

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition No. PET21/15HA House of Assembly

The petitioner of residents of Tasmania draws to the attention of the House:

- The forest in coupe FN005C is known the Franklin and wider Huon Valley community as 'Castle Forbes Forest'. This forest contains significant ecological values that would be lost as a result of the scheduled clear-felling.
- Its tall old-growth eucalyptus trees bear hollows that are core habitat for threatened species such as the masked owl and swift parrot. Two Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles nests sit a few hundred metres from the forest, and are vulnerable to clearing disturbances. The forest has old enormous leatherwood trees. The continued destruction of forests like Castle Forbes Forest is continuing to the decline of our threatened species.
- The Huon Valley community values Castle Forbes Forest for the exceptional enrichment it affords us and our children, we value the opportunity to walk through an ancient ecosystem so close to our homes, which support such a diversity of life.
- The planned forest clear-felling and regrowth operations will make our local environment more flammable. Converting tall, moisture holding wet forests to sparse, flammable regrowth so close to our homes and town is alarming. Particularly following the fires that drew so near in 2019, those in leadership roles should do all they can to protect communities from increasing the risk of bushfire.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to call on the Government to facilitate the removal of the Castle Forbes Forest from the Permanent Timber Production Zone, or otherwise permanently exclude it from logging operations.

RESPONSE:

- The Tasmanian Government supports our renewable, sustainable native forestry industry.
- While plantations are now the source of the majority of Tasmania's forest products, plantation timber alone cannot provide the full range products or meet current market demand.
- When timber is harvested from Tasmania's native forests it is done so in a sustainable way, in accordance with our world-class forest practices system.
- The Tasmanian Government is committed to the long-term sustainable management of our forests for the benefit of all Tasmanians.
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania annually publishes a Three-Year Wood Production Plan to the public. The plan identifies forest coupes intended for harvest over the next three years. Updated information on these plans is readily available for the public to view on Sustainable Timber Tasmania's website.
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania advise that the specific Franklin forest coupe (FN005C) was removed from the 2021/22 to 2023/24 Three Year Wood Production Plan in July 2021.
- This removal will allow Sustainable Timber Tasmania's operational planning team time to review its options for the management of various special values within the coupe. It also allows its operational planning team time to consider and review any information which has been submitted about FN005C by stakeholders and the community as part of Sustainable Timber Tasmania's stakeholder engagement process.
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania has confirmed that it is not conducting harvesting operations at FN005C in the foreseeable future and this coupe will not be included in the Three-Year Wood Production Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25, to be released to the public in July 2022.



Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Resources

Date: 8/3/22