

# The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Tasmanian forester recognised as outstanding Fellow

Mr Graham Wilkinson, Chief Forest Practices Officer with the Forest Practices Authority, has been awarded a *Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia*.

The awarding of a Fellow is bestowed on individuals who in the opinion of the Board has rendered outstanding service to forestry and the Institute.

Mr Andrew Wye, IFA Division Chairman, will present Mr Wilkinson with his award in Launceston on Saturday 15 March 2008.

Mr Wye stated that “the award recognises Graham for his lifetime commitment to protecting, improving and enhancing forest management and practices in Tasmania, Australia and internationally”.

“Graham is highly regarded by his peers and community leaders at local, national and international levels and he is an outstanding ambassador for the profession” Mr Wye concluded.

Mr Wilkinson was Chairman of the Tasmanian Division and a Director on the National Board from 2000 to 2004. He is also the Chair of the Institutes’ Registered Professional Forester Accreditation Scheme Committee.

Mr Wilkinson is the 80th recipient in the 73 years since the Institute was established.

Since graduating with a BSc (Forestry) Hons. (1st Class) from ANU in 1976, where he also was awarded the William Schlich Medal, Graham has based his professional career in NSW and then Tasmania.

The first eight years of his post-graduate career were spent as a Forester in District operations at both Casino and Tumut in NSW. In these roles, Graham demonstrated the flexibility and diversity of tasks often asked of foresters in their occupation. His roles included native forest and plantation management as well as regular interaction with the broader community as a representative of the Forestry Commission of NSW, particularly in fire management.

Graham then moved to Tasmania to take up a position as a Research Officer in the Tasmanian Forestry Commission’s Division of Forest Research and Development. Initially he worked in plantation research. After two years he was promoted to the position of Principal Research Officer (Native Forests). In this latter role Graham made a significant contribution to research, training and development through the publication of peer-reviewed papers, Technical Bulletins and providing training to Technical Foresters and the broader forestry industry. During this time Graham also completed a MSc at University of Tasmania.

These attributes were recognised when he was appointed to the position of Chief Forest Practices Officer in the Forest Practices Authority (formerly Forest Practices Board) in 1996, a position he still holds. In recent years Graham has been sought after in international forums to pass on his knowledge and experience in practical implementation of Codes of Forest Practice particularly in SE Asia and Oceania regions. He is regularly invited to give written and oral presentations or undertake consultancy work for FAO and World Bank in this area.



Andrew Wye  
Contact Andrew Wye  
Chair  
Tasmanian Division  
Institute of Foresters of Australia  
Mob: 0407 105 133  
Email: [andrew.wye@smartfibre.com.au](mailto:andrew.wye@smartfibre.com.au)