

## **Negative elements and impacts of the Government's Forestry Bill (2014)**

- Amends Nature Conservation legislation to allow logging in existing formal reserves including Regional Reserves and Conservation Areas
- Removes approx. 400,000 ha of HCV forests from legislated protection to make available for logging, impacting negatively on:
  - Market confidence
  - Likelihood of FT achieving FSC certification
  - Investment uncertainty
  - eNGO support for industry
  - Tasmanian brand, tourism and other opportunities
- 6 year 'moratorium' on logging is a sham because:
  - Anyone other than Forestry Tasmania can apply to log these areas
  - 'Partial harvesting' can be used, this includes 'clump-clearfelling' techniques such as aggregated retention
  - Land in the Production Zone can be 'exchanged' for old growth and other forest in the 'moratorium' land so that it can be logged
- The 400,000 ha of HCV forest sits with Crown Land Services for 6 years and:
  - Still doesn't generate rates payable to councils
  - Stymies conservation, tourism and other initiatives
  - Will suffer management neglect as it is in limbo, impacting on motivation for proper conservation management
  - Raises questions about who will manage it and how will that be funded? Will the federal Government funding continue?
- The Bill does not set FSC certification as the bar to be achieved and maintained (despite market demand), rather it is generalised about "internationally recognised forest management certification" which could mean the discredited AFS/PEFC certification already achieved
- The collaborative Special Council, which includes eNGO involvement, is to be abandoned and replaced with an industry-only ministerial council
- Discriminates against nature conservation by setting a two-thirds majority threshold, in both houses of Parliament for the establishment of new national Parks and Reserves. Currently it requires a simple majority to declare these reserves. This 'supermajority' is usually reserved for Constitutional changes and other significant decisions