

In the back blocks? Historical sites in Tasmania's wood production forests

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The paper presented at the 2008 Symposium was not submitted for publication.

Synopsis of the talk

Since the Forest Practices Authority was established in Tasmania twenty years ago, many historic sites have been located in the wood production forests. The data are interrogated in an attempt to characterize the previous use of these forested areas. Over 2,500 historic sites have been recorded, with those dating from British settlement to circa 1950 being documented and protected.

With few exceptions, the transitory story of the use of these forests is that extraction of raw materials is the major reason for people to travel to and work within them. The speaker outlined and illustrated the nature of this land use; and explained why these forests have survived land clearance in the past 200 years. The suggestion is made that today these are indeed the back blocks and that this is an accurate reflection of their long-term use by human populations.