

How do we make the RFA acceptable to most Tasmanians?

- Ensure the original intent of the RFA agreement is fully enforced by managing our forests according to Environmentally Sustainable Forestry Management principles i.e. harvest at a rate that can be maintained forever without loss of species or quality and without causing significant harm to the environment.
- Manage our timber production in native forests by focusing on high quality sawlog and veneer rather than woodchips and re-growth veneer.
- Recognise that we need to focus on high quality timber species that are unique to Tasmania.
- Comply with all the obligations made by the RFA.

Obligations made by the RFA that are currently not being honoured:

- i) “Recognise that priority species may change and that new or altered management prescriptions may be needed in the term of this agreement”.
 - New information conclusively proves that conversion forestry causes up to 50% less water run off for up to 40 years plus a significant lowering of the water table.
 - Young Eucalypt forests are far more vulnerable to catastrophic fires than old growth forests.
 - Clear fell and burn is not a natural process.
- ii) “Enhancing the future growth and development of Tasmania’s future industries... certainly of resource access to the forests”.
 - We need an industry that manages all native forests to accommodate the needs of beekeepers, boat builders, furniture makers etc
- iii) “Applying flexible Silva Cultural systems on public land to promote the sustainable production of long rotation speciality timbers.”
- iv) “Implementing as a high priority the mechanism for improving the transparency and independence of the Forest Practices Board”.
 - We need a fully independent board that complies with the same environmental and planning laws as the rest of Tasmania.
- v) “Undertake a review of sustainable high quality sawlog supply levels.”
 - This has not been carried out on Celery Top Pine, one of the finest boat building timbers in the world. Forestry Tasmania does not intend to carry out an audit on this important species of timber.
- vi) “Maximising the recovery of special species timber...from all harvested forests.”
 - The wastage in current clearfelling operations is one of the main reasons for widespread public condemnation of the Forest industry.

In the Huon district, by 2010, virtually all the high quality old growth in economically accessible multiple use forests will have been destroyed.

We need to reduce the influence of the wood chipping industry. Million of dollars are spent each year on “spin” to promote the status quo to the detriment of future generations of Tasmanians

It is possible to have site specific, low impact selective harvesting in mature mixed forests that is safe and economically profitable. Reform of the forestry industry could be achieved if enough motivated Tasmanians demanded a change.