



Media Release

New Foresters President (251105)

The Institute of Foresters of Australia today announced that Dr Peter Volker RPF FIFa, of Berriedale Tasmania is its new President.

Dr Volker has been a forester for more than twenty years and welcomes the opportunity to lead the Institute. "I see my appointment as a valuable opportunity to build enduring benefits for foresters," Dr Volker said.

"In a changing world where more trees are being planted and where there is increased private ownership of forests as well as conservation areas on private and public land, the professional judgement of foresters will be called upon more than ever before."

"There has been a great deal of change in the profession and practice of forestry over the past ten years."

"The Institute recognises this and now invites other professionals with forestry-related expertise to apply for membership."

Members of the Institute of Foresters of Australia offer information and assistance to government, industry and the community on issues affecting forests.

Dr Volker is currently Principal Scientist (Plantations) with Forestry Tasmania. His work involves development of management regimes to produce solid wood from eucalypt plantations. He has previously worked as a scientist, operations manager and consultant.

His particular interests are education and professional development issues.

Dr Volker has been a member of the IFA for 25 years and was awarded the distinguished level of Fellow in 2004. He has a BSc (Forestry) from ANU and a PhD from University of Tasmania. His specialised professional credentials in Forest Genetics and Plantations Silviculture were endorsed earlier this year under the Institute's Registered Professional Forester Scheme.

Dr Volker takes over from Mr Ian Barnes who has recently completed three year's service as Institute President.

The Institute is a member funded professional organisation founded in 1935, with over thirteen hundred (1300) members Australia-wide. The Institute is entering its 68th year of publication of the *Australian Forestry Journal*, a peer reviewed journal devoted to forest science.

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