



PRIVATE FORESTS
TASMANIA

Revocation of Private Timber Reserves

Information Sheet

A private timber reserve (PTR) is an area of private land set aside for forestry purposes and is registered on the title of the relevant landowner(s). The landowner(s) lodge an application to declare an area of land as a PTR with Private Forests Tasmania and must be in the name of the registered title holder(s).

A PTR can also be removed from the landowner(s) title(s). The landowner(s) lodge an application with Private Forests Tasmania to revoke all or part of the area declared as a private timber reserve. The applicant(s) must also specify the reasons why the application to revoke the PTR is being made.

A landowner can decide to revoke a PTR for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- Plantation to be harvested and not replanted;
- Plantation to be harvested and converted to pasture/other agricultural activities;
- Land to be subdivided;
- Property is being sold and removal is a condition of sale; or
- Part of land is revoked to build a house, rest of land is retained as a PTR.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in revocations including where, as part of a harvesting operation, some landowners are requested by a forestry company or other entities to revoke the PTR declared on the land. In these circumstances, even though the PTR may have been a requirement of a previous contract, once declared it belongs with the land title, i.e. the landowner.

Therefore, a decision/application to revoke **can only** be made by the **landowner**.

A PTR should only be revoked if it suits the landowner, in particular the landowner should be fully aware of the consequences of revoking, or retaining their land as a PTR.

Ensure that you are in no doubt that you want to clear the land and not reforest the site after harvesting.

Seek independent advice for what options are available to you, and which are most suited to your circumstances – Private Forests Tasmania staff may be able to explore a range of options with you.

Have you been asked to sign documentation to revoke a Private Timber Reserve (PTR) on your land?

- When harvesting is being planned, landowners may be asked by representatives of a forestry company to consent to the removal of the Private Timber Reserve from their land title (revocation).
- There is a **requirement for reforestation** to be included in a Forest Practices Plan (FPP) when a PTR is registered on the title(s). For example, in the case of harvesting hardwood plantations by forestry companies, a forestry company may request that the PTR be removed (revoked). Please note there are significant costs associated with reforestation and a landowner may be responsible for these costs.
- Landowners should understand that, even though a forestry company entering into a lease or share-farm agreement may have acted on a landowner's behalf the PTR, once declared, belongs with the land title and hence the landowner.
- The decision to revoke the PTR rests solely with the landowner.
- Landowners should not feel pressured into immediately consenting to PTR removal. Sometimes removal may not be in the landowner's best interests.
- Re-establishing a forest may be the most cost effective and appropriate land use.
- If you are committed to converting the plantation area to pasture or other land uses, the removal of the PTR may be appropriate.
- Seek independent advice before making any commitment to revoking the PTR.

Questions that you need to answer before agreeing to the revocation of a PTR include:

- Q. Am I **fully aware of the consequences** of revoking, or retaining, my land as a PTR?
- A. If 'No' you should **contact Private Forests Tasmania for impartial advice**
- Q. Do I know my intended land use after the harvest of the plantation?
- A. 1. If you are committed to converting all the plantation area to non-forest after harvest
→ Agree to the revocation of the PTR (but consider negotiating for some beneficial outcomes in return for your agreement).
- A. 2. If you are committed to continuing to use the land for forestry
→ Do not agree to the revocation of the PTR. More and more options are presenting themselves as the demand for timber continues to grow.
- A. 3. If you are uncertain of the land use after the harvest of the plantation
→ Retain the PTR.

Important Note: Private Forests Tasmania can provide impartial advice to help you make the decision that best fits your needs.

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