



NEW LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THREATENED NATIVE VEGETATION

The Tasmanian Government has introduced legislation to improve the protection of threatened native vegetation. Measures to protect threatened forest types have been in place since 2002 and protection is now extended to include other threatened vegetation types, such as wetlands and high altitude native grasslands.

Threatened native vegetation includes plant communities that are naturally rare and communities that were once more widespread but are now significantly depleted because of clearing over the last two hundred years. These communities have been scientifically assessed for listing as threatened native vegetation under the Nature Conservation Act. Provisions to protect threatened native vegetation are laid down in the Forest Practices Act.

The new legislation takes effect on 30th April 2007

Further information:

Forest Practices Authority – phone 62337966, www.fpa.tas.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries and Water – phone 62332802, www.dpiw.tas.gov.au

Legislation – www.thelaw.tas.gov.au

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION

1. The legislation protects *threatened native vegetation* from *clearance and conversion*.
2. The legislation does not affect the existing use of land or routine management activities such as grazing, harvesting and fire management activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What vegetation types are affected?

Threatened native vegetation communities are listed below. Information leaflets to assist land managers with the identification and management of threatened native vegetation are available from the Forest Practices Authority.

2. What does “clearance and conversion” mean?

The term “clearance and conversion” means the deliberate removal of native vegetation, and its replacement with introduced vegetation or other material permanently or in the long term. There are no new restrictions on existing land management practices such as harvesting, slashing, ploughing, burning and grazing within threatened native vegetation provided that the essential character of the vegetation is maintained and not converted to other land uses such as crops or plantations.

3. When are approvals needed?

The normal requirements for a forest practices plan apply to any harvesting or clearing of trees

(refer to the Forest Practices Regulations 2007). Other clearing and land management activities do not require approval under the Forest Practices Act unless they relate to the clearing and conversion of threatened native vegetation, which is prohibited other than in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Forest Practices Authority.

4. Are there any exemptions?

The legislation does not affect any clearing works that are necessary to maintain existing infrastructure such as roads, fences, buildings and drainage channels. In addition, the construction of public roads, dams and power lines (by authorized electricity bodies) is exempt. Other exemptions apply to land that is covered by vegetation management agreements, conservation covenants and fire management plans (see the Forest Practices Regulations 2007).

5. Is approval needed to clear regrowth on previously cleared and converted land?

Approval is not required to clear regrowth on previously cleared and converted land, which is defined as land that has not contained trees or threatened native vegetation for a period of at least 5 years since 1985 and where the regrowth does not contain more than 20 eucalypts more than 2 metres in height within any 0.5 ha area.

6. Is harvesting allowed in threatened forest types?

Harvesting can take place in threatened forest types as long as the forest is regenerated to maintain the same forest type into the future. A certified forest

practices plan is required for any harvesting of trees.

7. Is there any compensation available for land owners who cannot clear and convert threatened native vegetation?

Where an application for a forest practices plan to clear and convert threatened native vegetation is refused by the Forest Practices Authority, the affected landowner may apply for compensation. The Nature Conservation Act sets out the processes and criteria for compensation.

Threatened native vegetation communities

Allocasuarina littoralis forest (Bull Oak forest)
Pencil Pine / Deciduous beech short rainforest
Pencil Pine open woodland
Pencil Pine rainforest
King Billy Pine / Deciduous beech short rainforest
King Billy Pine rainforest
Banksia serrata woodland
Oyster Bay Pine forest
Eucalyptus amygdalina forest and woodland on sandstone
Eucalyptus amygdalina inland forest & woodland Cainozoic deposits
Eucalyptus brookeriana wet forest
Eucalyptus globulus dry forest and woodland
Eucalyptus globulus King Island forest
Eucalyptus morrisbyi forest and woodland
Eucalyptus ovata forest and woodland
Eucalyptus risdonii forest and woodland
Eucalyptus tenuiramis forest and woodland on sediments
Eucalyptus viminalis – *E. globulus* coastal forest and woodland
Eucalyptus viminalis Furneaux forest and woodland
Eucalyptus viminalis wet forest
Melaleuca ericifolia swamp forest
Notelaea - *Pomaderris* - *Beyeria* forest
Subalpine *Leptospermum nitidum* woodland
King Billy Pine subalpine scrub
Banksia marginata wet scrub
Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo
Melaleuca pustulata scrub
Riparian scrub
Rainforest fernland
Seabird rookery complex
Highland *Poa* grassland
Alkaline pans
Cushion moorland
Highland grassy sedgeland
Subalpine *Diplarrena latifolia* rushland
Coastal complex on King Island
Heathland on calcarenite
Sphagnum peatland
Wetlands