.[16]
4. A global study of 26 avoided-deforestation carbon offset projects found that 94% of schemes did not reduce deforestation.[17]
5. In Papua New Guinea, 800 million carbon credits were issued for forests that were not at immediate risk of deforestation.[18]

## AUSTRALIA NOT IMMUNE TO DODGY OFFSETS

Climate Active, the Australian Government's voluntary carbon offset program has come under increasing scrutiny of late. More than 100 companies have left the program in the last two years. Climate Active has received criticism from scientists and environmental groups as their offsets are not genuine, and do not count as real offsets.

Similarly, the Emissions Reduction Fund was plagued with integrity issues. Around 80% of the carbon credits approved under the Fund do not represent real or new cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.[18] Furthermore, many projects overestimated the amount of emissions reduction that could be achieved.

# RISK TO TASMANIA'S FORESTS

Carbon credits generated from not logging forests could soon be hitting the markets in Australia. There is serious concern that these credits lack integrity and may prolong native forest logging in some circumstances.

## POOR POLICY IS DRIVING CARBON MARKETS

The main climate legislation in Australia is the Safeguard Mechanism, which limits the amount of emissions from the top 200 polluters. This scheme allows for the unlimited use of domestically-generated offsets.

This heavy reliance on carbon offsets as the major form of climate policy in Australia means that there is a growing demand for domestic offsets. This demand is leading to the formation of new offsets, some of which are of questionable quality.

Of concern is a proposal in New South Wales which pays landholders, including the state government, to not log forests. Yet prior to this offset proposal, the NSW Government has appointed a panel to explore the option of ending native forest logging in NSW as it is no longer economically viable.[19]

This means that any offsets derived from ending logging in New South Wales are likely to be false, as it is claiming credit for an activity that would have likely happened anyway.  Once a methodology has been created for New South Wales, there is a high chance that it will be implemented in other states across Australia.

### STATE GOVERNMENTS ALREADY ACTING DISHONESTLY

The decision to create the Great Koala National Park has been delayed by the New South Wales Premier until a carbon credit scheme is operational. This means that the NSW Government will be knowingly exploiting the carbon credit market, by claiming credits for an activity that would have happened anyway.[20]

## TASMANIA'S FORESTS

There is a high chance that any forest-based carbon offset scheme for Tasmania will be exploited. Forestry Tasmania could claim credits for areas they never intended to log, or are unsuitable for logging. The Tasmanian Government has a bad track record in accountability, and has falsely represented how much area would be protected from logging under management plans for the critically endangered Swift Parrot.[21]

Forestry Tasmania is economically unviable, and has lost a total of $1.3 billion over a 20-year period from 1997-2017.[22] Income from selling carbon credits will only prolong the native forest logging industry. This would mean that native forest logging would persist in Tasmania for longer.

# A DIFFERENT FUTURE

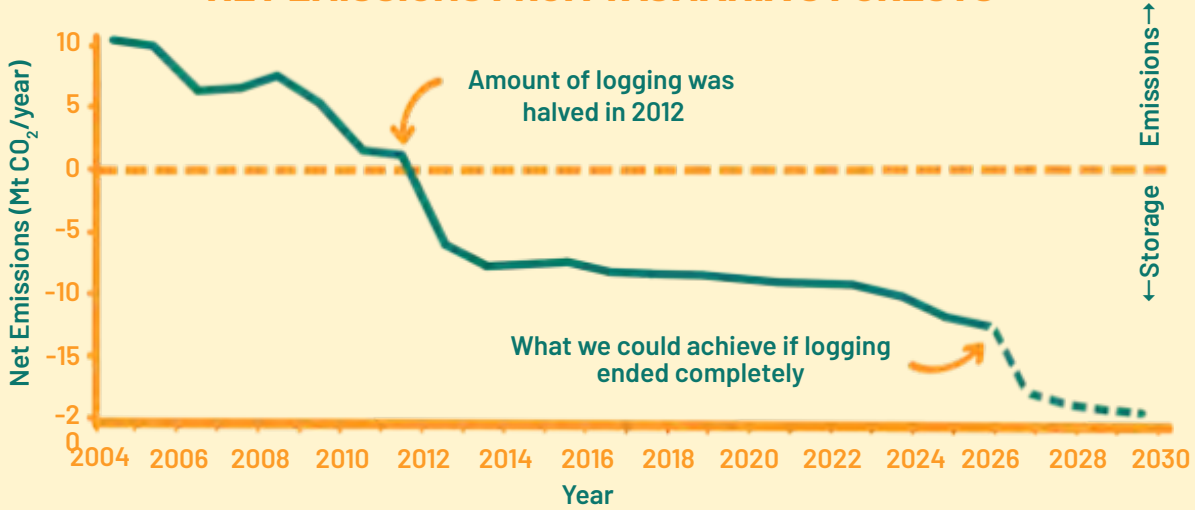
Native forest logging is the highest emitting sector in the state. By protecting our native forests, we can take a significant step towards reducing our emissions.

## FORESTS FOR CLIMATE

Tasmania's forests draw down a lot of carbon from the atmosphere. In fact, forests are the reason that Tasmania can claim to be one of the first jurisdictions in the world to become net zero. That's because our forests draw down 22 million tonnes of carbon each year, which is enough to offset Tasmania's entire emissions.[23]

As you can see from the graph below, there was a significant downturn in the amount of emissions in 2012 when policies were introduced to halve the amount of forests that were logged. This allowed Tasmania to achieve a net-zero status.

### NET EMISSIONS FROM TASMANIA'S FORESTS




## BEYOND NET ZERO

We could easily do even better than net zero. If we ended native forest logging, we could reduce our emissions even further, to a point where our state would draw down millions of tonnes of carbon more than we emit.

By allowing logged forests to regrow, a significant amount of carbon dioxide could be drawn down from the atmosphere and stored long-term. If native forest logging ended in Tasmania, public forests currently managed for logging could absorb up to 75 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($CO_2e$) by 2050.[24] That's equivalent to taking every Australian car off the road for an entire year.

# GOOD FOR THE CLIMATE, GOOD FOR TASMANIA

Protecting native forests not only leads to meaningful progress on climate change, it also has many other benefits. Protecting forests is good for our wildlife and environment, as well for the economy.

## A GOOD ECONOMIC DECISION

Protecting forests is good for Tasmania's economy.  Millions of dollars in taxpayer funds are spent subsidising the forestry industry each year. This money could be better spent on services that support the community such as improvements to healthcare and education.

We do not need offsets to finance the protection of forests in Tasmania. This is because millions of dollars could be saved annually by stopping the subsidies of the native forest logging industry. Any offset program in Tasmania would likely only lead to a partial protection of Tasmania's forests, with funds from the sale of carbon credits likely to prop up Forestry Tasmania so that it can keep logging other areas of native forests into the future.




## BENEFITS FOR NATURE

Protecting our native forests has benefits beyond the climate. Our forests provide important habitat for many of our charismatic native species. This includes many threatened species such as the Swift Parrot, Wedge-tailed Eagle and the Giant Freshwater Crayfish.

Tasmania's old trees provide important habitat for wildlife. Older eucalypts form hollows which provide homes for owls, bats and possums. Around 90% of Australia's parrots depend on hollows for breeding, so the protection of these trees is important. Hollows can take over 140 years to form in some cases, meaning that our mature forests are extremely important for our wildlife.[25]

Protecting our forests is also important for our rivers and water supply. Covering the headwaters of important catchments, Tasmania's mature forests help keep water clean and plentiful. Logging disturbs the soil, which leads to sediment entering waterways and polluting streams. Additionally, the young regrowth of eucalypts after logging can reduce the amount of water flowing into catchments by up to 50%.[26]

# FOREST PROTECTION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Protecting forests is a low-cost, effective and immediate way to take action on climate change. Along with rapidly reducing our fossil fuel usage and other sources of emissions, we can achieve meaningful progress to protect the climate.

## CARBON DRAWDOWN

For the world to make meaningful progress on climate change, we need to be both reducing emissions and drawing down carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon capture technology at scale is progressing at a glacial pace, and there are issues around storage and energy usage.[27] Trees and forests are the most efficient and cheapest form of carbon capture technology that we currently have.

Protecting our forests is a cost-effective and practical solution to absorbing the large amount of carbon that we need to mitigate climate change. If forest protection and restoration happened at a global scale, it would contribute 30% of the total climate change mitigation that we need by 2030.[28] Such large-scale forest protection and restoration would also have substantial benefits for global biodiversity.

## WE NEED REAL CLIMATE ACTION

While protecting forests is meaningful action on climate change, we need to be taking other actions to drastically reduce our emissions. Allowing younger, previously logged forests to regenerate into mature forests can draw down significant amounts of carbon. However, we cannot let this be an excuse for business as usual from the fossil fuel industry. Offsets do not work, and we need to drastically reduce emissions from fossil fuels, as well as in other sectors such as agriculture.

## THE RIGHT PATH FOR TASMANIA

For Tasmania, ending native forest logging and letting previously logged, younger forests regenerate is the best way for us to reduce our emissions. Ending a loss-making industry to achieve meaningful climate action is the best decision for Tasmania. There are many alternative jobs available for native forestry workers in plantations or forest conservation, such as in tree planting, land management and fire-fighting. Proper policies and planning would mean that no-one is disadvantaged by protecting nature.

# CONCLUSION

Tasmania is home to some of the most carbon dense forests in the world. Protecting Tasmania's native forests is meaningful action on climate change. It is a low-cost, immediate and effective way to reduce our emissions.

Being the highest emitting sector in the state, native forest logging needs to end if Tasmania is to take real climate action. Protecting all of Tasmania's forest is of the utmost of importance.

We cannot allow our native forests to be used as biomass. Burning our forests for energy is not acceptable, and marketing it under the label of renewable energy is greenwashing. The best climate action we can take is to protect our native forests.

Carbon offsets may seem like a good idea to enable forests to be protected, but in reality they only prolong fossil fuel usage and could lead to native forest logging continuing in Tasmania for longer.

If our forests were protected, we could make a real difference in our overall emissions. It would allow Tasmania to go beyond net-zero, and we could potentially be carbon negative by many millions of tonnes of carbon per year.

We need urgent action on climate change. Protecting native forests is a real way to make significant progress in climate action, especially when implemented at a global scale. Tasmania must play its part and protect our globally significant forests, for the sake of the climate, the environment, and our future.

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## NOTES ON CALCULATIONS

Calculations for the emissions estimation were based on the formulas outlined in the 2022 Tasmania's Forest Carbon report: www.thetreeprojects.com/forestcarbon