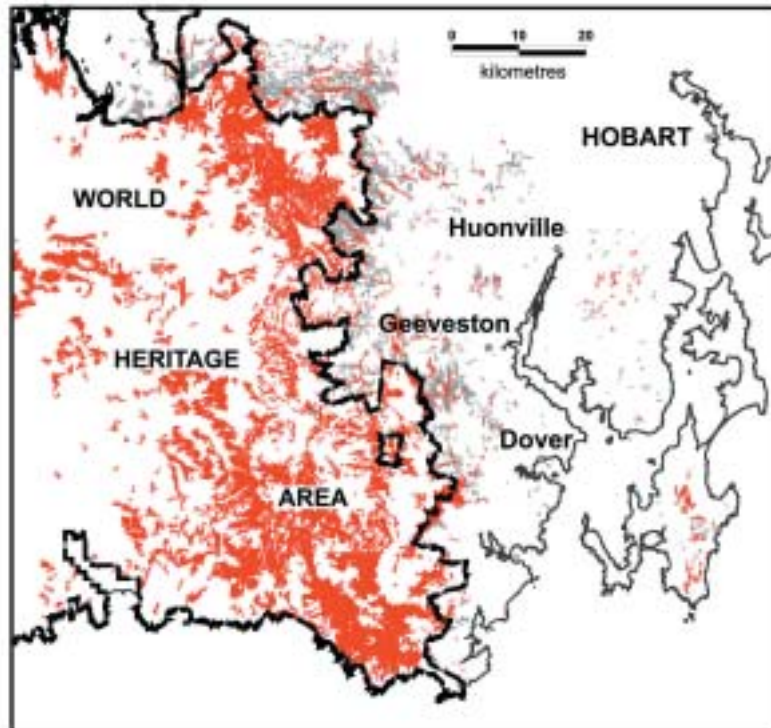




# Facts on Bees

## Leatherwood distribution in the southern forests

■ Leatherwood in reserves     WHA boundary  
 other Leatherwood



There has been recent media reporting on beekeeping and leatherwood supplies.

- The majority of the southern leatherwood-rich forests are in World Heritage Areas and other reserves defined under the 1997 Regional Forest Agreement. This means that no road infrastructure can be put in place to provide access to this resource. The increase in land reservation has reduced the resource available to beekeepers.
- On state forests, there is an estimated 17,000ha that will be available for leatherwood management with southern beekeepers beyond the current three-year plan. Two-thirds of this area is already excluded from any future harvesting activity.
- Beekeepers in the southern forests rely on forestry roads to access their hives. Currently 1,000km of roads, which cost \$40 million dollars to construct, are available to southern beekeepers. Beekeepers do not contribute to the construction or maintenance of the roads they use to access apiary sites.
- The return to Forestry Tasmania from the beekeeping industry in the Huon during 2001-02 was \$3,795. This is based on annual rentals from hive sites (65 @ \$33) and individual hives (1500 @ \$1.10).
- Recent poor returns to beekeepers are mainly due to droughts that have reduced flowering, which in turn has had an impact on nectar yields.
- Forestry Tasmania has a Community Forest Agreement with the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, which is the governing body for beekeeping in Tasmania. The agreement includes procedures for resolving issues of concern.

The challenge for Forestry Tasmania is to optimise the yield from high-value sawlogs while maintaining a balance between production, the large areas of conservation and the concerns of forest users such as beekeepers. Forestry Tasmania will continue to work with beekeepers under the Community Forest Agreement to deliver improved outcomes.



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