

Regional Forest Agreements: Getting the balance right

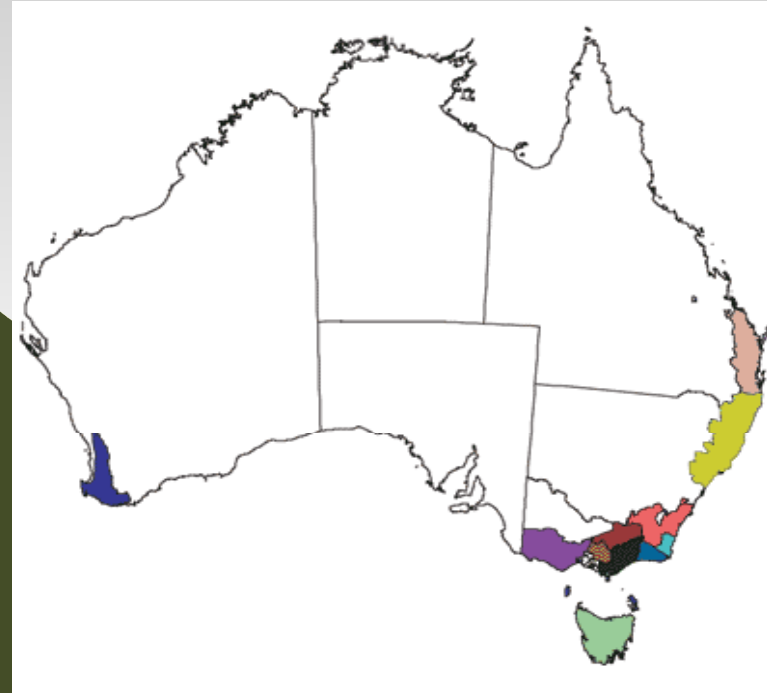
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Regional Forest Agreements

- ◎ Purpose
- ◎ Outcomes
- ◎ Issues
- ◎ Where to from here?



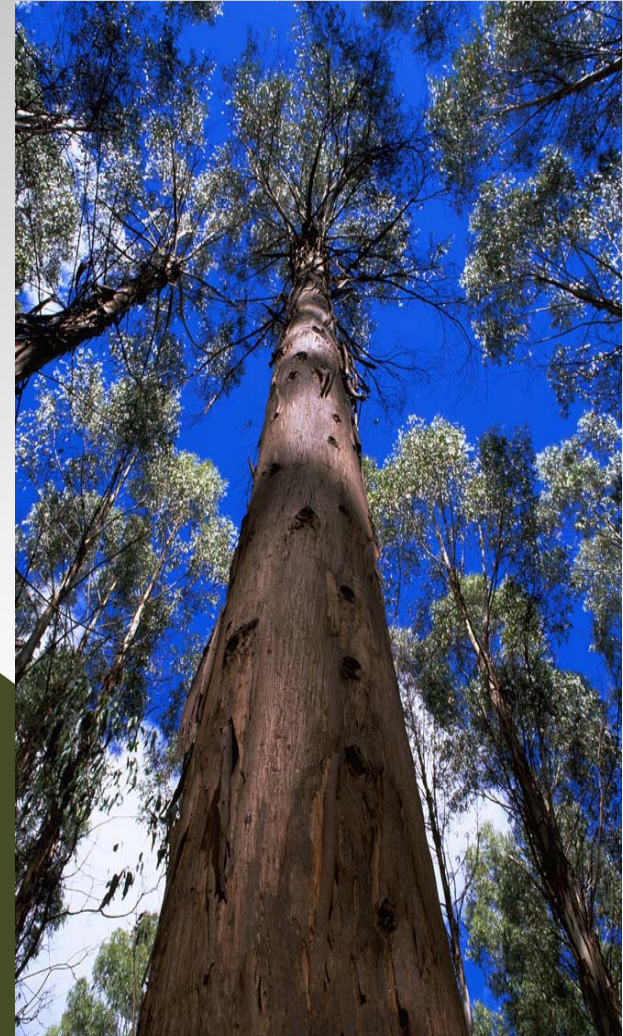
Purpose



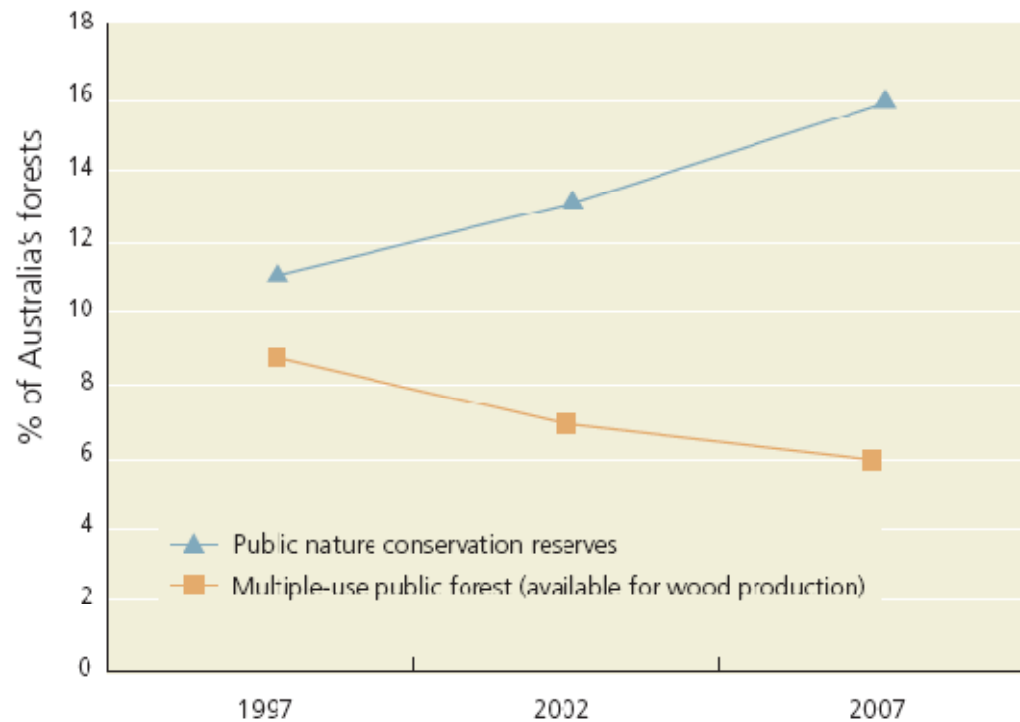
- Key element of National Forest Policy Statement (1992)
- Resolve native forest use conflicts
- Provide for conservation and production outcomes
- Provide certainty for industry
- Commonwealth-State 20 year agreements

Outcomes

- Comprehensive regional assessments
- 10 RFAs across four states
- World class (CAR) forest reserve system
- Accredited practices in multiple-use forests
- Planning recognition for forestry operations (e.g. EPBC Act)



Increase in forest reserves



Increases in IUCN reserves from 11% (1998) to 16% (2008)

Over 11 million hectares added to reserves

Reduced area of multiple-use forest

Issues

- Reduced production forest base
 - future wood supply (quantity and quality)
 - sovereign risk from unilateral decisions
- Progress with RFA 5 yearly reviews (Hawke inquiry)
- Nearing end of current RFAs
- Climate change and investment environment



Where to from here?

- ◉ Commitment from Governments to RFAs
- ◉ Plan now for the future
 - > nature of new arrangements (e.g. rolling agreements)
 - > strategic wood resource assessments
 - > industry development plans and options
- ◉ Address broader RFA management
 - > performance across all tenures (reserved forests)
 - > landscape approach to fire management