



tasmanian conservation trust inc

## **Media Release**

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### **Protection of forests on private land critical to forestry deal - native forest logging ban questioned**

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust today called for the protection of biodiversity-rich private forests to be made the top priority in discussions over the future of Tasmania's forestry industry and questioned moves toward a total ban on logging in native forests.

"To date, private land has been totally ignored and yet private forests harbour the vast majority of our unprotected threatened species habitats, threatened forest communities and freshwater ecosystems," said TCT Director Peter McGlone.

"Many threatened species and forest communities only survive on private land or have most of their remaining habitat on private land. The survival of these species and communities is dependent on protection of forests on private land.

"The habitat of oldgrowth dependent endangered species such as the swift parrot and masked owl is found mainly on private land. Government figures show that 47% of all habitat for the swift parrot is on private land and less than 12% on State Forest."

There are many threatened forest communities which are poorly reserved and all or most unreserved examples are on private land. A few examples are:

- Grassy viminalis forest: 7% reserved, 91% on private land
- Eucalyptus ovata forest: 23% reserved, 76% on private land
- Inland amygdalina forest: 22% reserved, 78% on private land
- Wet viminalis forest: 28% reserved, 62% on private land

"The TCT acknowledges that considerable areas of Tasmania's public forests deserve reservation to protect world heritage values and as carbon stores, but private forests are far more important for forest biodiversity.

"Not only does the conservation value of private forests need to be recognized but governments, conservation groups and the forest industry must stop ignoring the thousands of people who own private forests and the organizations with experience in protecting private land.

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“The approach taken with private land owners and the strategies needed to conserve forests on private land are very different. Who manages protected forests is critical – in most cases, on private land, the current owner will be the best manager.

“If we force reservation on private land owners they will not want to manage these areas for conservation. Incentive payments will need to be offered and continued access to forest resources as an income source will need to be part of the deal.

“The TCT wants to see a reformed forest industry where logging is excluded from all forests of high conservation value on public and private land and logging allowed in native forests only where Forest Stewardship Council certifies logging practices as responsible and best practice.

“Moves toward a total ban on logging in native forests are difficult to justify and threatens the potential to protect the most important areas of forest.”

**Further information:**

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