

TASMANIAN CONSERVATION TRUST

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:06 PM
To: PFT - Admin <admin@pft.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2023

Submission to the Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2023

Thank you for making available the Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2023 for public submissions.

The TCT has read the Explanatory Fact Sheet and considers most of the proposed changes to be minor and not of concern and probably slight improvements.

However the first proposed amendment 'Providing a more steam line process for minor boundary extensions to private timber reserves' does present some problems. Unless a better approach can be put forward the TCT recommends that these changes be removed from the bill that is tabled in parliament.

Firstly, in addition to the criteria recommended to be included in a definition of minor boundary extensions, the TCT recommends that there be strict limits put on how many minor extensions can be considered before the full process is to be followed, as if it were a new PTR being considered. Perhaps there could be a limit of only one minor extension each five years by a property owner.

With the definition of a minor boundary extension to PFR, a maximum of 50 hectares is too high and the figure should be 20 hectares.

It is proposed that there be no public notification, opportunity for objections and appeals for minor extensions.

The TCT is always reluctant to limit appeal rights or public notification and recommends that the current rights be retained for a minor extension as well as for a new PTR. Even though an extension may be minor in proportion or area it could still present significant problems including for neighbours. For example a neighbour may believe that a proposed minor extension would come within 50 metres of their property (contrary to the FPA and proponent) and have some potential impacts that concern them. Without automatic public notification the neighbour may not find out. Without appeal rights the neighbour may find out and want to raise concerns but have no recourse. Perhaps they could go to the Supreme Court to seek relief but this seems a severe demand on the neighbour. Having the tribunal as a way to resolve disputes of this kind is sensible and should be retained.

[REDACTED]
Tasmanian Conservation Trust

Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc
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