WHAT ARE MY TREES WORTH?

2004-2005 HARVEST SUMMARY

TREES CAN HELP SALINE LAND

Spring 2005

A quarterly publication by Private Forests Tasmania
Welcome to TREE Line

Astute readers will have observed a change in our quarterly publication, reflected in its new look and being given the name of TREE Line. It is our intention that TREE Line will offer a wider audience more informative material across a broader range of areas. We hope that you enjoy the change in format and content and find this and future editions both informative and valuable.

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Cover Photo: Eucalyptus viminalis / E. amygdalina private native forest block, Meander. Photo M Castley

Private Forests Tasmania promotes sustainable management of native forests and plantations, and fosters the use and value of trees in land management.

78 Patrick Street
Hobart TAS 7000
www.privateforests.tas.gov.au

Forest conservation

The Federal Government has commenced the process of establishing the Forest Conservation Fund foreshadowed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement. The Forest Conservation Fund aims to fund the voluntary reservation of 45,600 hectares of high conservation value native forest on private land, of which there is a target to conserve 25,000 hectares of old-growth forest. It is anticipated that the Forest Conservation Fund will become operative in the latter part of this year.

The underlying principles of the Fund are:

- it will be entirely voluntary in nature;
- it will be market-based; and
- it will offer a range of mechanisms for conserving forested areas.

To assist in finalizing the details of how individual landowners can participate in the program the Federal Government has established a Stakeholder Advisory Group, comprising representatives from a range of organisations including Private Forests Tasmania, the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association, Timber Communities Australia and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust. The Group held its first meeting in Hobart on 26 August.

For landowners who may be interested in conserving valuable forest areas, there are a number of factors that they should consider, including:

- Is the forest area of significant conservation value, either from a statewide or regional perspective? For example, is it a forest area that has been completely or substantially untouched? Is it an area that provides habitat for rare or threatened species?
- How would a conservation area fit in with your broader objectives? Is it compatible with other activities that may be undertaken on surrounding land?
- What other options may exist for the forested land? For example, is it required for stock grazing or access to surrounding areas? Could it be selectively harvested?
- Is the area suitable for management as a conservation area or is it more appropriately left alone? In other words, is a permanent covenant or a management agreement likely to deliver better value and environmental outcomes?
- What is the forested area worth to you? Is it in fact more valuable as a conservation area?

The above is obviously far from an exhaustive list but should serve to indicate the range of factors that need to be taken into consideration by landowners.

Simon Eldridge,
Chief Executive Officer
In June of last year, Australian Forest Growers contracted Private Forests Tasmania to deliver a National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality project (NAP), titled Productive Use and Rehabilitation of Saline Land. This project will successfully deliver the outcomes of the project’s four main components by September 2005.

The strategic investigation component of the project examines the potential of growing trees for commercial and environmental outcomes in low rainfall and salt affected areas within Tasmania.

Modeled data for three commercial species has shown that Pinus radiata or Eucalyptus nitens may be suitable to establish over 70% (approximately 350,000ha) of the NAP region, where estimated peak Mean Annual Increment levels of greater than 15 cubic metres per hectare per year may be attained. While Eucalyptus globulus was also modeled, this species showed very limited potential and as such is not worthy of further investigation.

In order to further refine this investigation and more strategically locate management options for salinity rehabilitation, plantation potential within the NAP region was also analysed against the distribution of Groundwater Flow Systems (GFS) where available. Local scale GFS in high relief dolerite and alluvial plains had the highest rate of incidence with plantation potential of either P. radiata or E. nitens within the northern and southern midlands regions, covering an area of approximately 60,000ha.

Another first for Tasmania arising from the project is the compilation of a book titled Trees and Shrubs for Salinity in Tasmania. This book will provide landholders, land managers and others interested in natural resource management with up to date information from site assessment through to site establishment and management, in one easy to read manual. Local case studies are a key feature of this book, highlighting Tasmanian landholder experience in areas such as saltbush, landslip remediation, hybrid tree trials and mixed species establishment in saline soils. This book will be available in October 2005.

In order to further refine this investigation and more strategically locate management options for salinity rehabilitation, plantation potential within the NAP region was also analysed against the distribution of Groundwater Flow Systems (GFS) where available. Local scale GFS in high relief dolerite and alluvial plains had the highest rate of incidence with plantation potential of either P. radiata or E. nitens within the northern and southern midlands regions, covering an area of approximately 60,000ha.

The final component of this project has involved continued monitoring and assessment of eucalypt hybrid tree trials previously established throughout saline areas of Tasmania. Private Forests Tasmania, in collaboration with Australian Forest Growers, Saltgrow Ltd., the University of Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment, is aiming to determine the potential of these E. camaldulensis x E. Globulus and E. camaldulensis x E. grandis hybrids for salinity management and commercial outcomes, together with specific clonal tolerances to differing site conditions.

Generated reports will be available on the PFT Web site or by request. Any inquiries can be directed to Private Forests Tasmania on (03) 6336 5300.

Julie Finnigan, Project Manager
Rebecca Poulton, Project Officer
The amount paid to the grower by the purchaser is known as the stumpage (also called ‘royalty’). The stumpage excludes the costs for planning, harvesting and carting the forest products to a processing plant.

Processors value logs that have uniform characteristics (shape, size, clearwood amount or small knot size) as these logs are more easily processed. In most cases, plantations that have been pruned on time with a substantial amount of clearwood laid down over a consistent, small knotty core will generate the highest stumpage to the grower and also will be keenly sought.

Well managed stands have historically been more easily sold and provided high returns to growers.

Unpruned softwood stands can also provide good returns, but will not command the highest stumpage premiums from the major processors in Tasmania. Pruning must be carried out on time during the early years of the stand.

The stumpage will be influenced by factors such as:

- regional market opportunities;
- volume harvested;
- logging and access difficulty;
- cartage distance to the processor; and
- product.

The table provides an indication of the range in stumpage that has been paid by processors to private growers during 2004-05. There are other wood products harvested from private forests including firewood, posts and poles for preservative treatment, and craftwood – but there is insufficient information available to include these in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sawlog $/m³</th>
<th>Pulpwood $/t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native Forest</td>
<td>28 – 32+</td>
<td>8 – 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Pln</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>15 - 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softwood Pln</td>
<td>12 – 70+</td>
<td>0 – 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to the table

1. Sawlog is usually measured in cubic metres (m³) and pulpwood in tonnes (t).
2. Veneer prices for native forest logs can be $50+ for special species or logs with special features such as “fiddleback”.
3. Hardwood plantations are generally still too young to be producing quantities of pruned clearwood sawlogs or veneer.
4. A knotty sawlog market is developing for plantations, increasing the marketing options especially in the NE where the processing plant is located.
5. The major softwood sawlog processors are located in the NE.
6. Softwood pulpwood from thinnings has in some instances been non commercial in recent times due to limited regional supply options. However, there is a predicted shortfall in the availability of Crown softwood resource over the next decade and this is anticipated to increase substantially the potential stumpage paid for all softwood products.

Andy Warner,
Regional Private Forester, NW
Private Forests Tasmania has completed compilation of the annual harvest summary from private forests for the year ended 30 June 2005.

Each year, Private Forests Tasmania staff compile Australia’s only authoritative harvest summary from private forests. The information is provided to PFT on the basis that it will be aggregated and strict confidentiality of the raw data provided by processors is guaranteed and adhered to. This is the first year that PFT has obtained the information in such a timely manner, as previous results were not collated until March of the following year.

- Private forest harvest in 2004-05 = approx. 43% of total timber production in Tasmania.
- Harvest from private forests in 2004-05 increased by 93,253 tonnes (3.4%) compared with 2003-04, due entirely to the increase in harvest from hardwood plantations (up by 245,849 tonnes or 44.2%).
- Harvest from native forests decreased by 63,126 tonnes (3.5%) compared with 2003-04.
- Harvest from native forests = 60.9% of total harvest from private forests, continuing a downward trend (see table below).
- The annual harvest in 2004-05 was 157,933 tonnes greater than that in 2000-01 (5.9% increase) but the native forest harvest was 327,088 tonnes less (15.9% decline).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>67.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>76.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Harvested Products (tonnes) from Tasmanian Private Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000/01</th>
<th>2001/02</th>
<th>2002/03</th>
<th>2003/04</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIVE HARDWOOD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Sawlogs, Veneer and Ply Logs</td>
<td>125,923</td>
<td>140,972</td>
<td>100,970</td>
<td>119,551</td>
<td>96,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Pulpwood</td>
<td>1,912,616</td>
<td>1,669,348</td>
<td>1,792,636</td>
<td>1,668,762</td>
<td>1,628,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Log Products inc Fuelwood</td>
<td>14,550</td>
<td>2,551</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,053,089</td>
<td>1,812,871</td>
<td>1,894,197</td>
<td>1,789,127</td>
<td>1,726,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLANTATION HARDWOOD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pln Hardwood Sawlogs, Veneer and Ply Logs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,851</td>
<td>3,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pln Hardwood Pulpwood</td>
<td>238,104</td>
<td>511,436</td>
<td>628,921</td>
<td>549,988</td>
<td>799,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Log Products</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>238,104</td>
<td>511,436</td>
<td>628,921</td>
<td>556,839</td>
<td>802,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLANTATION SOFTWOOD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softwood Sawlogs, Veneer and Ply Logs</td>
<td>97,323</td>
<td>166,455</td>
<td>110,619</td>
<td>146,681</td>
<td>133,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softwood Pulpwood</td>
<td>286,642</td>
<td>189,462</td>
<td>205,887</td>
<td>247,273</td>
<td>170,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Log Products</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>384,101</td>
<td>357,115</td>
<td>316,506</td>
<td>394,008</td>
<td>304,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2,675,294</td>
<td>2,681,422</td>
<td>2,839,624</td>
<td>2,739,974</td>
<td>2,833,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comments for 20004/05 data

1. Information has been sourced from over 70 processors throughout the State.
2. Data has been aggregated to maintain the confidentiality of individuals’ information.
3. Fuelwood information is now not included because of the difficulty of obtaining enough data.
4. There is an increasing amount of hardwood plantation resource being harvested.
5. Native forest products make up about 60% of the private wood harvest.
6. Hardwood plantation products make up about 30% of the private wood harvest.
7. Softwood plantation products make up about 10% of the private wood harvest.
8. Private property forests provided 39% of the State’s total wood products, with the majority of hardwood plantation harvest occurring from private plantations.
Private forests play an important role in Tasmania – making up about 30% of the forested area and contributing substantially to the State’s sustainable Natural Resource Management outcomes through wood production, conservation, recreation and aesthetics.

Tasmania is unique amongst the States of Australia in providing an estimate of potential wood flow from private forests. Private Forests Tasmania co-ordinates the update process about every 5 years, using a range of assumptions about expected plantation development, rates of native forest harvest and regeneration and owner intention to harvest.

In Tasmania there is a wide range of private owners including large industrial forest companies owning and managing thousands of hectares, extensive farming enterprises incorporating managed forests with other agricultural activity and many individual owners with less than 40 hectares of forest.

It is a challenging task to estimate the potential wood flow from such different potential sources of forest products, especially as many landowners are uncertain when, if at all, they may want to harvest part or all of their forests. The market price a grower receives for the forest products plays an influential role in helping to determine when harvesting will occur. Consequently, the wood flow estimates produced in this report should be viewed as a likely scenario, with many alternative options possible if different assumptions are made.

The wood flow estimates are summarized in the accompanying tables and graphs. The information is aggregated at the State level, with key assumptions and other important information detailed in the Key Assumptions & Things You Should Know of the full report.

### Private Property - Predicted Resource Wood Flows (,000 tonnes)

Five year averages. The predicted volume for each period is shown as an annual average volume. To calculate the total volume for a five year period the annual average volume should be multiplied by five. Figures are rounded and based on a range of assumptions.

Recent knotty sawlog processing initiatives using hardwood or softwood plantation logs are included in pulpwood estimates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardwood resource</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native forests</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawlog &amp; veneer</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulpwood</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>1,710</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native forest total</td>
<td>2,410</td>
<td>1,960</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardwood plantation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawlog &amp; veneer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulpwood</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1,490</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>3,530</td>
<td>3,610</td>
<td>3,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood plantation total</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>2,970</td>
<td>3,550</td>
<td>3,660</td>
<td>3,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total hardwood resource</strong></td>
<td>3,230</td>
<td>3,470</td>
<td>4,960</td>
<td>4,160</td>
<td>4,260</td>
<td>4,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Softwood resource ( plantation only)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawlog &amp; veneer</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulpwood</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total softwood plantation</strong></td>
<td>510</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total - all forest types</strong></td>
<td>3,740</td>
<td>3,810</td>
<td>5,460</td>
<td>4,650</td>
<td>4,640</td>
<td>4,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Private Forests Tasmania 2005
Key Points

- Native forest harvest on private land will decline from 2,410,000 tonnes in current five years to 660,000 tonnes in 2027-2031.
- Plantation hardwood harvest will increase 450% to 3.68 million tonnes in 2027-31.
- Plantation softwood harvest for sawlog and veneer will increase 225% to 340,000 tonnes in 2027-31 and current ratio of softwood pulpwood to sawlog harvest will effectively reverse between now and 2027-31.
- Hardwood sawlog and veneer harvest will decline significantly from 330,000 tonnes in 2002-06 to 130,000 tonnes in 2027-31.
- Hardwood sawlog and veneer harvest will fall from 360,000 tonnes to 80,000 tonnes (-450%) between 2012-16 and 2017-21 periods.

More detail on the procedure used to develop the wood flow scenarios including details of the following aspects can be found in the full report which is available on the PFT website at:

www.privateforests.tas.gov.au

- The wood flows are estimated at the State level
- A general scenario was adopted
- Only broad product classes are provided
- Not all private wood is assumed to be available
- Some forest areas are excluded for environmental reasons
- No individual landowner data is provided
- Many private forests will be selectively harvested rather than clearfelled.
More than 120 people attended the “Sustainable Farm / Sustainable Environment: Managing Soil, Water and Trees” field day convened by Private Forests Tasmania at ‘Noswick’, Blackwood Creek. The field day was held as the major event of the Farm Forestry Environmental Services Project which PFT has managed on behalf of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association over 2004-05. Funding support for the project has come from the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Landcare Program.

‘Noswick’ is a mixed grazing and irrigated agricultural property on duplex soils at Blackwood Creek against the Western Tiers southwest of Launceston. The property has undergone a rapid transformation over 15 years from a dryland sheep grazing venture of tenuous viability, with evident environmental issues such as tree decline and stream erosion, to a highly productive mixed agricultural, grazing and tree cropping venture at the cutting edge of economic, social and environmental sustainability in rural Tasmania.

Run in conjunction with the Upper Brumbys Landcare Group, the field day explored numerous vital aspects of farm resource sustainability, such as remnant bush management and conservation, the integration of farm plantation development on agricultural land, the management of fragile soils under irrigated cropping and nutrient budgeting.

PFT’s aim in convening a field day with such a range of topics was to link farm forestry and conservation activity with all other aspects of farm management and decision making. Indeed this is precisely the ethos that has been adopted by our field day host at ‘Noswick’, Andrew Colvin, as he works to achieve 30 percent overall tree cover on his family farm while increasing agricultural output and profitability. Tree planting has become an integral, annual item in Andrew’s farm program. A commitment to improving all of his farm resources is aimed at achieving a sustainable landholding, and handing on ‘Noswick’ to the next generation in better condition than he found it.

The value of this management philosophy, matched by on-ground action and a commitment to his community through foundation membership of the Upper Brumbys Landcare Group, has recently been recognised with Andrew and family being awarded the State Minister’s Award for Environmental Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture. The award is particularly gratifying for Private Forests Tasmania, which nominated Andrew, and whose strong association with ‘Noswick’ started with planning and a *Eucalyptus nitens* planting in 2001 under the Integrated Farm Forestry project. This association continues through use of the property as the case study farm in planning the Sustainable Farm Forestry project which will be delivered on behalf of Australian Forest Growers by PFT.

Field visits to *E. nitens* plantations, mixed *E. nitens* and *Acacia melanoxylon*, mixed native species amenity plantings, soil pits and a very rare 38ha remnant of riparian *Eucalyptus viminalis* led to very healthy debate, particularly on duplex soil management and the issue of conservation vs active management of forest remnants.

The local landcare group launched its nutrient budgeting CD-Rom and showed other landcare groups a fine model to emulate in problem solving and getting funding for part-time employment of a skilled research officer for farmer based research to answer real world questions. Julie Finnigan of Private Forests Tasmania launched findings of the Australian Forest Growers’ National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality supported project “Productive Use and Rehabilitation of Salt Affected Land”.

Afternoon keynote speakers were John and Robyn Ive of ‘Talaheni’, Dick’s Creek, near Murrumbateman NSW. Like a majority of the audience, the Ives are active in agriculture (fine wool production) landcare, farm forestry and on-farm research. Drawing on John’s background as a research scientist with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, the Ives have established an extensive system of piezometers for measurement of watertable depth.
They also have an impressive history of recording the effects on watertable depth and salinity and farm productivity improvement that their farm forestry plantings have provided. Robyn Ive provided a social commentary on the family farm development that well supported the sustainability theme of the field day, emphasising the need for social sustainability along with the economic and environmental.

At the Tasmanian Landcare Awards held in Launceston on 31 August Andrew and Edwina Colvin’s achievements received even further recognition winning the Landcare Primary Producer Award for 2005. As a result the Colvins will represent Tasmania at the National Landcare Awards in 2006.

David Lane,
Project Manager,
Environmental Services Grant

Left: ‘Nosswick’ nestles in the valley under the Western Tiers
Photo M Castley

Below: Edwina and Andrew amid Eucalyptus nitens shelter
Photo ‘The Examiner’

Right: Fieldday participants negotiate the creek crossing into the E. viminalis reserve
Photo J Finnigan
The Forest Practices Authority now requires that a fee be paid before a forest practices plan can be certified. The following tables can be used to calculate the fee. First determine the type of operation (0, 1, 2, 3 or 4). Look up the fee applied for that type of operation in the fee schedule.

**Fee schedule - all fees GST inclusive**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FPP type</th>
<th>Prescribed fee</th>
<th>Actual fee (as at 1st August 2005)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>52 fee units (fee unit $1.17)</td>
<td>$60.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The higher of the following amounts: (a) 52 fee units (fee unit $1.17) or (b) 6 fee units for each hectare (or part hectare) of land covered by the plan.</td>
<td>$60.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The higher of the following amounts: (a) 77 fee units (fee unit $1.17) or (b) 16 fee units for each hectare (or part hectare) of land covered by the plan.</td>
<td>$90.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The higher of the following amounts: (a) 129 fee units (fee unit $1.17) or (b) 25 fee units for each hectare (or part hectare) of land covered by the plan.</td>
<td>$150.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The higher of the following amounts: (a) 513 fee units (fee unit $1.17) or (b) 30 fee units for each hectare (or part hectare) of land covered by the plan.</td>
<td>$600.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who pays the fee? The plan applicant will be invoiced for the fee. Until recently, major forestry companies, through the Forest Industry Association of Tasmania, provided funds to the Forest Practices Board who provided the specialised support needed when preparing plans. The Forest Practices Board has become the Forest Practices Authority and instead of receiving funding direct from the forestry companies a fee is to be paid for each individual plan.

**Private Forest Service Levy** Since 2001 all forest practices plans on private land are subject to a levy based on the net area in the plan. This levy becomes due 6 months after a plan has been certified and is currently set at $14.00 per hectare.


This information is for guidance only and formal advice on the need for a Forest Practices Plan and the fee payable is available from Forest Practices Officers and the Forest Practices Authority. Landowners should consult with their local government authority to determine whether a Development Application is necessary for the forest operations and any fees required when lodging a Development Application.
When do I need a plan?

Recent changes to the Forest Practices Act 1985 means that forest practices plans are now required for many activities.

A set of questions has been prepared to help determine whether or not a forest practices plan is required. Simply work down all the four sections and follow the ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ pathways.

### Section 1: Harvesting of timber or clearing of trees (includes collection of firewood)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting or clearing associated with easement for powerline or gas pipeline or public roads?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>No plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting or clearing to protect public safety or maintain existing infrastructure and less than 5 tonnes and 1 hectare?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>No plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting or clearing in accordance with a conservation covenant or vegetation management agreement approved by the FPA?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>No plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearing of trees carried out for fire management work under a fire management program approved by the FPA?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>No plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting or clearing more than 1 hectare?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>Plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the land ‘vulnerable land’?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>Plan required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A ‘yes’ to any question means the land is vulnerable land:
- **o** within a streamside reserve or machinery exclusion zone
- **o** slope exceeding landslide threshold slope angles
- **o** within High or Very High Soil Erodibility Classes
- **o** presence of endangered, vulnerable or rare forest communities
- **o** inhabited by threatened species
- **o** contains vulnerable karst soils
- **o** contains trees reserved under an expired FPP

| More than 100 tonnes per property per year?                              | Yes ⇒ | Plan required                 |
| Les less than 100 tonnes per property per year and less than 1 hectare?  | Yes ⇒ | No plan required              |

### Section 2: Establishment of forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On land that has contained trees within the immediate preceding 5 years?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>Plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On land that has not contained trees in the immediate preceding 5 year period:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>o</strong> more than 10 hectares per property per year?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>Plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>o</strong> less than 10 hectares per property per year?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>No plan required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 3: Road construction or quarry operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In connection with the establishment of forests, harvesting of timber or clearing of trees?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>Plan required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 4: Harvesting ferns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 6 ferns per property per year?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>Plan required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 or less ferns per property per year?</td>
<td>Yes ⇒</td>
<td>No plan required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information is for guidance only and formal advice on the need for a Forest Practices Plan is available from Forest Practices Officers and the Forest Practices Authority. Landowners should consult with their local government authority to determine whether a Development Application is necessary for the forest operations.

### Terms and definitions

- **Clearing of trees** – the removal of trees by clearing, cutting, pushing or otherwise removing; or destroying the trees in any way.


- **Fire management work** – the burning off of vegetation and constructing firebreaks and access tracks, where the sole purpose is to reduce fire hazards or control wildfires; and trees affected are not harvested or cleared for any other purpose; and reasonable precautions are taken to avoid harming natural and cultural forest values

- **Forest** – an area containing trees.

- **Forest practices** – the process involved in establishing forests, clearing trees, growing or harvesting timber, including: construction of roads, development and operation of quarries and other works connected with establishing forests, clearing trees, growing or harvesting timber.

- **Forest practices plan (FPP)** – an FPP or FPP Variation certified by the Forest Practices Authority.

- **Harvest** – in relation to timber, to cut and remove timber from a forest.

- **Infrastructure** – includes roads, fences and buildings.

- **Property** – any land recorded as one valuation on the Valuation Roll.

- **Public road** – a State highway, subsidiary road, country road or a highway under local management.

- **Timber** – the trunk, branch and any other part of a tree or fallen tree, whether or not it is cut up, sawn, hewn, split or otherwise dealt with.

- **Trees** – any woody plants with a height or potential height of 5m or more, whether living, dead, standing or fallen, that are native to Tasmania; or introduced and used for the harvesting or processing of timber; and tree ferns.

### Additional References

Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) has won the contract to deliver a new three year project, Sustainable Farm Forestry Management for Conservation and Production. This project is the largest National Landcare Program (NLP) farm forestry project in Australia and the largest National Landcare project in Tasmania. The project proponent, Australian Forest Growers, received $300,000 NLP funds for the first year of the project.

The project was launched by Warrick Ragg, Australian Forest Growers’ Chief Executive, to an audience of 120 people at a field day on Andrew and Edwina Colvins’ Blackwood Creek property, “Nosswick”, in May 2005.

Under the project, PFT will work closely with landholders in the Northern Natural Resource Management Region (which approximates to the 63 telephone code area) to assist them:

1. Increase farm profitability and sustainability of plantations and native forests such that resultant environmental, economic and social benefits of good land management practices are shared by the wider community; and

2. Increase the knowledge and skills of landholders, landholder groups and other land managers to better plan and undertake farm forestry.

The project focuses on native forests and plantations to enhance biodiversity values, integrate sustainable agricultural production and conservation and to use best management practices to deliver environmental benefits to the wider community. Some projects will produce commercial timber and others not.

Specifically, the project aims to:

- Write and implement plans for more than 70 farms;
- Complete at least 500 hectares of new planting and direct seeding;
- Protect and manage over 1,000 hectares of native forest and 100 km of riparian areas.

The grant funds will in effect buy up-front the environmental services participating farmers agree to provide. These include improved water quality, increased biodiversity of plants and animals, erosion control and landscape. Landholders will fund any direct benefits they receive such as increased farm productivity.

This project builds on PFT’s capacity to deliver very well received and successful farm forestry projects such as the Farm Forestry Devolved Grant and the Environmental Services Grant, which resulted in landholders planting over one million trees to improve the environment and deliver economic benefits.

Landholders can find out more about the project by contacting David Lane at Private Forests Tasmania, phone 6336 5300.

Arthur Lyons,
Regional Private Forester, NE