



# BIG TREE STATE

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## Tree Climbing Best Practice Guide

Big Tree State and The Tree Projects are happy to advise climbers on any of the items below and direct you to trees that are yet to be measured.

The Goal of this document is not to discourage but to foster a respectful tree climbing culture in Tasmania.

Contact us at  
Email [info@thetreeprojects.com](mailto:info@thetreeprojects.com)  
Phone 0447 690 263

## PATHOGEN CONTROL IS ESSENTIAL

Phytophthora cinnamomi (Dieback Spores) is a disease that can have devastating impacts on sensitive plant communities. It is standard practice to scrub, wash and sterilise boots and equipment before entering the TWWHA to limit its spread. Wash stations are provided in popular areas by PWS but it is largely left to the individual in remote off-track areas.

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Big Tree State and The Tree Projects can supply you with a biological control agent (F10 or PhytoClean), a spray bottle and a scrubbing brush to wash down boots, tent pegs and other items well before entering the forest.

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If you are a working arborist is your gear free of sawdust and other plant materials that can carry pests and diseases? Check the bottom of your rope bags for accumulated sawdust.

## BACKGROUND

We have created this guide with the assistance of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). The goal is to make sure that climbers are aware of the risks, environmental considerations and safety procedures when accessing and climbing trees on PWS-managed lands.

## WHAT ARE YOUR CLIMBING GOALS?

If climbing just for the sport or enjoyment each party should understand that there are many unprotected trees where your climb can have a positive impact. Climbing in the PWS-managed Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) means that the trees in this management area are already protected. Trophy climbing the biggest and tallest might be thought of as unnecessary without a legitimate goal in mind i.e. gathering measurements that the big tree does not have already.

## UNDERSTAND LAND TENURE

In simple terms, there are two land managers that manage the land where most large trees are found, PWS and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT).

## MEASURING TREES FOR DATA COLLECTION

If you are interested in assisting with measuring and data collection to add to the pool of big tree data contact The Tree Projects. We can guide you to locations where your efforts will be helpful.

## KEY POINTS TO ALL ACTIVITIES IN THE TWWHA

- TWWHA is a fuel stove area only, no fires allowed (fines apply).
- Do not collect firewood or cut down trees on reserved land (fines apply).
- Outside of TWWHA fires are only permitted in designated fireplaces identified by a designated fireplace logo, check with the local PWS field centre if you're unsure.
- Dig a hole and bury toilet waste at least 30cm deep.
- Do not take dogs onto reserve land unless it is a designated dog exercise area, dog exercise areas can be found on the PWS website, or check with your local PWS field centre. (fines apply).
- Be aware that in Tasmania a permit is necessary for drone use on reserved land, check with your local PWS field centre if you're unsure. (fines apply).
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## DURING YOUR CLIMB

- Carry a first aid kit, personal locator beacon (PLB) and adequate water, food and emergency supplies.
- Wear helmets when in the forest or under trees.
- Inspect all climbing gear including harness, ascending/descending devices, carabiners, ropes etc before accessing trees.
- Do not use climbing spikes or other climbing aids that will cause damage to the tree
- Do not carry out any pruning, remove or damage any branches or trees (fines apply)
- The use of cambium savers or similar devices in MRS systems is essential.
- Install signage or some other obvious sign warning of “climbers above” when climbing in popular forest groves and along walking tracks or have a ground person/spotter.