

Forestry

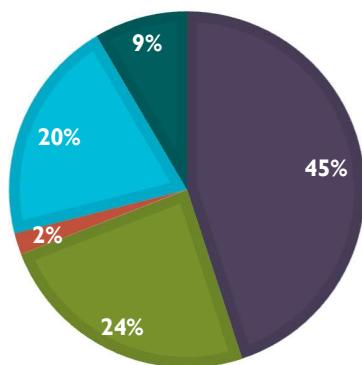
FACT SHEET

Forestry is critical to Tasmania's future, ensuring that Tasmanians can source locally grown timber and timber products from our sustainable managed forest estate. This fact sheet provides a broad range of information on the forestry sector.

Forest Facts

Tasmania has a total land mass of approximately 6.81 million hectares, of which nearly half (3.33 million hectares or 49 per cent) is forested. Native forest makes up 91 per cent of this and plantations nine per cent.

Of the native forest, 69 per cent is either wet or dry eucalypt forest, but there are significant areas of other non-eucalypt forest types such as rainforest, blackwood forest, paperbark forest, tea-tree forest, silver wattle forest, she-oak forest and Oyster Bay pine forest.



- Dry eucalypt forests
- Wet eucalypt forests
- Sub-alpine eucalypt forests
- Non-eucalypt forests
- Plantation

Source: State of the Forests Tasmania 2022: Data Report

Tasmania's plantations (approx. 280 000 hectares) are made up of 28% softwoods and 72% hardwoods. *Pinus radiata* is the main softwood species, while *Eucalyptus globulus* and *Eucalyptus nitens* are the main hardwood species.

Forest Management System

Tasmania's Forest Management System is underpinned by three core elements of sustainable forest management:

- a policy for maintaining a permanent native forest estate,
- a comprehensive, adequate, and representative (CAR) reserve system that securely protects conservation values, and,
- sustainable management of forests outside reserves.

Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy prohibits broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest, other than in limited prescribed circumstances.

Broad scale clearing and conversion ceased on public land in 2010. The extent and rate of clearing on private land is constrained by the policy.

Tasmania's CAR reserve system

Tasmania's CAR reserve system has been established to cover the broadest diversity of native forest communities on public and private land.

59% of Tasmania's native forests (1.79 million hectares) are protected in reserves, which includes well over 80% of Tasmania's old growth forests.

Managing forests outside the reserve system

In forests outside the reserve system, forestry operations are regulated by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA). The FPA is an independent statutory body which sets guidelines and standards to protect important natural and cultural values through the Forest Practices Code.

Tasmania's production forests

Production forests are managed to supply a wide range of forest products to local and overseas customers, including high quality sawlogs, high grade domestic peeler logs, special species timbers, pulpwood and firewood.

These forests also support other commercial activities, such as apiary, tourism, and recreation.

Wood production

In 2021-22, Tasmanian forests produced a total of 5.225 million tonnes of wood fibre. Approximately 77% of this came from plantations.

Source	Volume ('000 tonnes)
Native forest	1 155
Plantation- hardwood	2 567
Plantation- softwood	1 503
Totals	5 225

Sources: [Sustainable Timber Tasmania Annual Report 2021-22](#); [Private Forests Tasmania Annual Report 2021-22](#).

In native forests the main products are sawlogs, peeler billets and woodchips. Speciality timbers, such as huon pine, celery top pine, sassafras, blackwood and myrtle make up a minor but very important component of the native forest harvest.

From plantation forests the main product is pulpwood, but with a growing and increasingly important product being high quality sawlogs.

Employment and economic contribution

The Tasmanian forest industry makes a significant economic contribution to the State. In 2017-18, there were 3 076 direct jobs in the forest industry (primary and secondary processing), and 2 651 indirect jobs generated in other industries as a result of demand from the forest industry ([Schirmer 2018](#)).

In 2015-16, the direct value of output by the Tasmanian forest industry at the point of sale of primary processed products was \$712 million. This figure rises to more than \$1.2 billion when considering the flow-on effects generated in other industries as a result of spending by the forest industry.

Tasmanian Government initiatives

On Island Processing Program

The Tasmanian Government is investing \$10 million, over five years, in the On-Island Processing Program to support more domestic processing of wood products and increase the end-value of the wood we grow. To date, the Government has awarded almost \$6 million across seven projects. These projects will lead to a direct investment of \$23 million from industry and create at least 30 new direct and indirect positions.

Further information

Department Natural Resources and Environment

<http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/forestry>

Sustainable Timber Tasmania

www.sttas.com.au

Private Forests Tasmania

www.pft.tas.gov.au

Forest Practices Authority

www.fpa.tas.gov.au

