

# Barracks Forest Design Plan

## 1.1 Summary of Proposals:

The main objective for this plan is to commence the process of restructuring the Barracks from a resource composed mainly of productive conifer species into a more diverse forest where native species and bog restoration are regarded as key components of the forest matrix.

It is anticipated that restructuring will be achieved over a number of forest design plans given the scale of the area and to counter adverse environmental impacts resulting from large scale harvesting over a shorter time period within an acid sensitive catchment. A key factor for harvesting in the Barracks is a long standing proposal to develop a rail head between the main Barracks block and Whitecow as an alternative to road haulage. The feasibility of this proposal has a strong influence on forest design and function - particularly the White Cow and whether it is managed as either a productive forest or designated as a forest reserve with minimal intervention.

Summary of proposals for 2011 – 2021 Forest Design Plan

- Identify and sequence harvesting of coupes where windthrow issues are anticipated
- To include the White Cow as a productive forest or convert to natural reserve depending on outcome of railhead
- Promote bog restoration by the removal of exotic conifers to encourage biodiversity within suitable locations
- Increase native woodland cover within riparian areas to increase levels of biodiversity by creating habitat corridors
- Retain areas for productive forest identified through the Ecological Site Classification process
- Continue to manage resident deer populations and, through co-operation with neighbours, counter incursions from adjacent ground