

Dear Steve

Today's signing of the Conservation Agreement provides certainty to Forestry Tasmania, our employees, contractors and customers, while the independent verification of ENGO proposed high conservation value forests continues under the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement.

The Board of Forestry Tasmania decided that I should sign the Agreement after being satisfied that FT would still be in a position to meet its legal, contractual, fiduciary and environmental obligations.

Importantly, Forestry Tasmania will be able to maintain supply to sawmills and processors, protecting those businesses and their employees.

Hopefully, the Agreement will provide clarification and reassurance to international markets, which have been subjected to attack from green groups.

The Conservation Agreement confirms our previous advice that harvesting in a number of coupes within the 430,000 hectares will be required during the independent verification process, if we are to continue to honour our legally enforceable wood supply agreements.

However, Forestry Tasmania had previously estimated that it would require 10 to 15 coupes per month within the 430,000 hectares. When the Conservation Agreement was extended from beyond December to June 30, that meant there would have been 60 additional coupes required. Through the hard work of FT planners, we have managed to reduce that to 12 - or three a month.

In total, these coupes represent less than half of one per cent of the total area identified for interim protection.

We believe the Agreement is an equitable outcome for all stakeholders. It provides a clear 'road map' that allows all signatories to move forward during this period.

[Conservation Agreement](#)
[Acting Premier's media statement](#)
[Tony Burke's media statement](#)

This week saw the fifth anniversary of the tragic loss of one of our young colleagues, Tom Orr, in the east coast fires of 2007. Tom was a popular member of the Bass District team who was killed after being hit by a falling tree while firefighting.

He was remembered this week in a commemoration at the Tom Orr Memorial Grove, close to where he lost his life, and by an award for career development named in his honour. [Read more.](#)

In other news, German-owned, UK-based energy company RWE npower has announced the Tilbury power station, which will be Britain's largest biomass plant, will commence operations by the end of this month.

[Read more.](#)

Next month we'll be opening the doors to Forestry Tasmania's head office in Hobart again for more school holiday fun.

Nick and Andrew, the hosts of our television series Going Bush will be giving a sneak preview of the next series along with the usual favourites like abseiling and face painting.

Many of our scientists will be on hand for the educational side of things, explaining how forests regenerate, giving hands on experience with fire fighting skills, measuring trees and carbon footprints and looking at forest insects. The hotdogs and billy tea are making a welcome comeback so drop by with or without the kids. [Read more.](#)

And finally, one for the diary: our next [Forestry Talk](#) is at 1:00pm 18 January 2012, at the National Forest Learning Centre, 79 Melville Street, Hobart. In a departure from our usual focus on forest science, we will host a presentation about the Young Irishman, Thomas Francis Meagher, who was exiled to Van Diemen's Land following the Irish nationalist uprising in 1848.

Until next time,
Bob Gordon

Managing Director
Forestry Tasmania