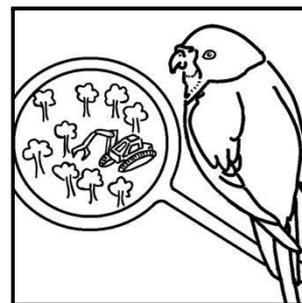


# Forestry Watch Survey Report

Coupe Number: TN062A

Location: Styx Rd, Near Maydena

Date: 20/06/2020



## Coupe Snapshot:

<b>Size:</b>	35 ha	<b>Year to be logged*:</b>	2020
<b>Harvest method:</b>	Clearfell		
<b>Natural Values:</b>	Old-growth, masked owl habitat, numerous hollow-bearing trees, high carbon storage capacity.		

## Introduction

Forestry Watch conducted a citizen science survey of coupe TN062A on the 20th June, 2020. This coupe was selected by the team due to its high percentage of old-growth and the potential for good quality habitat.

## Vegetation

TN062A is listed as *Eucalyptus regnans* wet forest by TASVEG 3.0. The survey team confirmed this vegetation type and also found *E. obliqua* to be present.

The coupe/part of the coupe has no evidence of past human disturbance, indicating old growth forest.

## Survey findings:

- Old growth forests, with high carbon storage potential
- High quality masked owl habitat
- High quality habitat present for a variety of other threatened and non-threatened species
- High density of fallen trees providing habitat and stored carbon

## Density of Large Habitat Trees

Density of Large Habitat Trees >150cm diameter	Density of Medium Habitat Trees 150cm>100cm diameter	Density of Large Logs >100cm diameter
25 per ha	30 per ha	20 per ha

## Conclusion:

Our survey shows that the forests within this coupe contains excellent habitat for masked owls. This is due to the presence of large old-growth trees, which contained numerous hollows. These large



Figure 1. Maps display location forestry coupe TN062L in southern Tasmania. Polygon sourced from Sustainable Timbers Tasmania.

old-growth trees are also of very low economic value as most of them are very old and in slow decay. These large trees also store significant amount of carbon. Forestry Watch recommends that these forests are protected in order to protect wildlife and the large volume of stored carbon within this forest.

#### Previous findings:

- A search of the Natural Values Atlas, a state government database which records threatened species information, has found the following threatened species to occur within 5km, there are verified records of threatened species:
  - Yellow riceflower
  - Narrowleaf westringia
  - grey goshawk
  - Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle
  - White-throated needletail
  - swift parrot
  - eastern barred bandicoot
  - Tasmanian devil

There are also 7 recorded Wedge-tailed eagle nests within 5km of the coupe.

#### Information on selected nationally-listed threatened species:

*Swift Parrot*, **Critically Endangered** (EPBC Act 1999)

The biggest threat to Swift Parrots is habitat destruction. Ideal nesting habitat is mature hollow bearing trees within 10 kilometres of flowering *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian Blue Gum) or *Eucalyptus ovata* (Black Gum). High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots is considered to have more than 15 trees over 100 cm diameter per hectare or 8 trees over 150cm.

*Wedgetail eagle* **Endangered** (EPBC Act 1999)

The Tasmanian population of wedge-tailed eagles is less than 1000 birds. The nest in large patches of mature forests, and loss of nesting habitat is one of their major threats. Breeding pairs are also highly susceptible to disturbance during the nesting season.

*Tasmanian Devil* (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), **Endangered** (EPBC Act 1999)

The Tasmanian Devil have large ranges which span over several square kilometres. Old-growth forests provide important habitat for denning, which includes hollow logs and dense vegetation. Logging native forests can destroy dens or potential denning habitat.

*White-throated needletail* **Vulnerable** (EPBC Act 1999)

The White-throated needletail is a migratory bird that travels from Asia to Australia during the summer months for feeding. The needletail requires large trees for roosting.

#### Old growth and carbon storage

Old growth is defined as 'Ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances are now negligible'. Old-growth *Eucalypts regnans* forests are the most carbon dense forests in the world. Large, old trees still grow in width and draw down more carbon than younger trees. Logging of old growth followed by intensive harvesting cycles causes the release of carbon stored in forest soils in a process that continues centuries after initial logging.

If you would like more information about the methodology used in this survey, would like to use the data, or have any general questions, please contact us. If you would like to join one of our surveys, please send us an email or keep an eye out for events on our facebook page.

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