

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FOR SUBMISSION TO STATE PLANNING PROVISIONS.

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- The new Statewide Planning Scheme proposes to allow development to be approved in National Parks and other public Conservation Area lands without any opportunity for Local Councils to refuse development applications or for the public to have any input or object. This is clearly unacceptable from both an ecological point of view as well as failing the due process test which underpins democratic societies.

NATURAL ASSETS CODE

- The new Code recommends that as long as a certified Forest Practices Plan is approved then land clearing or forestry activities on private land cannot be refused by the local Council or objected to by the community. Again the public is being shut out of the planning process and instead there is an extension of a self-regulatory approach which has a long track record of compliance failure and environmental damage in Tasmania.
- The Natural Assets Code limits its consideration of biodiversity protection/management to threatened flora and fauna species and threatened ecological communities. This is totally inadequate as conservation science has long recognised that habitat loss and fragmentation (whether for common or threatened species) is a key threat to biodiversity health, integrity and function. As such a Natural Assets Code (which should be called a Biodiversity Code) needs to provide a framework which is holistic, cross tenure and seeks to protect, maintain and restore ecological processes across Tasmania.
- Following on from the previous point, the Code includes a number of exemptions, which in conjunction with limiting assessments to threatened species/communities mean that ecologically sustainable planning outcomes cannot be achieved.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ZONE

- Support the intent of this Zone which is to strengthen protection of nature conservation values in the Zone.