



**Florentine
Protection
Society**

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PM's forest meetings need to deliver on the agreement

The Wilderness Society and Florentine Protection Society today called on the Prime Minister to use her meetings with Tasmanian colleagues to take control of the Tasmanian forests Agreement and urgently implement the agreed outcome that logging would stop in identified forest areas.

Last week's signing of a Conservation Agreement that allowed logging to continue in highly contentious areas that were promised protection represented a failure of implementation of the Agreement and a hollow outcome for conservation.

“Government implementation of the Forests Agreement has failed to deliver a meaningful conservation outcome as promised,” said Vica Bayley, spokesperson for the Wilderness Society.

“Under the agreement logging will continue in iconic and highly contentious areas such as the Weld and Picton Valleys, the foothills below Ben Lomond National Park and the Upper Derwent.”

“With new roads up to 2km long being built into pristine areas and ongoing logging, a meaningful conservation outcome has been sidelined.”

It is understood the Prime Minister will be meeting with Tasmanian colleagues today to discuss the Agreement and the Societies are urging her to take control of the situation and honour her agreement.

As non-signatory to the Statement of Principles the Florentine Protection Society reiterated the need for the protection of forests that were threatened with logging. Spokesperson Angie McGowan said that “the Conservation Agreement fails because allows business-as-usual logging in areas proposed for reservation.”

“The Prime Minister must rectify this failure and ensure her Agreement is delivered in full so that all parties can be confident that progress towards a holistic resolution to this long running debate is real,” concluded Ms McGowan.

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