

## **SOUTHERN RFA RESERVE OPTIONS - REFER TO MAP 4**

### **SOUTH COAST SUB-REGION 55,000 M<sup>3</sup> OF HIGH QUALITY LARGE LOGS PER ANNUM**

This option focuses on meeting the JANIS conservation targets and reserve design criteria to the extent possible while providing a deliverable yield of 55,000 m<sup>3</sup> per annum of high quality large sawlogs for 20 years, and at least 45,000m<sup>3</sup> per annum thereafter. Key aspects of the option are outlined below.

- The addition of 148,500ha to the dedicated reserve system and 62,000ha of informal reserve and areas reserved by prescription.
- The establishment of a continuous 350km north-south reserve along the escarpment from the Victorian border to south of Macquarie Pass with two links through hinterland forests to the coastal and near coast parks.
- Limited reservation of Monga State Forest.
- Partial reservation of northern Tallaganda State Forest.
- The reservation of Deua Wilderness (provisionally identified) with partial reservation of the upper catchment of the Deua River.
- The reservation of most public land in the catchments of Burrill, Tabourie, Termeil and Meroo Lakes, and the establishment of east-west links to Morton National Park.
- Partial reservation of Kioloa State Forest east of the Princes Highway.
- The establishment of a limited east-west link from Conjola State Forest to Morton National Park.
- The reservation of part of Bodalla State Forest (including Dignams Creek) and part of Wandella State Forest and the establishment of a limited east-west link with Wadbilliga National Park.
- The reservation of a number of small areas of Crown land around Nowra and on the tablelands.
- The establishment of seven new Crown reserves for conservation management by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and which allow for some exploration and potential mining.
- Additional protection of conservation values through the development of prescriptions for application in harvesting operations on State forest through an Integrated Forestry Operations Approval.
- The zoning of selected areas of State forest as informal conservation reserve under the SFNSW Forest Management Zoning system.
- A deliverable annual yield of 55,000 m<sup>3</sup> of large, high quality sawlogs for 20 years and at least 45,000 m<sup>3</sup> per annum thereafter.
- A gross value of output for hardwood timber mills of \$22.2m to \$25.4m.
- Direct employment within the hardwood timber industry of between 244-250 people
- A flow-on to the region's economy of \$6.6m from this level of wood supply.<sup>1</sup>

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Wood supply implications**

The main wood supply implications of this option are:

- the species composition of the large high quality sawlog supply for the important commercial species in the 0-20 year period is 40% Spotted Gum, 13% Brown Barrel, 11% Blackbutt and 5% Yellow Stringybark;
- in the 0-20 year period, the yield of high quality large sawlog from the net harvest area is 0.5m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr, a 15% reduction from the yield produced by the net harvest area in the current State Forest tenure; and
- An area of 4,916ha (16%) of the silviculturally treated forest<sup>2</sup> that occurs on the existing State forest is reserved and excluded from timber production.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure includes the estimated changes associated with the direct impacts in the timber industry at this level of wood supply.

<sup>2</sup> Silviculturally treated areas of State forest are areas in which significant silvicultural work such as timber stand improvement and forest regeneration treatments (ringbarking, culling, tractor disturbance, sowing, plantation) has been carried out to enhance sawlog productive capacity. The resultant areas are characterised by mature to young stands which are relatively even-aged, have a low level of tree defect and are growing vigorously due to limited competition from larger trees that are not of high sawlog quality. They are stands that carry or have the potential to carry high volumes of high quality sawlog.

## **Environment and heritage implications**

The tables included in the information kit provide detailed information on levels of protection for environment and heritage values in this option. In summary, this option:

- meets the achievable targets on available public land in dedicated reserves for 60 forest ecosystems (61% of the targets) and for 29 old growth forest ecosystems (52% of the targets). Targets for a further six forest ecosystems and a further four old growth forest ecosystems are met in informal reserves and areas reserved by prescription;
- meets the achievable targets on available public land in dedicated reserves for 80 priority fauna species (68% of the targets) and for 58 priority flora species (67% of the targets). Targets for a further three priority fauna species and a further four priority flora species are met in informal reserves and areas reserved by prescription; and
- reserves 87.7 % of NW1 $\geq$ 12 in the South Coast sub-region. Areas provisionally identified as wilderness will be considered for identification under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987. Identified wilderness may be declared under the Act and added to existing wilderness areas in the region following a separate wilderness consultation process. All areas of provisionally identified wilderness on public land are reserved.

Key natural national estate outcomes are enhanced reservation of:

- a number of existing natural national estate places; especially the Mongarlowe and Buckenbowra Rivers National Estate Place through reservation of Buckenbowra State Forest;
- national estate values, including successional stages, national estate flora and fauna values and natural landscape values through reserve additions such as some coastal escarpment links and a link between Deua and Budawang National Parks and additions in Wandella, Bodalla, Conjola, Meryla, Wingello, Yadbora and Tallaganda State Forests; and
- Crown land in the Hawkesbury sandstone region.

## **Economic and social implications**

The supply of 55,000m<sup>3</sup> of high quality large sawlogs per annum for 20 years would have the following implications for the timber industry and communities in the South Coast sub-region.

- Direct hardwood timber milling employment would increase from 164 people in 1998/99 to between 195 and 200. Employment in the harvesting and haulage sector would rise by eight people. This represents a total increase in direct employment in the hardwood industry of 38 to 44 people.
- The gross value of output from the hardwood industry (including timber processed from private property) would total \$22.2m to \$25.4m, an increase of approximately \$4.1m to \$7.3m.
- All existing mills would remain in operation above current production levels. Harvesting and haulage activity would also increase.
- As a result of flow-on effects associated with timber industry activity on the South Coast, employment in the sub-region would increase by approximately 69 people and the total value of gross output for the sub-region would be \$3,338.6m, an increase of \$6.6m compared to 1998/99.
- This option would provide impetus for industry investment as a result of both enhanced certainty and increased wood supply. Flow-on effects associated with increased employment in the hardwood industry are predicted to occur mostly in the communities and hinterlands of Nowra and Narooma.