Restoring and reviving Tasmania’s landscape, for the benefit of our unique and bio-diverse island ecosystems, our flora and fauna, for Tasmanians and visitors, now and for the future.

Environment Tasmania has engaged on a series of major initiatives through our Living Landscape program. Since 2013, we have restored previously logged forests and former plantation sites, and built and repaired walking tracks through areas of outstanding natural significance.

Our vision is of a Tasmania with sustainably managed ecosystems in which people, visitors, native species and nature coexist successfully – a living landscape in every sense.

We invite you to join us in achieving our vision.
Our wild places

We have set about reviving the health, integrity, diversity and beauty of Tasmania’s exceptional ecosystems in a series of carefully planned initiatives.

In the Styx, Florentine, Picton and far south of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, we are restoring the tall eucalypt forests. At Skyline Tier, we have begun restoring the former pine plantation overlooking our magnificent East Coast beaches.

Our Community Forest Walks initiative includes both new short walks and track repairs, providing visitor access to stunning forest and ecologically diverse areas. Our Blue Tier Giant Walk was officially opened in December 2014 after work on both the track design and interpretive signage.

We create partnerships with local caretaker groups, volunteers and paid crews, and with other stakeholders such as Parks & Wildlife. Together, our teams repair walking tracks and create new ones, and help manage the impact of visitors and weed invasions.

Our future plans include the management of threatened species, building healthy populations and ultimately the removal of ‘under threat’ status.

We will also seek to control feral animals and weeds, preventing new incursions and reducing the spread and impact of feral and introduced plants, animals and disease.

Our achievements to date showcase our vision – to turn vulnerable Tasmanian landscapes into places where people and native wildlife can thrive, protected and appreciated.

We believe that creating reserves is not enough. We aim to bring people into Tasmania’s landscapes, in a way which is respectful and sustainable, educating them about her unique ecosystems and exposing them to Tasmania’s unique wilderness and bio-diversity. We seek to encourage communities which are linked with the environment that surrounds them in rich, meaningful and productive ways.
The initiatives in our Living Landscape program, and all landscape restoration work like them, are proven to have outcomes in both the ecosystems and the communities that come within their reach.

Naturally one of our main aims is to restore habitat which is essential for the long term survival of native species, conserving and protecting our natural heritage. We focus on degraded areas within large intact ecosystems, or areas of significant remnant vegetation. We know this is the most effective way to restore bio-diverse landscapes.

On ground conservation work is shown to impact significantly on the well-being, health and prosperity of those in local communities. At Skyline Tier near St Helens, we have directly employed more than eighteen people over the past two years, and provided training and skills in on-ground conservation techniques to more than twenty long-term volunteers.

On our walking track projects we have trained local people Tasmania-wide in track work skills either as volunteers or in a paid capacity. Our Community Forest Walks and Forest Restoration initiatives engage over 150 volunteers every year.

Individuals who have invested their time and effort come to regard themselves as caretakers of the project and the environment in which they work. Our vision is to expand upon this connection. By inviting them to engage in practical activities which have a significant ecological benefit, we increase their sense of ecological literacy.

Ultimately we see this as a pathway to a changed culture in the broader Tasmanian community, a mindset more at ease with nature conservation, and an understanding of its imperative.
Community Forest Walks

Environment Tasmania has project managed walking track projects around the state, funded through the Australian Government’s Caring for Country program. Tracks needed to be in new reserves under the Tasmanian Forests Agreement. Tracks were prioritised on the basis of current (or projected) visitor use and environmental issues such as track erosion.

Our walking track projects include new short walks and track repairs. Our Blue Tier Giant Walk provides visitor access to stunning tall tree forest in the Blue Tier. The new Twisted Sister walking track provides visitors with the opportunity to visit the tall forests of the Florentine. Track work at Higgs and Warners Tracks accessing the Central Plateau, Arm River Track accessing the Overland Track, Halls Falls in the Blue Tier, Lake Skinner and Junee Cave address environmental issues such as track erosion and sustainable visitor use.

Our program has achieved:

- The repair of walking tracks and the establishment of new walking tracks
- The establishment of local groups working in partnership with Parks & Wildlife to manage their local track
- On-site interpretive signage
- Educational activities for local school groups, informing our young people about the management of the natural environment.

Community Forest Walks is part of our vision for world class, sustainable tourism in Tasmania. We want our unique and beautiful natural environment to be enjoyed, understood and appreciated by both visitors and those who live here. The tracks we create invite them into this Living Landscape.

In Community Forest Walks, we work on the repair and building of walking tracks in our special natural places. The pivotal and innovative part of the work is that we train individuals and groups from the local community, giving them a new and valuable skill set, and enabling them to take on the management of these tracks themselves.

We work closely with the land manager Parks and Wildlife to ensure walking track projects are beneficial to local communities and tourism, and respectful of environmental and cultural values. We welcome input on track projects from local communities.

Ultimately, the Community Forest Walks program ensures that tracks are managed to the highest standard achievable. Visitor impact upon the environment is minimal and contained. Tracks are a pleasure and a privilege to walk. And visitors are presented with absorbing and insightful information as they pass through Tasmania’s unique natural and cultural landscapes.
Part of our Living Landscape program has been projects designed to restore Tasmania’s landscapes, including former plantations and logged coupes. We enable these landscapes to return to nature, managing the process carefully and strategically.

Through this initiative, the landscape is revived and conserved for the benefit of our unique flora and fauna, for our resident population and for visitors to our island. This promises to have significant impact upon Tasmania now and for the years to come.

We work with the help of volunteers, environmental groups and employed crews, drawn from local communities. A key part of our mission is encouraging these communities to be the custodians of Tasmania’s natural heritage.

Tasmania’s exceptional natural ecosystems have been exposed to decades of degradation and unsustainable use. Forest Restoration brings together a workforce which restores our island’s unique and special landscapes, and has a regenerative effect upon her communities.

Our work to date has proved what a difference we can make to the Tasmanian natural environment and its world class forests.

**SCOPE AND IMPACT**

We are well on the way to restoring more than 550 hectares of forests, and secured funding from the Australian Government to accomplish this.

This work will have an impact well beyond those 550 hectares, however. We target areas of strategic significance, places which provide wildlife corridors and significant protection for thousands of native species. The specialist ecological restoration we carry out creates safe havens where those extraordinary flora and fauna can once again flourish, and from where they can spread across the Tasmanian landscape with renewed vigour.

A prime example of this reviving of the landscape and its ecology can be found in our Skyline Tier project and its augmentation of the North-East Conservation Corridor.

Our initiatives have incredible reach. They ensure the ecological integrity of rich, diverse and far-reaching areas, and the protection of thousands of native species – the restoration of a Living Landscape on a grand scale.

This work places us, in Tasmania, at the forefront of eco-restoration on the world stage.
LOCATION: Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area including the Styx Valley, Florentine, Hartz Mountains, Picton Valley and the far south

METHODOLOGY: Removal of logging debris by mechanical clearing or ecological burning, direct seeding, transplanting of local seedlings, and follow up weed monitoring

In 2013 we began a major initiative to carefully and strategically manage the ecological restoration of former logged coupes in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Our project vision is to restore and enhance forest values through returning 200 hectares back to tall eucalypt forest. We have worked in close partnership with Forestry Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment to deliver this project.

This project exemplifies forestry restoration on a grand scale, and takes place in an area of global significance.

Our work will sensitively restore the forest ecology by encouraging regrowth of native vegetation in a managed way. Full restoration of these forests will take still take over 100 years.

This is a significant forest restoration project, which will determine the best methods for restoring logged-over coupes to biodiverse native forest. The project will help protect and restore ecological connectivity and biodiversity, restoring the ecology of *Eucalyptus delegatensis* wet forests, and *E. regnans* and *E. obliqua* tall forests.

As well as restoring forests and helping to tackle climate change, the project will create habitat and provide food and shelter for a diverse array of native mammals, birds, reptiles and insects.

This project is part of our Tasmanian Forest Landscape Restoration project, supported by Environment Tasmania through funding from the Australian Government.
re-establishing biodiverse native habitat and protecting threatened flora and fauna, restoring a highly visible coastal skyline. The scale of the project, restoring an entire landscape, is precedent-setting.

This is complemented by achievements to date in engaging the local community. We have employed more than 18 local people, and many more have volunteered. This places the local community’s efforts at the heart of the project’s success, encouraging them to embrace its goals and values, and come to regard themselves as custodians of the landscape.

Since this project commenced, large tracts of the former plantation behind Beaumaris are rapidly returning to flourishing young Eucalypt forest. The project is part of our Tasmanian Forest Landscape Restoration project, supported by Environment Tasmania through funding from the Australian Government.
Our project sites are some of the most significant sites in Tasmania for nature conservation. We ensure protection of these unique places within our care through science-driven, conservation management work. Your support will help us guarantee a sustainable future for conservation in Tasmania. Find out more about how you can be involved: www.et.org.au.

**ACHIEVEMENTS UPDATE**

- Restoration underway in over 200 hectares of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
- 350 hectares of plantation already restored to native forest
- Over 250 volunteers engaged in on-ground work
- Eight walking tracks repaired and upgraded
- Communities engaged and educated

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