

- special_timbers
- Water
- State Forest
- Reserve
- Private Land

LOCATION MAP



NOTE: Co-ordinates on this map are based on GDAS4. Any topographic data on this map has been supplied by DPWE. Data has been captured at differing scales & boundaries may not always co-incide



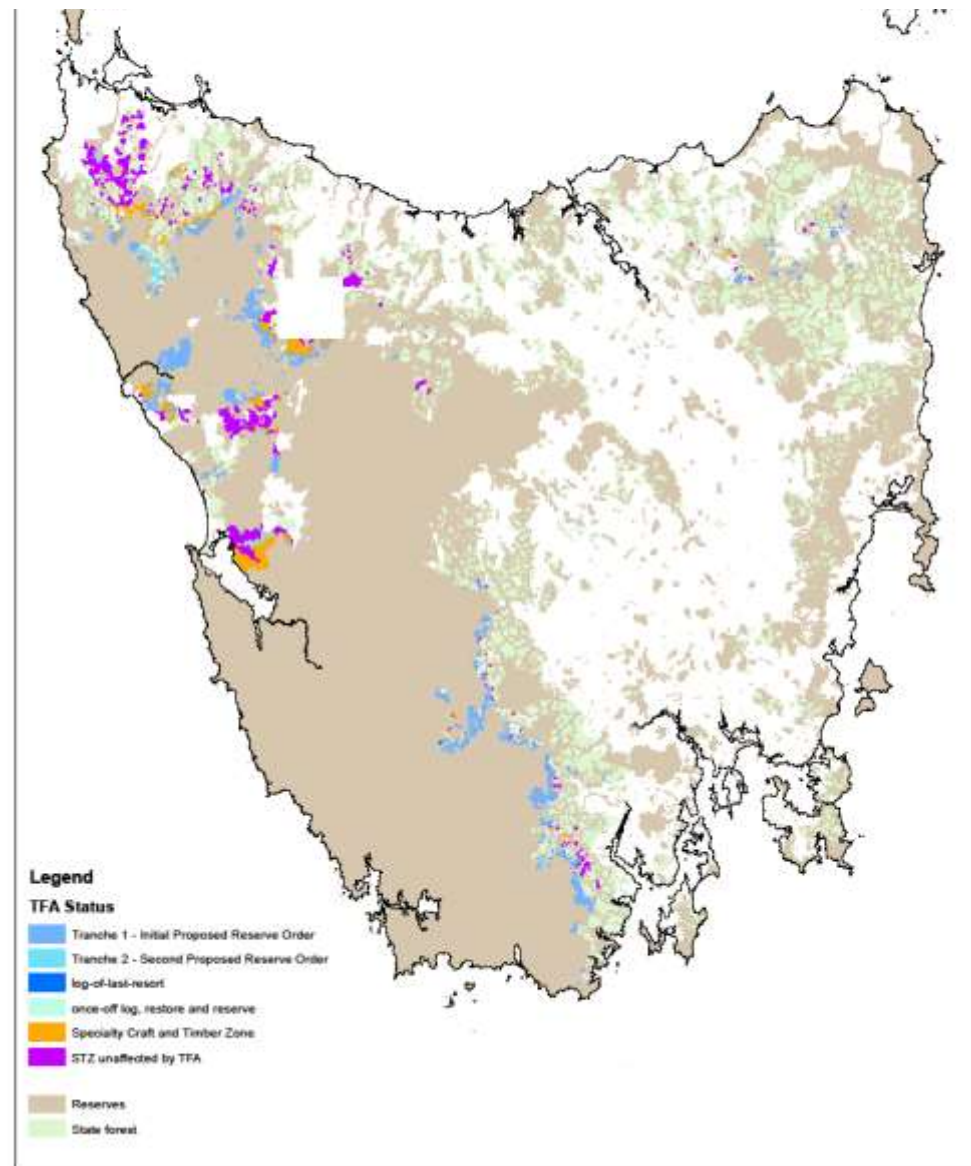
Special Timbers Zones



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Prepared by: law

Scale 1:1,250,000



Legend

TFA Status

- Tranche 1 - Initial Proposed Reserve Order
- Tranche 2 - Second Proposed Reserve Order
- log-of-last-resort
- once-off log, restore and reserve
- Specialty Craft and Timber Zone
- STZ unaffected by TFA
- Reserves
- State forest

Zoom up to 200% and compare both maps. Note how much of the STZ (magenta) is lost to the top four colours on the TFA Status map, and note how much of the State Forest (pale green) is lost to conventional timber harvesting. Note the growth of reserve areas all around the state. A recipe for economic strangulation!

Hi folks,

here it is...

the maps that show what we have been asked to sacrifice.

The map on the left shows the Special Timbers Zone (STZ) as proclaimed in the Special Timbers Strategy and adopted by Forestry Tasmania in March, 2010. The Special Timbers Zone is shown in Magenta, a shade of purple.

It was expanded from 71,000 hectares to 98,200 hectares at that time. The 71,000 hectares was the leftover of the STMU's (Special Timbers Management Units) after it was reduced by the 2005 Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement from 143,000 hectares. The expansion in 2010 did not necessarily add much in the way of Special Timbers species, but included some old growth Eucalypt that itself is increasingly becoming regarded as 'special' when it contains complex grain, including 'fiddleback', favoured by artisan woodworkers. The STMU's were identified during the development of the RFA. The Special Timbers Strategy sought to add a management regime to the STMU's as areas identified as being rich in Special Timbers, and prescribed no clear-felling, no re-generation burning, and harvesting rotations of two hundred years, or greater. The prescribed harvesting recommendation of 12,500 cubic meters, of which 10,000 was Blackwood, is a very light touch across the 98,000 hectares, and by weight amounts to less than 130 kilograms per hectare per year when averaged across the zone. Not much in anyone's language! This is suggested to be the sustainable annual harvest. 'Sustainable' means a level of harvest that is less than the annual rate of natural replenishment. Now what the Dickens is wrong with that???

The map on the right shows the reduction of the Special Timbers Zone, and the re-classification of parts of it as new reserves in Tranche 1 and Tranche 2, (as per the Forest Peace Agreement), and in areas identified as Log of Last Resort, and Log Once and Reserve. This amounts to a 60% reduction in the sustainable annual harvest of the species other than Blackwood, which includes the iconic boat building species, and those such as Blackheart Sassafras and Myrtle favoured by the craft and furniture industries. Notice how little of the magenta remains!

Notice how much of the top four categories (blue spectrum colours) take out the Special Timbers Zone! They have got to be joking!

How can we have a long-term industry of great cultural significance based around scraps like that?

How did the agreement between the Prime Minister and the Tasmanian Premier and the promise they made on timber supply get reduced to such a disgraceful level?

How successful was the corruption and the nepotism of the Verification process, and how was it allowed to occur?

How disgusting was the spectacle of the late night peace deal in November 2012, and the late night sitting of the Tasmanian House of Assembly twenty four hours later, with the Bill being rammed through the following morning, and the Legislative Council being recalled the following day with the expectation it would rubber stamp the decision?

This is a tragedy.

This is why I took the decision to add my voice to the protest against the nomination of the 170,000 hectare extension to the World Heritage Area, and the manner in which it was done. So much of the area in the nomination is made up of the Special Timbers Zone, and so little understanding or regard was shown to the economic impact on the state or the arts-based Special Timbers manufacturing sector. This is an affront to the people of Tasmania, and to the Parliament of Tasmania, and to the Legislative Council in particular.

I note that within an hour and a half of the media release on Tuesday, March 12, outlining the letters of objection to the World Heritage Committee in Paris, Senator Christine Milne was on local radio berating the objections and the people making them. It seems, to her way of thinking, that democracy should be available to some, but not us all. Christine Milne and her associates insist on being able to engage in protests, demonstrations and workplace disruptions, many of them illegal and with severe consequences of loss, including to innocent people going about their lawful business, but when some of us take up our right to post a letter of objection in a respectful manner, we incur her grizzling wrath.

Get used to it, Christine, there is going to be lots more of it!