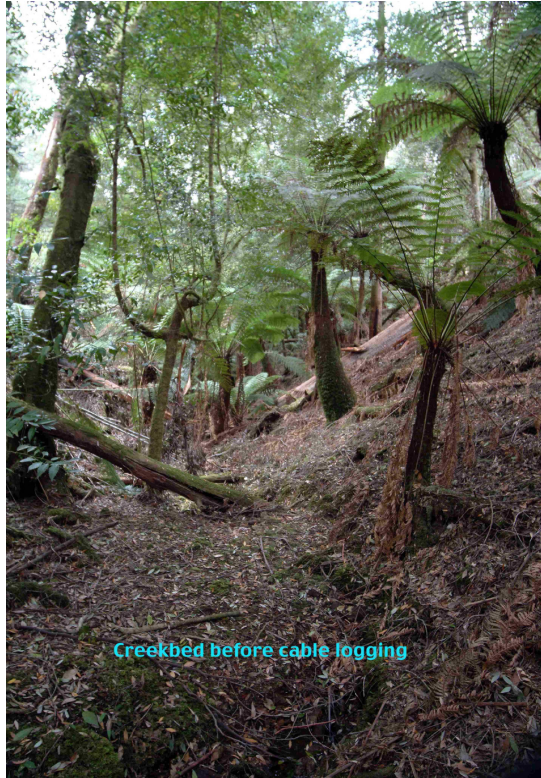


# Sustainability in Tasmania's Forest Industry Explained

words by Graham Wilkinson Chief Forest Practices Officer of what was then the Forest Practices Board (written Nov 2004).

Presented by Pete Godfrey for the information of the Tasmanian People.



Dazzler Ranges 2004. Cable harvested coupe, the Forest Practices Plan stated that Skyline harvesting should be used with full lift required so that riparian vegetation would not be destroyed.

Sustainability is not defined in the Forest Practices Act or Code. The Board takes the approach that operations are environmentally sustainable, when on the balance of probability, regional environmental values are not significantly affected or destroyed in the longer term. Therefore off-coupe management is as significant as in-coupe operations, hence the application of wildlife habitat strips, dispersed harvesting and other reserves.

Within the coupe, operations may cause short to medium term impact but in the longer term (which may involve >100years) the values are "sustained". Therefore, impacts such as damage to streamside vegetation on some minor streams, as occurred in this operation, may be regarded as acceptable provided the vegetation will recover over time and that sedimentation is not significantly increased. It is the opinion of the Board that in the Dazzler operation, environmental values associated with the streams have not been significantly impacted in the long-term. Sedimentation and erosion is minimal (see attached report) and vegetation is likely to recover relatively quickly. While damage to vegetation was not as desired under the Forest Practices Plan, the Board maintains the right to apply discretion with the way it deals with these issues. Often fines are imposed for unacceptable forest practices but such action was not deemed necessary in this case.