

Restore Skyline tier

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Restore Skyline Tier is a landscape scale ecological restoration project based near St Helens in north east Tasmania which started in 2007. To date approximately 600ha of Radiata Pine plantation has been restored to thriving and biodiverse native forest. The long term objective is for the entire 2,000ha of plantation to be regenerated.

Significant environmental outcomes include the recovery of threatened species and vegetation communities, improved landscape connectivity and recovery of coastal catchments including an extensive riparian network of streams and wetlands.

While the ecological benefits of restoration work are generally fairly well understood we believe that the cultural, social and economic values of high quality ecological restoration programs have not been fully quantified or explored.

The flow on effects from undertaking this ongoing project have been significant in a region with high unemployment rates and low educational attainment levels. Over the past 4 years more than 50 local people have been employed as participants in the project with many of them also receiving training in Conservation/Land Management. In addition a Ecological Restoration Skill Set course has been funded and established in recognition of ecological restorations growing importance in the local economy and the need to increase opportunities for local people to gain relevant land management skills.

The combination of high standard landscape scale restoration work with paid employment and conservation/land management training significantly increases the opportunities for raising the ecological literacy of the local community and over time introducing and embedding a culture of respecting and caring for native flora and fauna.

As such Restore Skyline Tier is a flagship project not only for excellence in ecological restoration outcomes but also an example of ecologically sustainable development where the natural world and people both benefit.