



Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.
102 Bathurst Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6234 3552
Fax: 03 6231 2491
Email: tct@southcom.com.au
www.tct.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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Forest Practices System fails to protect biodiversity

The release of the annual report for Tasmania's forest practice system has highlighted how Tasmania's much lauded forest practices system is still failing to protect threatened forest communities.

The Forest Practices Authority openly admits in the report that "high levels of conversion [of some threatened forest communities] have potentially long-term ramifications for the maintenance of regional biodiversity" (page 23, FPA annual report).

TCT Director Craig Woodfield said today that this underscores the findings of the Supreme Court in the recent Weilangta case that forestry operations in Tasmania are not protecting biodiversity.

"It is a damning indictment on the forest industry in Tasmania that their own watchdog is moved to express concern about the impacts on Tasmania's unique biodiversity."

The report shows that there are more than 20 regional forest communities that have suffered extensive clearing since 1996, some as much as 50% in 10 years.

"It comes as no surprise that the community at the Meander Dam site is one of the most heavily cleared of regional forest communities, with over 40% having been lost since 1996. And yet the State Government still sought to clear this community, and the FPA still gave them permission. There is something very badly wrong with this system."

Call Craig Woodfield on 6234 3552 or 0417 160 751 for additional comment