

Forestry in Tasmania: Past, present and future

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Private **Forests**
Tasmania



INTRODUCTION TO THE TASMANIAN FOREST PRACTICES SYSTEM



AN INTEGRATED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Balancing environmental protection, sustainable production and social values across all forests

Forest Practices Code 2020



FPA

- **Forest Practices Act 1985** – established the forest practices system and a coordinated approach to planning, monitoring and reporting of forest operations across **public and private land**.
- **Forest Practices Code** – setting the standards for activities such as harvesting, road construction and regeneration.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



CO-REGULATORY SYSTEM

A shared responsibility model

- **Authorised Officers** – decentralised decisions making, accountability and professional responsibility
- **Responsive and adaptive** - to local conditions or new information, while maintaining regulatory integrity.
- **Shared stewardship** – fostering collaboration.



CHALLENGES TO THE CO-REGULATORY MODEL

Blue Derby Wild vs FPA and Ors

- A principal ground of the application: Apprehended bias.
- Courts found that Act anticipates balancing of conflict of interest.

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT

The Forest Practices Authority

THE TASMANIAN FOREST PRACTICES SYSTEM



FPA: Forest Practices Authority
FPO: Forest Practices Officer
FPP: Forest practices plan
FPAC: Forest Practices Advisory Council



- Sets the Standards.
- Regulatory oversight and compliance – auditing, monitoring and investigating.
- Training, accreditation and support.
- Research, review and continuous improvement.
- Transparent reporting.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

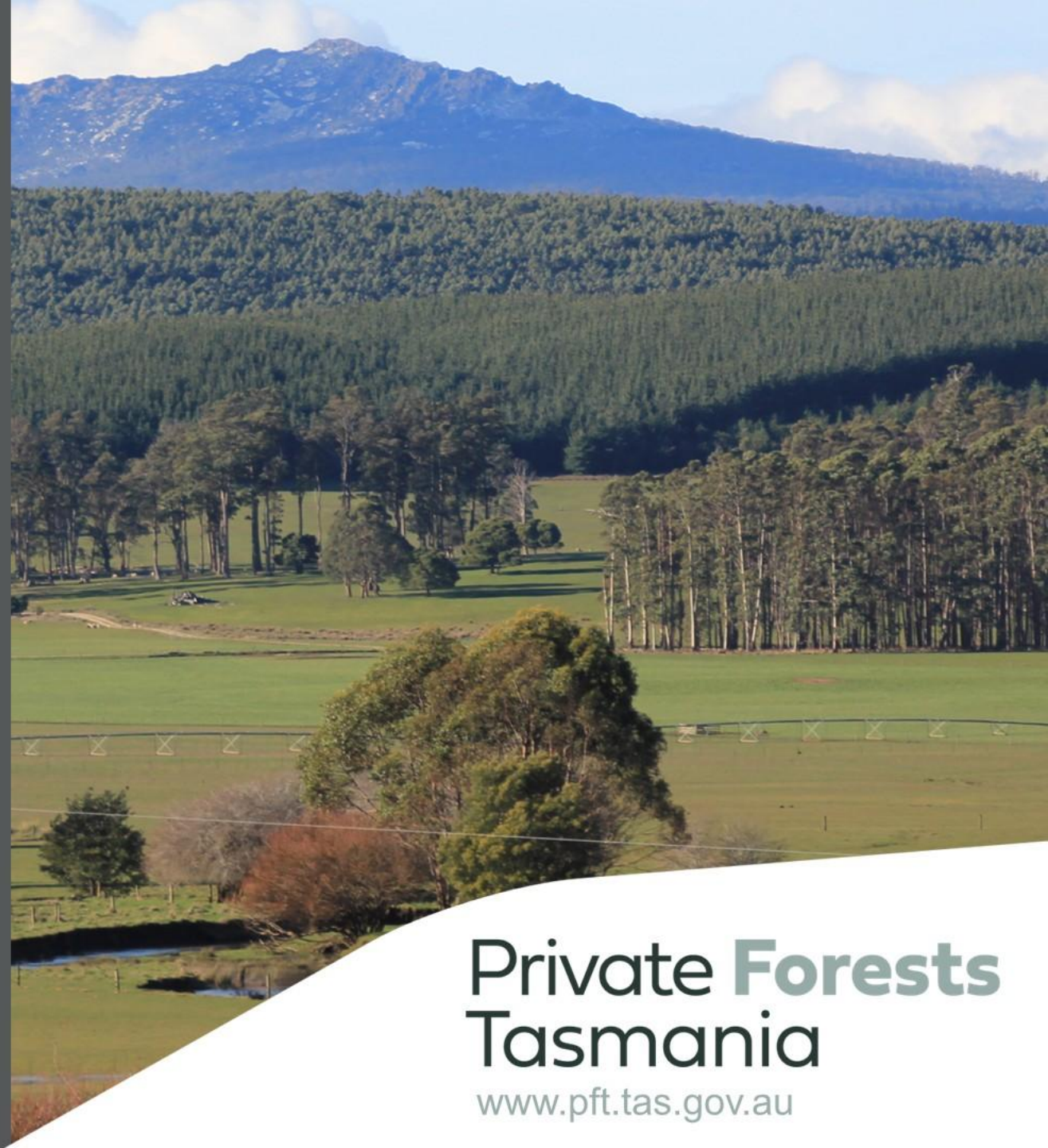
Continuous improvement - Ensuring that forest management is continuously working towards sustainable forest management.



Private Forests Tasmania

Established in 1994 under the Private Forests
Act 1994 by the Tasmanian Government

Is the only government-funded authority
established in Australia to specifically
promote, **foster** and **assist** the private
forestry sector on forestry matters



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www.pft.tas.gov.au

Purpose and Objectives

- Support private landowners and managers
- Promote private forestry
- Encourage sound land management
- Foster competitive markets
- Provide strategic direction
- Promote commercial wood production
- Promote research and education



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Tasmania's private forest estate

Key facts and figures as of December 2024:

1.09m ha

of private forest in
Tasmania makes up
33% of the state's
total forest area.



843,000 ha

of private native
forest makes up
25% of the state's
total native forest
area in Tasmania.



247,000 ha

of private
plantation makes
up **88%** of the
state's total
plantation area.



163,000 ha

of hardwood
plantation makes
up **67%** of the
state's private
plantations.



84,000 ha

of softwood
plantation makes
up **33%** of the
state's private
plantations.



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Wood production from the private forest estate

Key facts and figures for 2024–25 and compared to 2023–24

Private forest harvest

2.8 million tonnes of logs to market



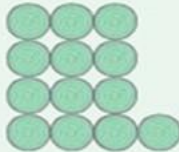
264,000 tonnes decrease

Contribution to total production



The private forest harvest makes up more than **68%** by volume of total state production.

Private native harvest



131,000 tonnes of logs to market
(5% of total private forest)

Private plantation harvest

2.7 million tonnes of logs to market



95% of total private forest harvest.



Hardwood/softwood breakdown

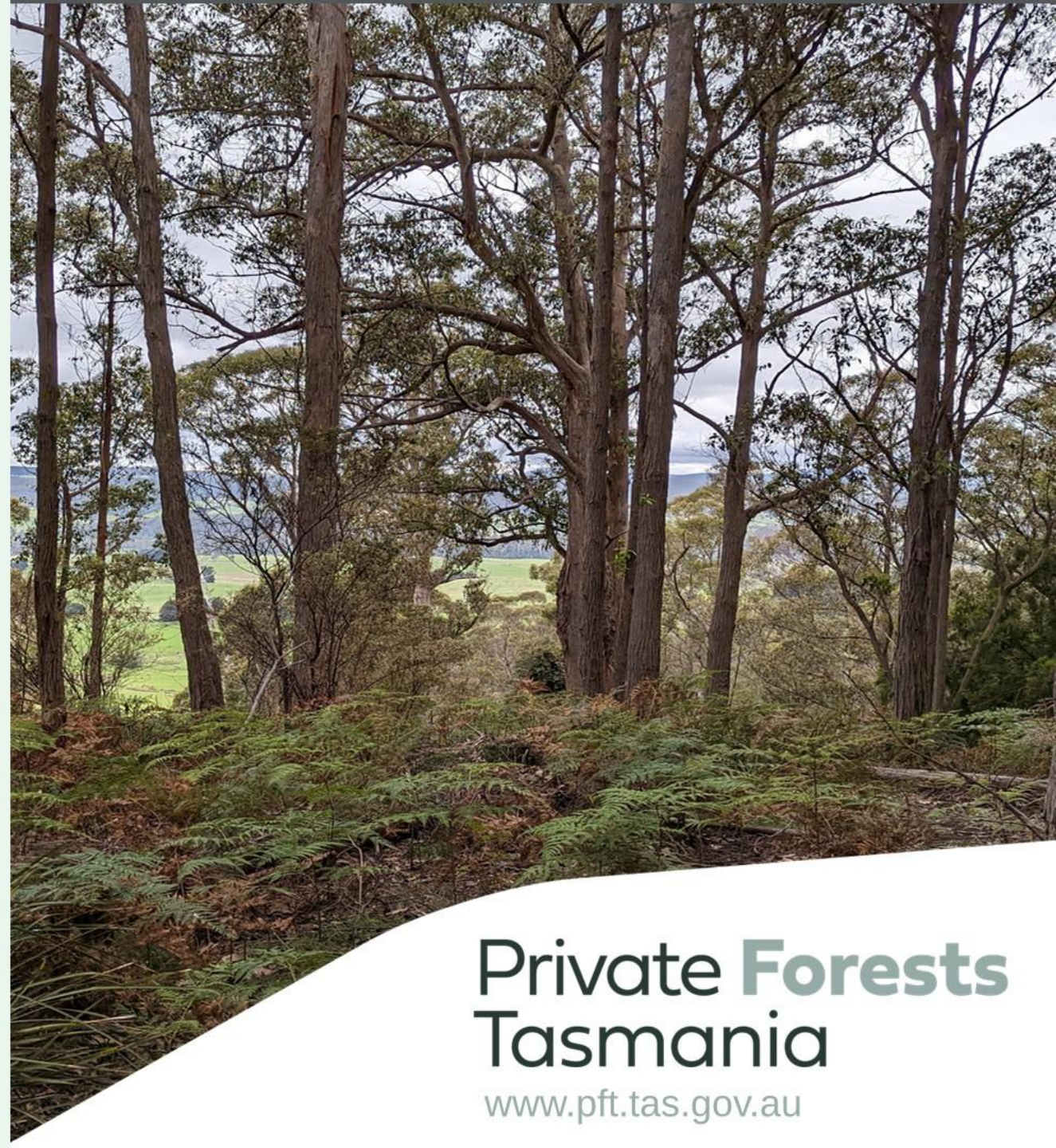
1.69 million tonnes of hardwood logs to market from private plantation

141,000 tonnes decrease



972,000 tonnes of softwood logs to market from private plantation

123,000 tonnes decrease



Private Forests Tasmania

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Private Forests Tasmania

Funding: State Government

Appropriation + Private Forest

Owner Levy

PFT Team: 9 super stars in 3 locations

(Hobart, Launceston, Burnie)

What keeps us busy.....

Day to Day

Strategic initiatives



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Tree Alliance

Tree Alliance is a strategic program run by Private Forests Tasmania. The program aims to raise awareness of farm forestry and the benefits of trees on farms, and to encourage and facilitate farmers to plant commercially viable trees in the agricultural landscape.

Our treety: to grow our future economy and ecology through trees.

[More about the Tree Alliance >](#)

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Knowledge Hub

Welcome to Private Forests Tasmania's Knowledge Hub

This project is supported by the TAS Farm Innovation Hub through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

Browse the map and select a topic to discover how you can grow healthy, productive trees on your farm.

Your tree growing journey starts here.



STAGE 1 Plantation planning
Species, sites and planting

STAGE 2 Managing trees
Harvesting and selling wood

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Carbon Forestry 101

Carbon forestry opportunities

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Sustainable Timber Tasmania

October 2025

The past – public forest management

A long history of forest management in Tasmania...

- **1898:** Introduction of resource security to ensure access to timber in exchange for capital investments.
- **1920:** The Forestry Act was passed, leading to the establishment of the Forestry Department
- **1947:** The Forestry Act was amended, and the Forestry Commission was established to manage the department independently
- **1994:** Forestry Tasmania was created to manage public production forests
- **1997:** The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) was signed, providing a framework for sustainable management of public and private forests
- **2017:** Sustainable Timber Tasmania commenced

Sustainable Timber Tasmania

Government Business Enterprise responsible for:

- Sustainably managing approx. 812,000 hectares of public production forests
- Undertaking forest operations for the production and sale of forest products
- *Forest Management Act 2013*

Core activities

- Land and native forest management
- Sale of forest products
- Fire Management
- Forestry road construction and maintenance



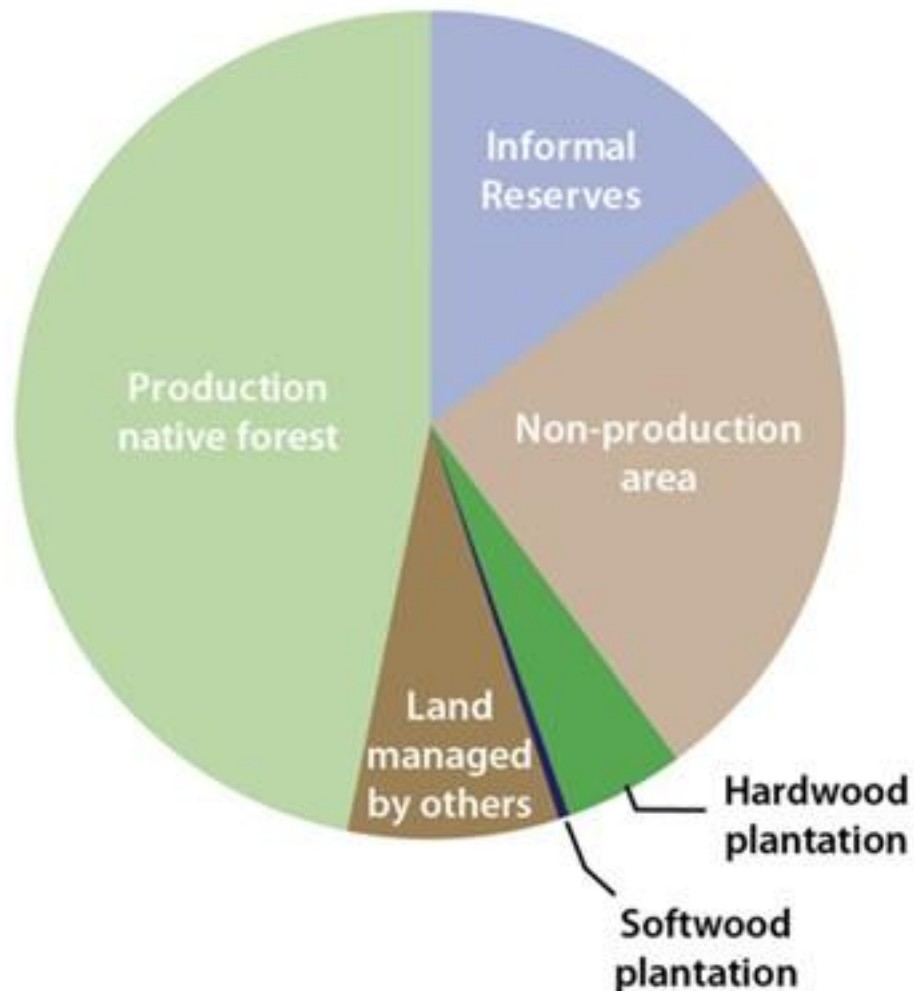


Tasmania

- 6.8 million ha
- 3.3 million ha is forested
- STT manages c. 800,000 ha

Tasmania's CAR reserve system

- 3.43 million ha
- Including 1.1 million ha of old growth forests



Public Production Forests

- 12% of Tasmania's total land area
- 17% of Tasmania's natural forest land area
- 462,000ha available for production
- 129,000ha managed for reservation
- 221,000ha non-production
- 25,000 ha plantation managed by STT
- Balance plantation managed by others

Forest Production

- Total production 1.2 million tonnes per annum
 - Native forest products
 - High quality sawlog
 - Special timbers
-
- Plantation estate managed for solid wood



Sustainably
managing the
forest estate



Sustainably
supplying
timber



Sustainably
growing our
business

Managing for a range of forest values



protect-fauna/flora



wood



water



Leatherwood honey



tourism and recreational activities

Questions