

ATTACHMENT A

Case Study of the Weld Valley

There have been concerns raised by NGOs about the recent construction of the North Weld Road in southern Tasmania. The North Weld Road is a small (1.4 km) extension of an existing road system in the lower Weld Valley. Most forest roads in this area were built in the 1970s, prior to the World Heritage listing. Some of these roads are located within a short distance of the property boundary. The new North Weld Road has been constructed for minimal visual impact from the property and is no closer to the TWWHA than existing forest roads and intensive forestry operations.

The following case study and map relates to the management of State forest within the Weld River catchment.

CASE STUDY: Management of State forest in the lower Weld Valley

The map overleaf shows the location of the Weld Valley in the Tasmanian context, from a catchment perspective, much of which is inside the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage property, and then details forestry operations that have already occurred or are planned outside the property.

Mineral prospectors constructed the first vehicular tracks in the lower Weld Valley. Roding for forestry purposes commenced in the late 1970s with the construction of the South Weld Road. Some 12 coupes have been logged and regenerated, using clearfell, burn and sow silviculture, since 1982. The 1989 nomination extended the property boundary eastwards so that it became almost adjacent to the South Weld Road. The extension resulted in 82 per cent of the Weld River catchment being reserved in the TWWHA.

In the mid 1990s, the State forest adjacent to the enlarged property was zoned for special timbers management, shown in purple as Special Timber Management Zones (STMUs) on the attached map. The purpose of STMUs is to contribute ongoing supplies of special timbers for the Tasmanian design and craft industry and leatherwood nectar for the beekeeping industry. The TCFA provided funds to build the North Weld Road and Barnback Road extension in 2006-2007 to access the lower Weld STMUs. These areas will be managed using selective logging techniques and rotations of around 200 years.

