

Tasmanian Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy Review

The considerations that are important to NRM South in the review of the Tasmanian Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy include:

- Retainment of this policy, as it plays an important guiding role in maintaining State-wide forest cover in Tasmania, along with maintenance of diversity of forest communities in each IBRA bioregion.
- Maintenance of the current thresholds in relation to overall forest area and forest communities as stated in the December 2014 policy update.
- No extension to the halt to broad scale clearance on private land beyond January 2016. We would prefer to see an emphasis on the improvement of productivity and land use diversification of already cleared and converted land, unless considerable community social and economic benefit can be demonstrated. This fits within the implementation of the current policy, even with the halt to broad scale clearance on private land.
- Considerations of how off-shore islands could have an increase to the forest area thresholds where feasible. A threshold 30% of original cover may be necessary on islands that have already undergone extensive clearing, however this threshold is too low for all off-shore islands, many of which support high levels of biodiversity.

Specific comments:

- Check the reference to clause 4.8 in the secured actions page 7. Looks like a clause has been removed and the number has not been adjusted.
- Clarity on the definition of “expert opinion” clause 6.3 would be useful.