

A guide to planning approvals for forestry in Tasmania

Prepared by the Local Government
Forestry Consultative Committee

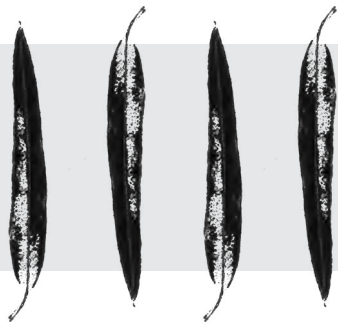
The Local Government Forestry Consultative Committee comprises: the Local Government Association of Tasmania, the Forest Practices Authority, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Forestry Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania and the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania.

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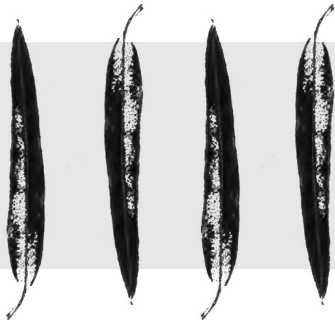
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REGULATION OF FORESTRY IN TASMANIA



Forestry in Tasmania is regulated through two systems: at the state government level through the forest practices system and at the local government level through individual planning schemes.

The forest practices system provides the standards (the *Forest Practices Code*) which must be met to provide reasonable protection for the cultural and natural values of the forest. The system is administered by the Forest Practices Authority and applies state-wide to all land.

Forestry land use decisions are made at both the state and local government levels. At the state level, public land may be dedicated as state forest and private land may be gazetted as private timber reserves. The use of private land for forestry purposes is determined at the local government level through local government planning schemes. These schemes have been developed to reflect local conditions and so vary from council to council.

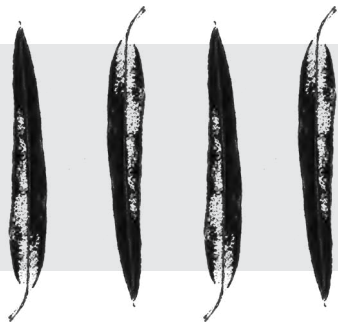
What are forest practices?

The *Forest Practices Act 1985* stipulates that a forest practices plan is required for the following forest practices, including land clearing:

- harvesting and regenerating native forest
- harvesting and/or establishing plantations
- clearing forests for other purposes
- clearing and converting threatened native vegetation communities
- constructing roads and quarries for the above purposes
- harvesting tree ferns.

In this booklet, forestry means forest practices.

The Local Government Forestry Consultative Committee has produced this booklet to provide factual information for planners, foresters, landowners and interested members of the community. This booklet provides information about the different and complementary roles the forest practices system and local government planning schemes play in regulating forestry and land clearing. It covers only the general principles of the local government planning system. Local councils can provide more detailed information about the specifics of their planning schemes.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is forest?

A forest is an area containing trees (*Forest Practices Act 1985*).

What are trees?

A tree is any living or dead woody plant and includes seedlings and regrowth.

What are forest practices?

Forest practices include harvesting and regenerating native forest; harvesting and/or establishing plantations; clearing forests for other purposes; clearing and converting threatened native vegetation; constructing roads and quarries for the above purposes; and harvesting treeferns (*Forest Practices Act 1985*).

How does the forest practices system regulate forestry? (page 14)

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) administers the forest practices system, set up under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. Most forest practices require a forest practices plan (FPP) which must be prepared in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* (the code). Specialists within the FPA carry out research to improve the code and provide advice on FPPs being prepared for forests with special cultural and/or natural values. Forest Practices Officers (FPOs) prepare FPPs and supervise the implementation of these plans. They submit certificates detailing the compliance of forest practices with the plan to the FPA at the end of each stage of the FPP.

The FPA annually audits a representative sample of FPPs. The FPA has powers to issue notices, impose fines or take legal action to ensure compliance with the code.

The forest practices system fosters a co-regulatory approach based on self-management by forest owners and the forest industry – the owners and the industry are responsible for ensuring that their forest practices comply with the code – and government regulation through the FPA. More information can be found on page 14.

What is the *Forest Practices Code*? (page 14)

The code provides a set of legally enforceable guidelines and standards to ensure reasonable protection of the natural and cultural values of the forest during forest practices. The guidelines and standards in the code cover accessing the forest (roads, bridges, quarries, etc.); harvesting timber; conservation of natural and cultural values (soil and water, geomorphology, visual landscape, flora, fauna and cultural heritage); and establishing and maintaining forests. The code can be downloaded from the FPA website: www.fpa.tas.gov.au



The Forest Practices Authority trains and authorises Forest Practices Officers who prepare Forest Practices Plans which must be in accordance with the Forest Practices Code.

What is a Forest Practices Officer? (page 15)

FPOs are employed directly by the forest industry or engaged as consultants either by forest owners or the forest industry to prepare and supervise FPPs. They are trained, authorised, directed and monitored by the FPA. Selected FPOs are authorised by the FPA to certify FPPs. A list of consultant FPOs is on the FPA website: <www.fpa.tas.gov.au>

What approval do I need to carry out forest practices on my land? (page 8 and 24)

If your land is a private timber reserve (PTR), you will generally need a certified FPP. If your land is not a PTR, you will generally need a certified FPP and in addition you will need to contact your council to see if you need to obtain a planning permit. Check the regulations on page 24 to see if you need an FPP.

Why do I need to get two approvals? Isn't this just doubling up? (page 8)

The two approvals for forestry on private land which is not a PTR are approving different things. The local government approval is required to ensure that the forest practices you are proposing are in accordance with the local council's planning scheme. The certified FPP is required to ensure that the forest practices you are proposing are in accordance with the standards set by the state government in the *Forest Practices Code*. Forest practices within PTRs do not require further local government approval because these are exemptions within the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. Note that some forest practices may not require an FPP (page 24). Forestry can be an 'as of right' land use in certain zones in some planning schemes, in which case development approval from the council is not necessary (page 19). Contact your council to find out about any specific approvals in regard to the planning schemes they administer.

PRIVATE TIMBER RESERVES

What is a private timber reserve? (page 10)

A PTR is an area of private land that is dedicated to forestry. Forest practices in PTRs do not require approval from the local council but do need a certified FPP. Private timber reserves give landowners long-term security that they will be able to manage their forests in the long term.

How can I get my land declared a private timber reserve? (page 11)

You apply to Private Forests Tasmania who process the application on behalf of the FPA. The Board of the FPA approve or refuse the applications.

How long will the declaration process take and what will it cost? (page 11)

The declaration process for PTRs can take between three and six months, depending upon whether or not there are any objections to the application. An application fee is payable. Contact Private Forests Tasmania for details.

How can I find out if there is a private timber reserve registered on my land, my neighbour's land or land in my area?

You can find out if land has a PTR on it from a title search and from maps via the LIST at <www.thelist.tas.gov.au>

FOREST PRACTICES PLANS

What is a forest practices plan? (page 15)

FPPs contain prescriptions and a map detailing how the planned forest practices will be conducted. FPPs must be prepared in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* and must be certified by an FPO before work starts.

How do I know if I need a forest practices plan for forest practices on my land? (page 24)

Forest practices on all tenures require an FPP, except for a few exemptions.

Do I need a forest practices plan to harvest firewood for my own use or to cut down a few trees on my land? (page 24)

The regulations about this are complex. Please check page 24 for full details.

Do I need a forest practices plan to build a dam on my land? (page 22)

Dam works authorised by a dam permit granted under the *Water Management Act 1999* do not need an FPP.

What if I just want to clear the forest on my land and not carry out any further forestry? (page 24)

This is defined as a forest practice and you will need to seek the same approvals as for any other forest practice. Check the regulations on page 24 to see if the practice you propose is exempt from requiring an FPP. The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy limits clearing to 40 ha per property in any 12 month consecutive period.

What if I just want to clear trees for a new fence line or boundary line? (page 24)

This is defined as a forest practice and you will need to seek the same approvals as for any other forest practice. Check the regulations on page 24 to see if the practice you propose is exempt from requiring an FPP.

Do I need a forest practices plan if I want to clear regrowth on previously cleared and converted land? (page 24)

Approval is not required to clear regrowth on previously cleared and converted land, which is defined as land that has not contained trees or threatened native vegetation for a period of at least 5 years since 1985 and where the regrowth does not contain more than 20 eucalypts more than 2 metres in height within any 0.5 ha area.

Am I permitted to carry out timber harvesting in threatened native vegetation communities? (page 24)

Timber harvesting can take place in threatened native vegetation communities as long as the forest is regenerated to



All commercial tree fern harvesting requires a Forest Practices Plan.

maintain the same forest community into the future. A certified FPP is required for any harvesting of trees.

Do I need a forest practices plan if I want to clear trees or threatened native vegetation communities for a subdivision? (page 23)

Subdivisions are exempted from requiring a forest practices plan, but only where they have been authorised under a permit issued under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. Check the regulations details on page 24.

Do I need a forest practices plan if I want to harvest some treeferns? (page 26)

An FPP is required for all commercial harvesting of *Dicksonia antarctica*. Salvage harvesting of *Dicksonia* is only permitted in areas scheduled for intensive logging operations (e.g. clearfall operations or similar, excluding any informal reserves) and there is a certified FPP with a prescription for *Dicksonia* harvesting. Tasmanian treefern tags must be obtained from the FPA and attached to the trunk of all harvested ferns at the point of harvest.

An FPP is not required for harvesting *Dicksonia* if the landowner has consented, no more than six treeferns are harvested on each property during one calendar year, the land is not defined as vulnerable and the *Dicksonia* are not for commercial purposes.

How do I arrange a forest practices plan? (page 33)

The FPA website has a list of consultant FPOs who you can contract to prepare an FPP:

<www.fpa.tas.gov.au>

Which do I do first — the forest practices plan or the Development Application? (page 20)

Most people who wish to carry out forest practices on private land that is not a PTR prepare an FPP first and then submit a Development Application. Once local government approval has been given, a certified FPP must be in place before any forest practices can commence.

Whom do I need to consult with about the forest practices plan and to whom do I provide information about the forest practices plan? (page 33)

Relevant information within FPPs should be made available to interested parties by the landowner in an effective and efficient manner. The landowner must also inform neighbours and the local council about planned forest practices.

How do I find out if there is a forest practices plan on land near me?

You can find a state-wide map of certified FPPs on the FPA website at fpa.tas.gov.au/index.php?id=42

How much does it cost to get a forest practices plan or a Development Application approved?

This depends on the complexity of the planned forest practices. FPOs charge a daily rate for the preparation of an FPP, which may take about five to ten days to prepare. There is a statutory fee for lodging FPPs with the FPA, which varies according to the class of plan. There are also fees for submitting Development Applications to local councils. Contact your council to find out about these.

VULNERABLE LAND AND CONSERVATION

What does vulnerable land mean? (page 24)

Vulnerable land is land which is within a stream side reserve, is steep, is very erodible, consists of or contains a threatened native vegetation community, is inhabited by a threatened species, contains sensitive karst (limestone or dolomite) soils, contains areas of forest reserved under an earlier FPP, or contains rare, vulnerable or endangered forest communities.

What are threatened native vegetation communities? (page 25)

The threatened native vegetation communities are listed on page 25. Clearance and conversion of these communities is generally not approved, unless exceptional circumstances exist. Harvesting and regeneration as native forest is permitted.

How do I find out if I have any threatened species or threatened native vegetation communities on my land? (page 28)

Information sheets are available on the FPA website to assist landholders determine whether they have any threatened native vegetation communities on their land. FPOs assess the potential for threatened species and threatened native vegetation communities in the process of preparing an FPP and specialists from the FPA will provide expert advice (see page 17). Other ways to find out if any threatened species and threatened native vegetation communities are present on your land are listed on page 28.



Private forest has an important role to play in reaching conservation goals, particularly the under-reserved oldgrowth forest communities. This oldgrowth Eucalyptus sieberi forest on granite is a priority for conservation on public and private land. (Photo by Forestry Tasmania)

What if I want to carry out forest practices on land that has a threatened species on it? (page 29)

You will need an FPP if you are planning forest practices where threatened species or their habitats are present. The specialists at the FPA are consulted if there are threatened species to consider in an FPP. The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* also obliges local councils to take into account activities that may threaten listed species or critical habitat when considering a Development Application. If you have threatened species present on your land, the forest practices you can carry out may be restricted.

What if I want to carry out forest practices on land that has a threatened native vegetation community on it? (page 29)

Land which consists of or contains a threatened native vegetation community (TNVC) cannot generally be cleared and converted. Forest practices which have an FPP and result in the natural regeneration of the TNVC are permitted.

What if I want my land to be managed for conservation? (page 31)

If you are interested in taking further steps to ensure the survival of the threatened species or threatened native vegetation communities on your land, you could consider entering into a conservation covenant. See page 31 for more information.

OBJECTIONS, APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

How long does it take to get a forest practices plan or a Development Application approved?

This depends on the complexity of the planned forest practices but you should allow at least one to two months. Councils must complete the process of determining a Development Application within 42 days, unless the 'clock has been stopped' because more information is required.

What if my forest practices plan is refused? What can I do? (page 36)

You can appeal to the Forest Practices Tribunal against the refusal of an FPP. However, you cannot

undertake any forest practices unless an FPP is certified.

What happens if I get a forest practices plan approved, but the council does not approve my Development Application? (page 36)

You can appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal against the refusal of a Development Application. However, you cannot proceed with any clearing or harvesting unless approval is given.

Can I object to a forest practices plan? (page 35)

There is no formal mechanism for objecting to an FPP if forest practices are carried out in accordance with a certified FPP. However, you should raise any concerns directly through the applicant or forest company (see information about the Good Neighbour Charter on page 13) and lodge any complaints with the FPA.

What if I want to object to a local government Development Application in my area? (page 36)

You can lodge an objection to a Development Application if it is defined as a 'discretionary' use in the planning scheme. There are no public opportunities to object to permitted uses.

How do I report on an alleged breach of a forest practices plan? (page 36)

Notify the FPA, preferably in writing, giving details about the nature of the alleged breach and its location.

Can I object to a declaration of a private timber reserve? (page 35)

You can object to the declaration of a PTR if you are a neighbour or one of the other prescribed people or institutions listed in the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

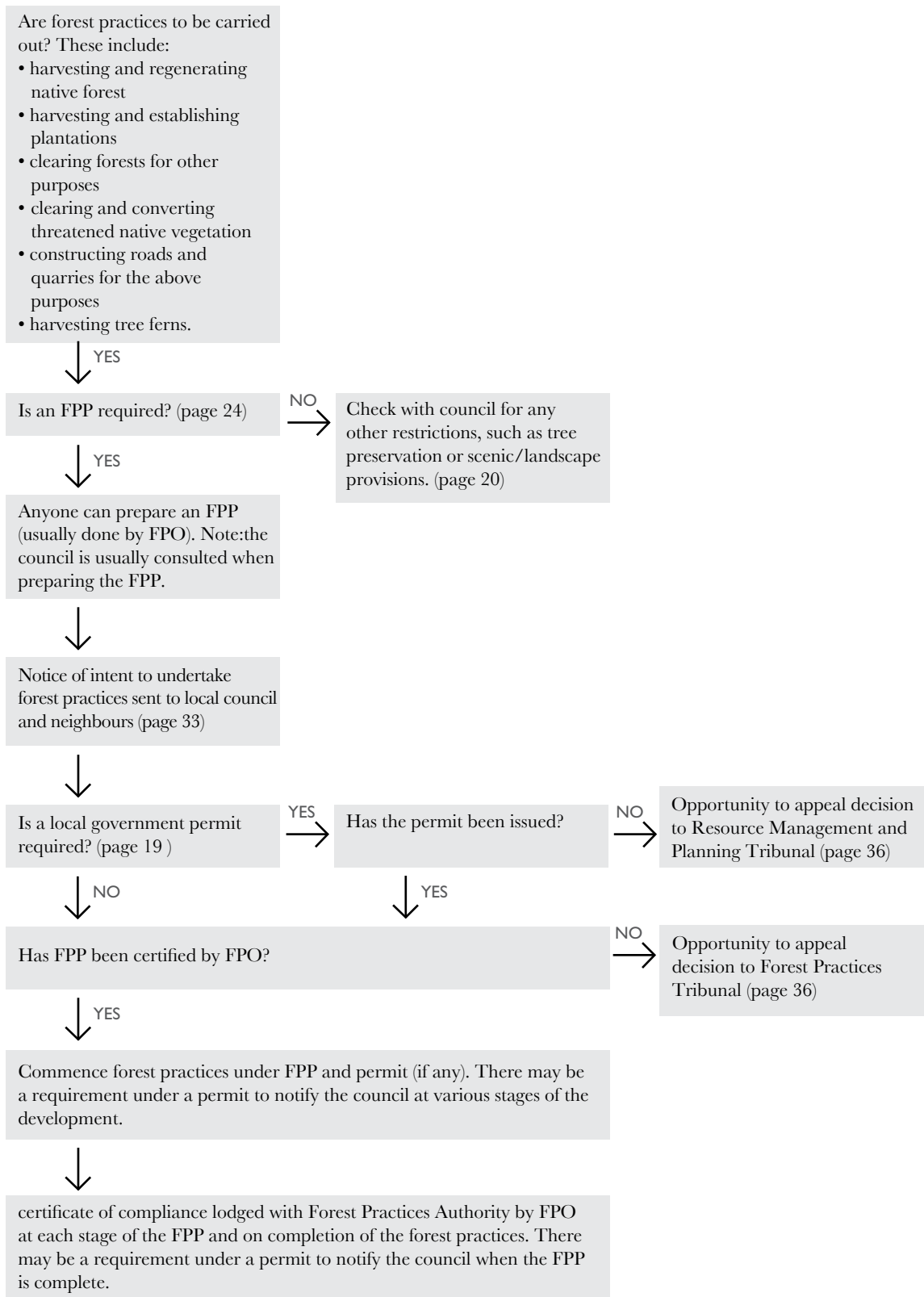
MORE INFORMATION

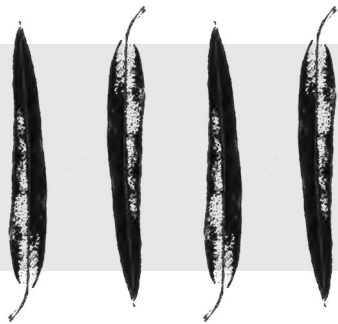
Whom can I contact if I have some more questions? (page 40)

Your local council should be your first port of call on matters relating to planning schemes. Queries on the forest practices system can be referred to any FPO or the FPA. Contact addresses are at the

THE PLANNING APPROVAL PROCESS FOR FORESTRY

Flow chart / The planning approval process for forestry





WHERE FORESTRY CAN TAKE PLACE

back of this booklet.

All forest practices are regulated by the forest practices system under the *Forest Practices Act 1985* which is administered by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA). Most forest practices will need a forest practices plan (FPP). See page 24 for the few exceptions. An FPP stipulates in which areas forestry can take place, which areas are to be reserved and the manner in which forest practices will be conducted.

STATE FOREST

Forestry as a permitted land use is determined by the parliament and government by declaration of land as state forest.

The Tasmanian Parliament decides which areas of public land are to be available for forestry. Forestry Tasmania (FT) is the Government Business Enterprise responsible for the management of state forest. FT, with public input, prepares Forest Management Plans for approval by the Minister. These plans detail the management objectives and prescriptions, and the areas available for timber harvesting. FT decides which of the areas identified as available for logging in the Forest Management Plan will be harvested in a given year and prepares an FPP for each area.

Local government planning schemes play no direct role in defining where timber harvesting may occur in state forest as forest practices on state forest are excluded from the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. However, FT is required to consult with local governments and other stakeholders about planned forest practices

through the three year plan process (page 17) and under certain circumstances (page 33).

Other public land

Forest practices on public land other than state forest must comply with both the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

PRIVATE LAND

Forestry as a permitted land use is determined by local planning schemes.

Private land is subject to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. Local government determines where forestry can take place on private land, according to individual councils' planning schemes. In some local government planning schemes, zones are determined where forestry is an 'as of right' permitted use and so no permit is necessary (page 19). If forestry is a permitted use, council will grant a permit and may apply conditions. If forestry is a discretionary use in a zone, the application will be advertised and the council may or may not grant the permit which may or may not have conditions attached. Forestry will be prohibited in some zones under planning schemes. Check with your council to see whether forestry is a permitted use or not in the zone where you are proposing to carry out forest practices.

In addition, private land is subject to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and most forest practices will require a certified FPP (see page 24 for exemptions, such as subdivisions). The FPP can set some conditions, such as certain areas of forest

being reserved.

PRIVATE TIMBER RESERVES

Forestry as a permitted land use is determined initially by local government through local planning schemes.

The FPA assesses applications by landowners to have their land declared as a private timber reserve (PTR) (page 11). PTRs are not declared if forestry is a prohibited use in the local planning scheme. Forest practices within PTRs are subsequently exempt from the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and do not require further approval from local government. Forest practices on PTRs are subject to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and so require

an FPP.

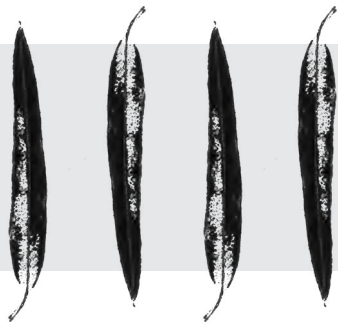
Table 1 FPP and council approval requirements to undertake forest practices for different tenures

	FPP required *	Council approval required
State forest	Yes	No
Public land other than state forest	Yes	Yes**
Private land (not PTR)	Yes	Yes**
Private timber reserve	Yes	No

* unless exempt (see page 24)



Managing forests to produce timber is a long-term business. Private Timber Reserves provide forest landowners with the certainty that they will be able to continue to manage their forests for timber production.



PRIVATE TIMBER RESERVES

** unless forestry is in an ‘as of right’ use zone

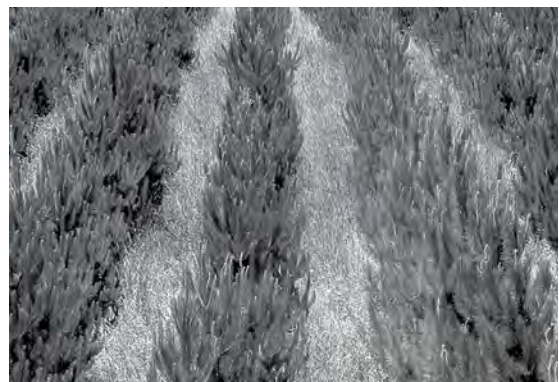
A private timber reserve (PTR) is an area of private land that must be used primarily for establishing forests, or growing or harvesting timber in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code*. Other compatible activities may also be undertaken. PTRs can only be approved on land where forestry is a permitted or discretionary use under a local planning scheme.

Forest practices on a PTR must comply with the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and so a forest practices plan (FPP) is required for any forest practices undertaken on a PTR. Further approval by the council under the local planning scheme is not required.

A PTR is not a ‘licence to operate’ like a planning permit is for most activities. The actual ‘licence to operate’ is the FPP. All forms of development on the PTR other than forestry must have council approval, if required by the planning scheme.

Although FPPs in PTRs do not require further approval by local government, consultation with the council takes place when preparing an FPP. This particularly relates to the proposed transport routes.

More information can be found on Private Forests Tasmania’ website:



<www.privateforests.tas.gov.au>

Forestry must be a permitted or discretionary use in the local government’s planning scheme in order for a private timber reserve to be established. Once established, forest practices on private timber reserves do not need local government approval. (Photo by Private Forests Tasmania)

WHY HAVE PRIVATE TIMBER RESERVES?

Forestry is a long-term business and forest owners need certainty so that they can manage and harvest their timber before they will invest in forestry. PTRs provide forest landowners with the security that subsequent decisions by local government will not prevent the management and harvest of their forests in the future. PTRs are subject to the forest practices system, which is a single consistent state-wide system of planning and regulation. Local government planning schemes, which vary between councils, have a variety of approaches to forestry activities.

In 2006 there were 1,667 PTRs covering around

419,100 hectares, or approximately 40 per cent of the total area of private forests in Tasmania.

HOW IS A PRIVATE TIMBER RESERVE DECLARED?

Private Forests Tasmania undertakes the preliminary administrative processing of PTR applications on behalf of the Forest Practices Authority (FPA). The Board of Directors of the FPA decides whether to declare a PTR or refuse the application.

An application for a PTR will be granted unless there are grounds for refusal. An application for a PTR will be refused on the grounds that:

- (a) the application has not been made in good faith and honestly
- (b) the land is not suitable for declaration as a PTR
- (c) a person who has a legal or equitable interest in the land, or in timber on the land, would be disadvantaged if the application were granted
- (d) by virtue of the operation of any Act, the owner of the land is prohibited from establishing forests, or growing or harvesting timber, on the land
- (e) it would not be in the public interest to grant the application
- (f) an owner of land that adjoins, or is within 100 metres of, the boundary of the proposed

PTR would be directly and materially disadvantaged if the application were granted.

The application is advertised in the newspaper and council is notified. There is then a period of at least 28 days in which ‘prescribed persons’ can object to the application. A prescribed person includes a local or state authority, neighbours within 100 metres of the proposed PTR or a person who has a legal or equitable interest in the land to which the application relates. See page 35 for more information on objecting to a PTR.

Applicants and prescribed persons have the right to appeal if aggrieved by a decision of the FPA relating to the approval or refusal of a PTR. Appeals are heard by the Forest Practices Tribunal. See page 35 for more information on appealing a decision to approve or refuse a PTR.

When a PTR is declared, the status of the land as a PTR is registered on the land title. The PTR registration remains with the title, irrespective of subsequent land sales. The PTR may cover all or only a part of the title. The status of the land as a PTR can be determined by a title search and maps assessed via the LIST at <www.thelist.tas.gov.au>

If the landowner wishes to use the land for other incompatible purposes, such as agriculture, they must apply for revocation of the PTR. When a PTR is declared or revoked, the relevant council is notified and a notice is placed in the *Tasmanian Government Gazette*. Applications can take between three and six months for a decision to be made and



Private Timber Reserves provide long-term security to private landowners wishing to grow or harvest trees on their land.



LEGISLATION AND POLICY GOVERNING FORESTRY IN TASMANIA

a fee is payable. Contact Private Forests Tasmania for details.

All forest practices require approval under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. Some may also require approval under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Other Acts also apply; see Table 2 below. Approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* may be required in some situations.

Table 2 Main Acts and policies applying to forestry in Tasmania

Act/policy	Description	Act/policy applies to			
		State forest	Other public land	Private land	Declared PTR
<i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i>	Establishes the framework for regulating forest practices across all tenures; requires development and implementation of the <i>Forest Practices Code</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>	Implements the Resource Planning and Management System to achieve sustainable outcomes from the use and development of the state's natural and physical resources		✓	✓	

More information can be found on the Tasma-

nian law website <www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p>

Table 3 Additional Acts and policies applying to forestry in Tasmania

Tasmanian Act/policy	State forest	Other public land	Private land	Declared PTR
<i>Forestry Act 1920</i>	✓			
<i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i>		✓	some*	
<i>Aboriginal Relics Act 1975</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i>		✓		
<i>Fire Service Act 1979</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Inland Fisheries Act 1995</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Regional Forest Agreement (Land Classification) Act 1998</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓

*applies to private land declared as a Conservation Area



THE REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

The Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) was signed by the Tasmanian and Australian governments in 1997. The governments also agreed to a supplementary RFA in 2005 – the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement. Under these agreements around 45 per cent of the state’s forests are in conservation reserves and forests outside reserves are managed under a sustainable forest management system. For more information go to <www.rfa.gov.au/tasmania/> and <www.environment.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/index.html>

THE PERMANENT NATIVE FOREST ESTATE POLICY

Through the RFA process, the state government developed the Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy which aims to maintain an extensive and permanent native forest estate on both private and public land in Tasmania. The policy sets state-wide, bioregional and forest community minimum threshold percentages below which native forest vegetation cannot be cleared for conversion to other uses. Under the policy,

broad-scale clearing and conversion of native forest on private land is to be phased out by 1 July 2016, pending a review of the policy during 2016. Clearing and conversion of native forest on private land will not exceed 40 hectares per property per 12 consecutive month period. <http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/forestry/native-forest>

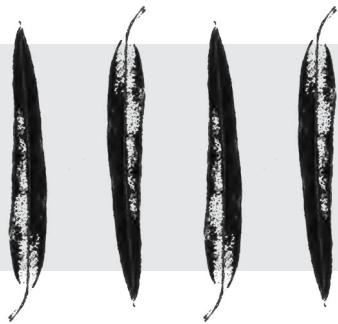
VOLUNTARY MECHANISMS

There are some important voluntary mechanisms to facilitate good relationships between the forest industry and the community and other industries.

- The Good Neighbour Charter is a commitment from major commercial plantation companies and Forestry Tasmania to undertake to address the concerns of landowners bordering their plantations. More information can be found at <www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/pages/publications.html>
- The Tourism and Forestry Protocol Agreement (2003) commits the tourism and forestry industries to work together to minimise the impact of forest practices on visitors’ experiences. More information can be found at <www.tourismforestryprotocol.com.au/>



The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy limits the clearance and conversion of native forests to other land uses.



HOW THE FOREST PRACTICES SYSTEM REGULATES FORESTRY

THE FOREST PRACTICES SYSTEM

The forest practices system is legislated through the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and is administered by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA), an independent statutory body. The FPA is responsible for ensuring that reasonable protection for the natural and cultural values of the forest is provided when forest practices are carried out. The forest practices system applies to all tenures in Tasmania.

The forest practices system is based on a co-regulatory approach, involving self-management by the forest industry, with training, accreditation, guidance, monitoring and enforcement by the FPA. It is designed to be complementary to and integrated with other land use and environmental regulatory instruments in order to provide a consistent state-wide approach to forestry regulation and a 'one stop shop' approach to approvals.

THE FOREST PRACTICES CODE

The *Forest Practices Code* (the code) provides a set of guidelines and standards to ensure reasonable protection of the natural and cultural values of the forest when forest practices are undertaken. The guidelines and standards in the code cover:

- accessing the forest (roads, bridges, quarries etc.)
- harvesting timber
- conservation of natural and cultural values (soil and water, geomorphology, visual landscape, flora, fauna and cultural heritage)
- establishing and maintaining forests.

The FPA developed the code through extensive consultation and public comment. The code is reviewed periodically, incorporating suggestions from scientists, government, the forestry industry and the public. As part of this process it has been refined and expanded twice, and is currently under review. The code is legally enforceable under the *Forest Practices Act 1985* for both public and private forests.

Copies of the code can be purchased from some Service Tasmania outlets or downloaded from the FPA website: <www.fpa.tas.gov.au/>



These plantations illustrate the protection given to drainage depressions under the Forest Practices Code which stipulates the depressions should not be cultivated.

FOREST PRACTICES PLANS

Forest practices on all tenures require a certified FPP, apart from a few exemptions detailed on page 24.

Forest practices cannot start under an FPP until the FPP has been certified by an FPO. Neighbours and local government are notified before operations begin to provide an opportunity for consultation and discussion of any concerns.

During the preparation of each FPP, Forest Practices Officers are required to identify the significant natural or cultural values of the area, and must seek advice from a relevant specialist on protecting those values. This may result in restrictions, such as harvesting being modified or areas being reserved.

Each FPP contains prescriptions and a map detailing how the planned forest practices will be conducted. These prescriptions include details on the location of roads, planned harvesting systems, reforestation provisions, stocking standards, and measures for the protection of natural and cultural values.

Approval for the activity associated with the FPP is then sought from the local council as the statutory planning authority (if required under the planning scheme and if the land is not a PTR or state forest). Local government may impose additional conditions on the proposed forest practices.

Anyone operating under an FPP must comply with all the provisions of the FPP and the *Forest Practices Code*.

You can find out if there is an FPP near you on the webmap on the FPA web site:

fpa.tas.gov.au/index.php?id=42

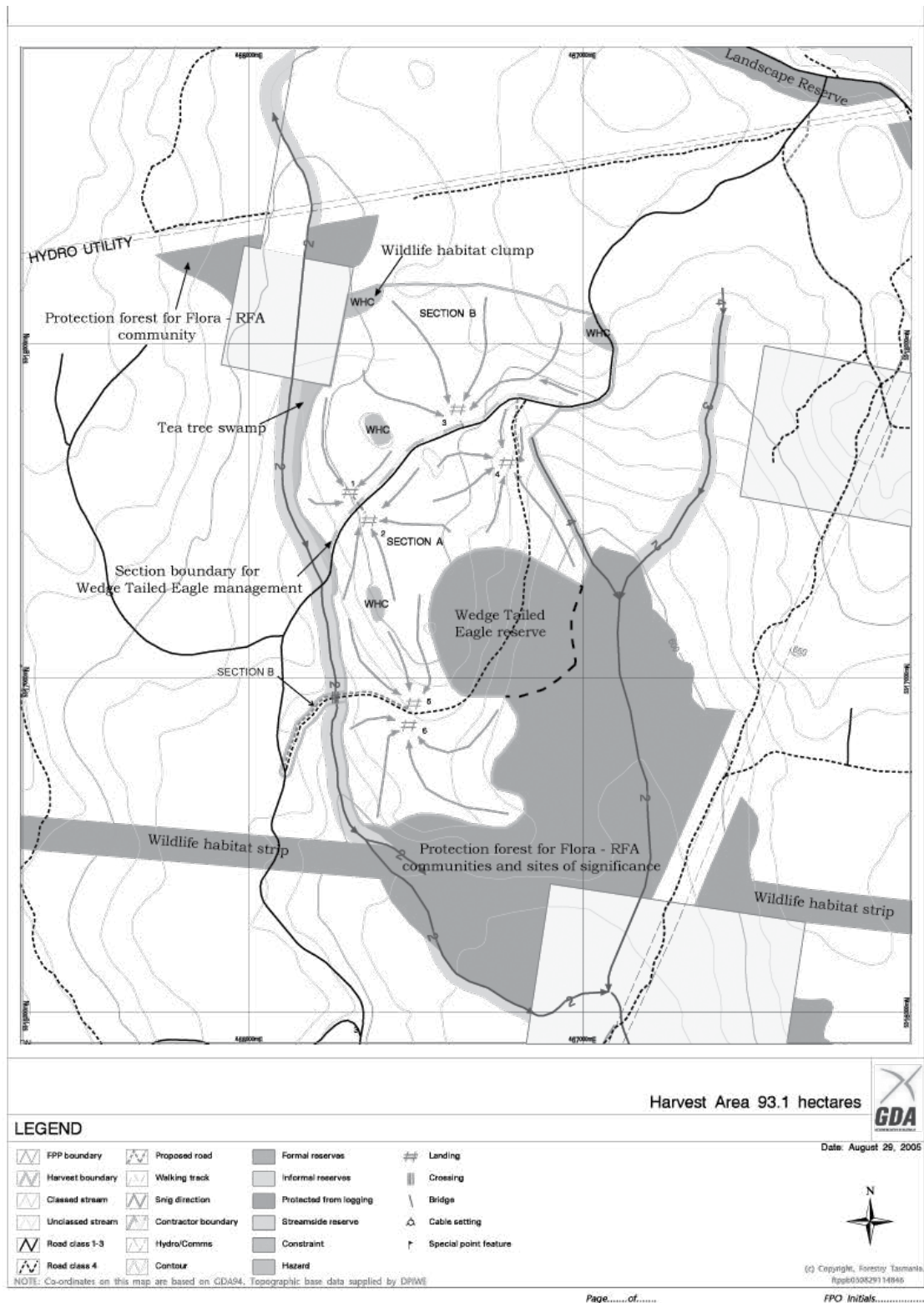
FOREST PRACTICES OFFICERS

The day to day regulation of the forest practices system is carried out by Forest Practices Officers (FPOs), who are employed within the forest industry or who work as private consultants. FPOs are trained and accredited by the FPA. The FPA monitors the planning and supervision of forest practices by FPOs to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained.

Forest practices plans (FPPs) are usually prepared by FPOs. The FPA delegates authority to some trained FPOs to certify FPPs.

FPOs supervise the implementation of FPPs and may deal with any operation not complying with an FPP by issuing a warning or a formal notice to take corrective action. At the completion of each stage of an FPP, an FPO must audit the forest practices for compliance with the plan and submit a compliance report to the FPA. On completion of all the forest practices in the FPP area, an FPO submits a final certificate of compliance to the FPA, which details the extent to which the forest practices have complied with the FPP.

Figure 1 Example of a Forest Practices Plan Map



This Forest Practices Plan map illustrates areas within a coupe that can be harvested and others that must be protected. This state forest coupe has streamside reserves, a wedge-tailed eagle nest reserve, a wildlife habitat strip, some wildlife habitat clumps, a landscape reserve and a reserve for threatened forest communities or species.

THE FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

The FPA has statutory responsibilities to monitor the operation of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and to report annually to state parliament on the operation of the forest practices system. It is also involved in the implementation of other forest-related legislation and policies. The FPA is headed by the Chief Forest Practices Officer and has staff with a range of expertise that enable it to fulfil its regulatory functions, including providing training and scientific advice and undertaking research, audits and investigations.

The FPA, created in July 2005, superseded the Forest Practices Board and incorporates significant changes and developments. The FPA has a board of directors with experience in different aspects of forest management and conservation, including local government. A Forest Practices Advisory Council advises the FPA and its Board on technical details and policy related to the FPA's responsibilities.

The FPA administers two major programs: Independent Regulation, and Research and Advice.

Independent Regulation Program

The staff of the Independent Regulation Program annually audit a random sample of forest practices under FPPs on private and public land. The audits assess the standard of the forest practices and whether they comply with the code and other prescriptions incorporated into the FPP. The performance of all sectors of the forest industry is assessed and the results are published in the FPA's annual report. Staff in this program also investigate alleged breaches of the code and take appropriate enforcement action through the issue of notices to repair damage. The FPA can also impose fines or take legal action to ensure compliance with the code.

Research and Advice Program

The FPA employs specialists in botany, zoology, soil and water, geoscience, cultural heritage and visual landscape. The specialists undertake research and monitoring in their subject areas – often in collaboration with scientists from other organisations. Results are incorporated into the forest practices system through adaptive management.

The specialists play a key role in training and providing advice to FPOs, which often requires liaison with other scientists. They have developed a variety of management tools to assist FPOs to identify issues and to prescribe management for the natural and cultural values of forests when preparing FPPs.



The Forest Practices Authority specialists carry out research to fine-tune the Forest Practices Code and provide advice for Forest Practices Officers preparing forest practices plans.

THE FOREST PRACTICES TRIBUNAL

The Forest Practices Tribunal is an independent body composed of experts in forestry and conservation and is chaired by a legal practitioner. The tribunal's registry is independently managed by the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal. The tribunal hears appeals lodged in relation to decisions of the FPA.

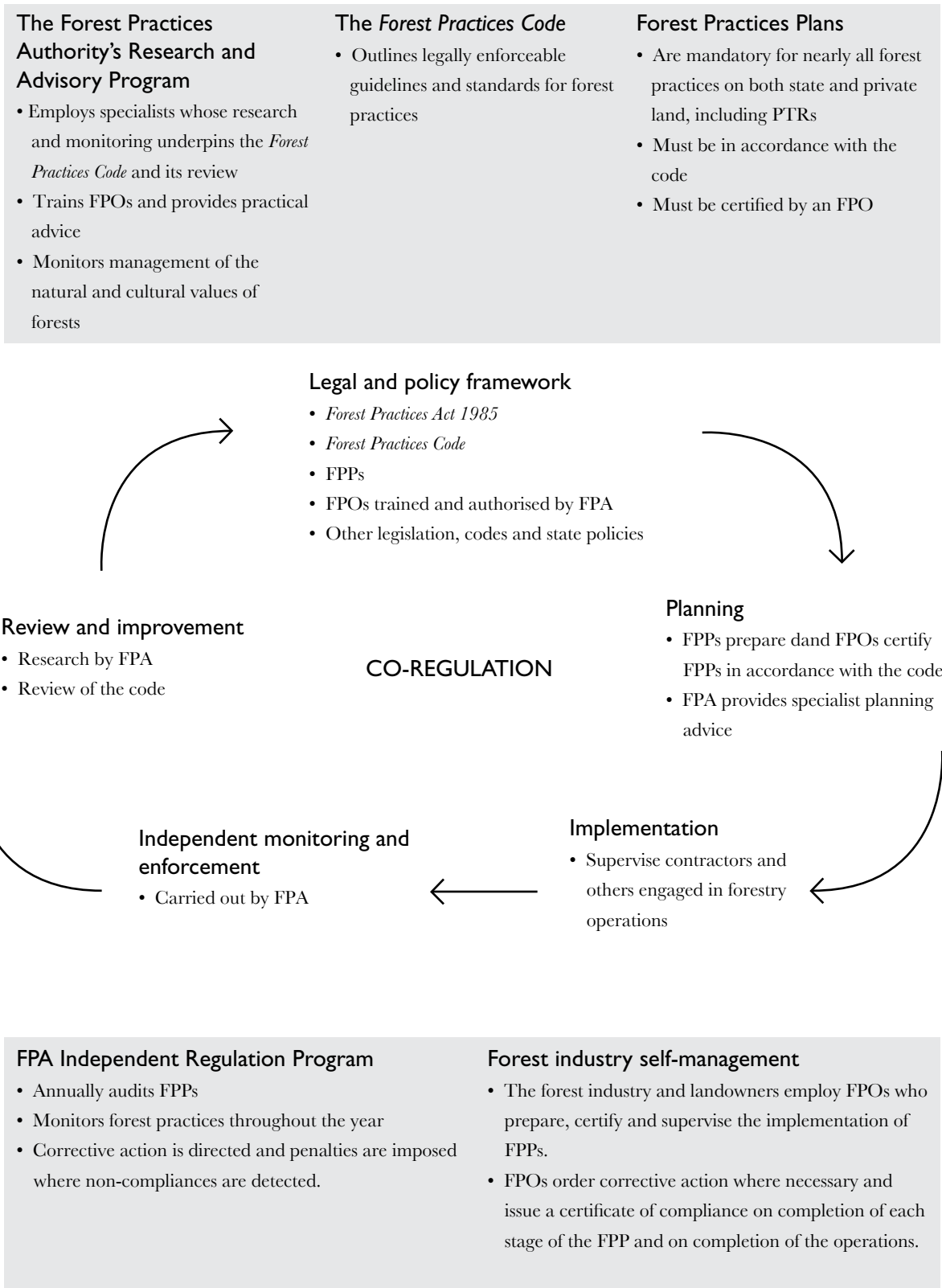
THREE YEAR PLANS

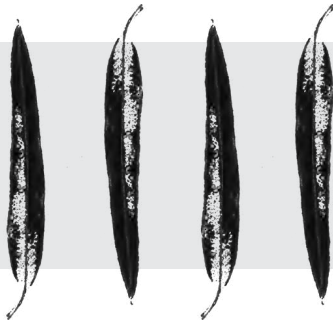
Companies harvesting more than 100,000 tonnes of wood each year must lodge with the FPA a three year plan detailing proposed forest practices. Each year the companies and the FPA consult with relevant councils about the information contained in the three year plans. These plans include a detailed map and information on:

- location where harvesting is to occur
- approximate volumes of timber to be harvested
- transport routes for the harvested timber
- proposed reforestation measures for the areas to

Figure 2 The Forest Practices System

Co-regulation = industry self-management + government regulation





HOW THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SYSTEM REGULATES FORESTRY

be harvested.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SCHEMES

Local councils, as statutory planning authorities, control the use and development of land in their area through a planning scheme. Planning schemes are legally binding regulatory instruments that set out the requirements that apply to land use and development. They are prepared and administered by local councils.

Planning schemes in Tasmania must be consistent with the Resource Management and Planning System objectives, which are based upon concepts of sustainable development. Some councils are currently drafting new planning schemes to comply with these objectives and with the planning directive on the format and structure of new planning schemes, which took effect in December 2003.

Planning schemes regulate the use and development of land by using a zonal planning system. This system divides the local government area into zones where specified land uses may or may not be permitted. A written document, known as the Ordinance, describes the objectives for each zone and details the standards that any use or Development Application needs to meet in order to gain a planning permit.

All Development Applications will fall into the categories of:

- 'as of right' use, where no planning permit is required
- permitted, where a permit will be granted that may be subject to conditions
- discretionary, where the application is publicly advertised and a planning permit may or may not be granted

- prohibited, where a permit is not granted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR FOREST PRACTICES

Most forest practices require a forest practices plan (FPP), certified through the forest practices system. Exemptions are listed on page 24 and include subdivisions. Council approval may also be required, unless the land on which the practice is to take place is state forest or a private timber reserve (PTR) or if forestry is an 'as of right' use. However, all FPP applicants, including for state forest and PTRs, must consult with the local council in certain situations (see page 33 for details about when councils must be consulted about an FPP). PTRs cannot be established where forestry is



a prohibited use in the planning scheme.

In addition to a forest practices plan, local government approval is needed for forest practices, such as the plantation establishment shown here, unless the land is state forest, a private timber reserve or forestry is an 'as of right use' under the local government planning scheme. (Photo by Private Forests Tasmania)

Councils have their own planning schemes that cover the entire municipal area. The planning requirements for forestry therefore vary from

council to council. In most planning schemes currently in operation in Tasmania, forestry is a permitted land use within rural or resource zones. In some cases forestry is an ‘as of right’ use and so does not need a permit. Permitted or ‘as of right’ uses are not subject to third party appeal rights. Check with your local council to find out which zone your land falls into and what category of forestry applies to that zone.

Generally, when submitting an application for approval, the applicant supplies a draft FPP to the council for consideration. Applications to carry out forest practices are assessed against the standards and criteria of the council’s planning scheme.

If forestry is a discretionary activity, the council will advertise and assess the application and decide whether or not to give approval for the application. Objections from third parties may be lodged with the council for discretionary applications. For both permitted and discretionary activities the council may impose additional conditions to those in the FPP through the planning permit, especially in relation to matters not covered by the FPP – for example, the use of council roads.

Once local government approval has been given, a certified FPP must be in place before any forest practices can commence. Operations cannot start if either local government approval or the FPP is refused.

For information on planning permit application procedures and fees, contact your local council.

OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON CLEARING VEGETATION

Some councils have additional restrictions, outside of the planning scheme, on clearing vegetation.

Local councils, primarily urban ones where forestry is generally not common, sometimes have a Significant Tree Register, a Tree Preservation Order or trees and gardens that are listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. These may apply to particular trees, or to all the trees in a certain area or zone. These trees cannot be damaged or

removed without a permit.

In addition, some planning schemes include zones where vegetation has a higher level of protection than in other areas. The vegetation may be significant due to one or more of the following factors:

- it is in a visually prominent location
- it is part of an threatened native vegetation community
- it contains threatened plant and/or animal species
- it adjoins a town water supply intake.

ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Local government planning schemes generally assess Development Applications in the following way. However, each council is different, so it is best to check with your local council to find out how its planning scheme works.

Exemptions

If the application is exempt from planning approval, a permit is not required and the activity can take place. If the application is not exempt then an application for a permit may be required.

Table of use

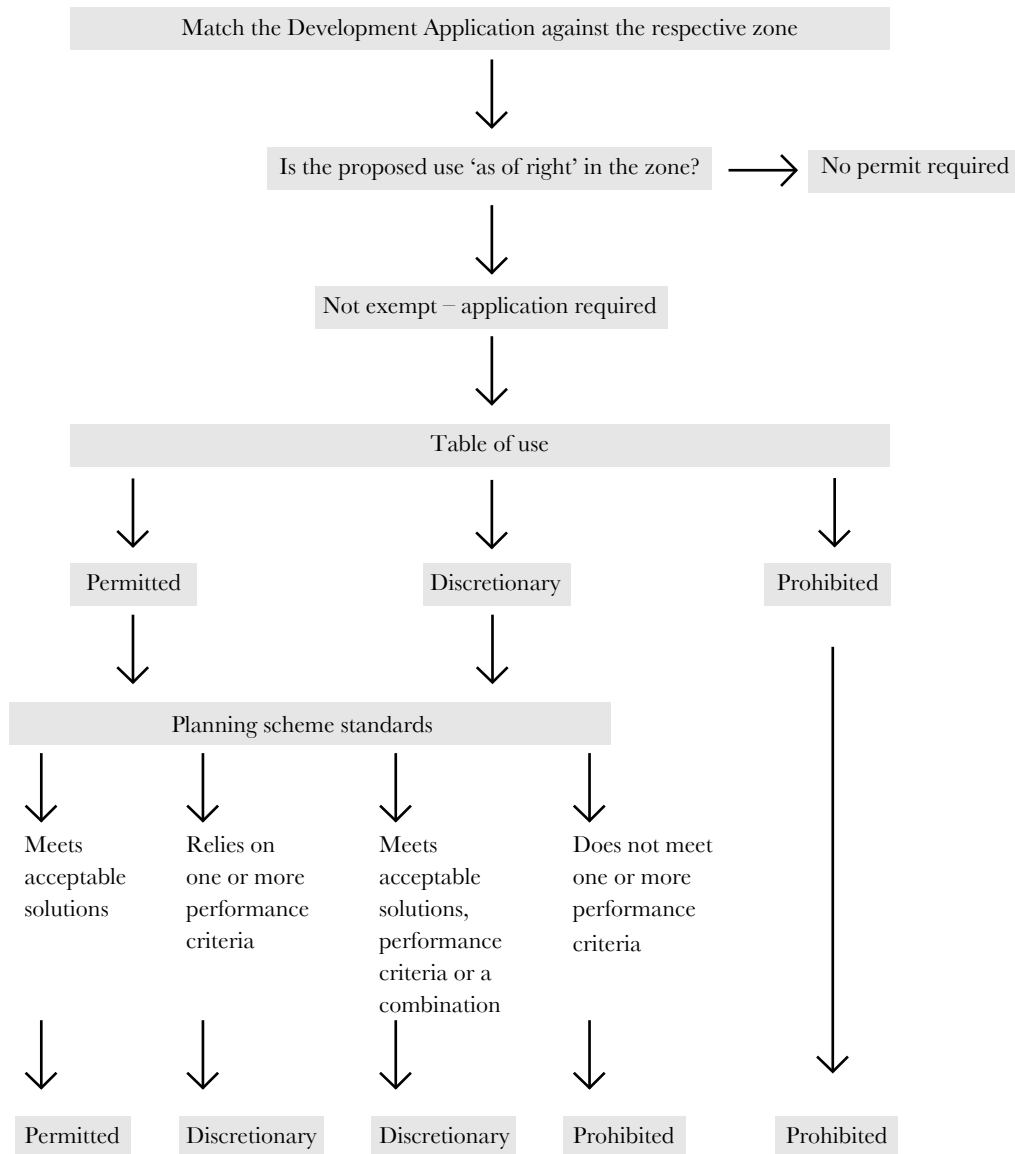
The application is checked by council staff against the table of use to match the defined activity against the respective zone. The table of use contains lists of activities that are permitted or discretionary. All other activities are prohibited and so will not receive a permit and cannot take place.

Assessment

Permitted and discretionary activities are assessed against the planning scheme standards. Those that meet all the criteria are permitted and are given a permit. Activities that must meet further standards, such as performance criteria, are discretionary and may or may not be given a permit. Activities that

Figure 3
Determining the status of an application through the planning scheme template

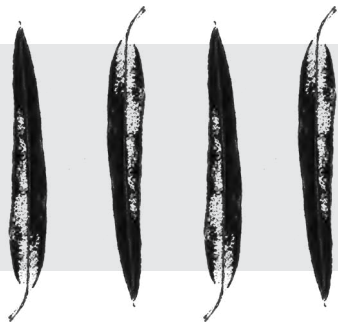
The following flow chart is adapted from the *Template Guide: A guide to drafting planning schemes using the Common Key Elements Template, March 2002*. In future, planning schemes will conform to this model.



Planning scheme standards

For most planning schemes, each zone has standards which are performance requirements for use and development. Standards generally have specified objectives, performance criteria and acceptable solutions.

- Objectives are the purpose or aim to be achieved by a standard. The objective can be met by complying with acceptable solutions or performance criteria.
- Performance criteria are general statements describing how the objective can be met. This allows the standard to be met with flexibility, potentially in a range of different ways. Performance criteria can include quantifiable requirements.
- Acceptable solutions are one way of meeting the performance criteria. Meeting the acceptable solution means the proposal is 'deemed to comply' with the objective. Acceptable solutions must be expressed in measurable terms (usually quantifiable) that can be used to assess compliance.



cannot meet the standards are prohibited.

REGULATION OF FOREST PRACTICES

State-wide controls on the clearing of trees and woody vegetation continue to evolve. In 2009, changes to the Forest Practices Regulations brought in exemptions to requiring a Forest Practices Plan (FPP) (see page 24). The Forest Practices Authority is responsible for administering the legislation for both forest and threatened non-forest vegetation communities, such as wetlands and high altitude native grasslands. Landowners and developers are strongly advised to seek professional advice from a Forest Practices Officer (FPO) or the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) before undertaking any forest practices, including tree clearing. Unauthorised forest practices can result in substantial penalties.

Most forest practices require an FPP. This is so for all tenures – state forest and private forest, including private timber reserves (PTRs). The exceptions are detailed on page 24. The Forest Practices Regulations can be found at <www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p>

Forest practices defined

Under the *Forest Practices Act 1985* a Forest Practices Plan is required for :

- harvesting and regenerating native forest
- harvesting and/or establishing plantations
- clearing forests for other purposes
- clearing and converting threatened native vegetation communities
- constructing roads and quarries for the above purposes
- harvesting tree ferns.

HOW TO FIND OUT IF YOU NEED A FOREST PRACTICES PLAN

DAMS

From 30th April 2007, dam works authorised by a dam permit granted under the *Water Management Act 1999* do not require an FPP. This includes any timber harvesting or clearing of native vegetation on the dam site.

EASEMENTS

Easements for powerlines, gas pipelines and public roads do not need an FPP for tree clearing or timber harvesting.

FOREST PRACTICES PLANS FOR ROADS

An FPP is not required for harvesting or clearing of trees for public roads. In the Forest Practices Regulations a public road is defined as a state highway, subsidiary road or country road, as defined in the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935* or a highway under the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*.

Roads on state forest are forest roads, as defined in the *Forestry Act 1920*. FPPs are generally required for construction of all new forest roads.

FOREST PRACTICES PLANS FOR SUBDIVISIONS

Clearing for buildings and associated infrastructure does not require a forest practices plan if the development has been authorised under a permit issued under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act. If no permit has been issued then any clearing is subject to the requirements for a forest practices plan outlined on page 24.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

The following definitions explain the terms in the Forest Practices Regulations flow chart on the following page. The flow chart details the exemptions from requiring a forest practices plan. The terms are listed alphabetically.

Clearance and conversion

Clearance and conversion means the deliberate removal of native vegetation, and its replacement with introduced vegetation or other material permanently or in the long term. There are no new restrictions on existing land management practices such as harvesting, slashing, ploughing, burning and grazing within threatened native vegetation provided that the essential character of the vegetation is maintained and not converted to other land uses such as crops or plantations.

Clearing

Clearing includes the removal or destruction (by clearing, cutting, pushing down, burning or any other means) of native trees and any seedlings, shrubs or woody plants that have the potential to grow to a height of five metres or more.

The controls apply to species planted for wood production but do not apply to other introduced species such as those planted for agricultural or amenity purposes (e.g. willows).

Existing infrastructure

Existing infrastructure means infrastructure existing before 30th April 2007; or infrastructure built after 30th April 2007 in accordance with a certified FPP or for which no certified FPP is required.

Fire management work

Fire management work means burning off vegetation and constructing firebreaks and access tracks where the sole purpose of the work is to reduce fire hazards or control wildfires; and trees affected by the work are not harvested or cleared for any other purpose; and reasonable precautions are taken to avoid harming natural and cultural forest values, including forest cover and regeneration.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure includes but is not limited to roads, fences, buildings and drainage channels.

Native vegetation regrowth

Native vegetation regrowth means native vegetation not containing, in any 0.5 hectare area, more than 20 eucalypt plants, of any species, more than 2 metres in height.

Previously cleared and converted land

Previously cleared and converted land means land either whose owner can demonstrate a history of agricultural or other non-forest land use over a consecutive period of at least 5 years, since 1985, during which the land did not contain trees or threatened native vegetation communities; or that has been cleared and converted in the immediately preceding 5-year period in accordance with a certified forest practices plan.

Reasonable buffer

A reasonable buffer, in relation to infrastructure, means either a buffer of land of such area as is necessary to provide safe vehicular access to the infrastructure or a buffer of land of such width as is necessary to protect the infrastructure from being damaged by falling timber.

Single property

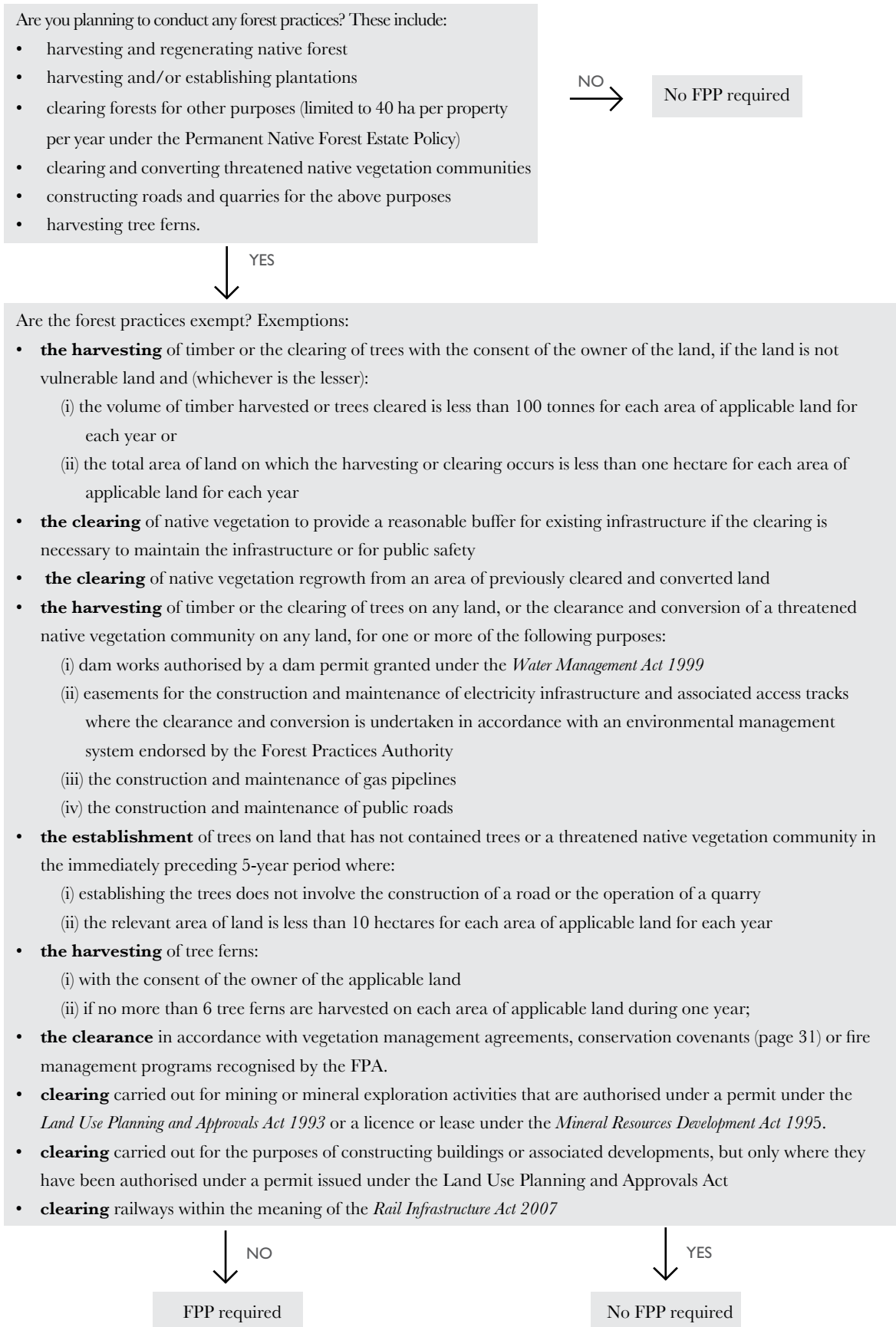
A single property is any land recorded as one valuation on the valuation roll under section 23(1) of the *Land Valuation Act 1971*.

Timber

Timber includes the trunk, branch and any other part of a tree or fallen tree, whether or not it is cut up, sawn, hewn, split or otherwise dealt with.

FOREST PRACTICES REGULATIONS

Figure 4
Do I need a forest practices plan?



DEFINITIONS OF TERMS (continued)

Vulnerable land

Vulnerable land includes any land that:

- is within a **streamside reserve** or machinery exclusion zone as defined in the *Forest Practices Code*. The Code prescribes the following minimum reserve widths:
Class 1 stream (major river or lake) – 40 metres either side of stream channel
Class 2 stream (catchment > 100 hectares) – 30 metres either side of stream channel
Class 3 stream (catchment 50–100 hectares) – 20 metres either side of stream channel
Class 4 stream (minor or intermittent stream) – 10 metres either side of stream channel
- has **steep slopes**, in excess of the limits prescribed in Table 7 (page 54) of the Code (this ranges from 11° to 19° depending on rock type)
- has **high to very high soil erodibility** (see page 52 and Appendix 6 of the Code)
- consists of, or contains, a threatened native vegetation community (see Table 4)
- is inhabited by a threatened species within the meaning of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- contains **vulnerable karst** (limestone or dolomite) soils (see page 101 of the Code)
- contains areas of forest reserved from harvesting under a current or expired FPP.



Threatened native vegetation communities

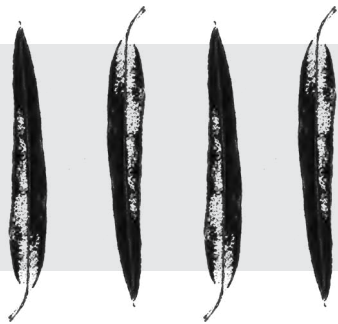
The table below provides the current list of the threatened native vegetation communities (TNVCs) which are included in the definition of vulnerable land. (Refer to the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* for an up to date list of TNVCs). Forest practices in these communities may take place under a certified FPP, providing the essential character of the vegetation is maintained.

Clearance and conversion is not permitted in these forest communities unless special approval is given by the FPA for exceptional circumstances.

Table 4 Threatened native vegetation communities

1. Alkaline pans
2. *Allocasuarina littoralis* forest
3. *Athrotaxis cupressoides*/*Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest
4. *Athrotaxis cupressoides* open woodland
5. *Athrotaxis cupressoides* rainforest
6. *Athrotaxis selaginoides*/*Nothofagus gunni* short rainforest
7. *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest
8. *Athrotaxis selaginoides* subalpine scrub
9. *Banksia marginata* wet scrub
10. *Banksia serrata* woodland
11. *Callitris rhomboidea* forest
12. Coastal complex on King Island
13. Cushion moorland
14. *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland on sandstone
15. *Eucalyptus amygdalina* inland forest and woodland on Cainozoic deposits
16. *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest
17. *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland
18. *Eucalyptus globulus* King Island forest
19. *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* forest and woodland
20. *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland
21. *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest and woodland
22. *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* forest and woodland on sediments
23. *Eucalyptus viminalis* – *Eucalyptus globulus* coastal forest and woodland
24. *Eucalyptus viminalis* Furneaux forest and woodland
25. *Eucalyptus viminalis* wet forest
26. Heathland on calcarenite
27. Heathland scrub complex at Wingaroo
28. Highland grassy sedge land
29. Highland *Poa* grassland
30. *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest
31. *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub
32. *Notelaea* – *Pomaderris* – *Beyeria* forest
33. Rainforest fernland
34. Riparian scrub
35. Seabird rookery complex
36. *Sphagnum* peatland
37. Subalpine *Diplarrena latifolia* rushland
38. Subalpine *Leptospermum nitidum* woodland
39. Wetlands

Eucalyptus globulus (pictured left) is an important food source for the endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). The forest communities most commonly used for foraging are defined as vulnerable land.



REGULATIONS FOR TREEFERN HARVESTING

Harvesting of treeferns is regulated through Tasmania's forest practices system. A Treefern Management Plan was developed by the Tasmanian and Australian governments in 2002 and revised in 2007 to facilitate the legal and sustainable harvest and export of *Dicksonia antarctica* (manfern or soft treefern). The *Treefern Management Plan for the Harvesting, Transporting or Trading of Dicksonia antarctica in Tasmania (2007)* is enforced under provisions of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

Treeferns may be propagated from spores in Tasmanian nurseries and subsequently sold and exported. The following notes do not apply to artificially propagated treeferns, with the exception of exported material.

TREEFERNS THAT CAN AND CANNOT BE HARVESTED

- Under the terms of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*, the only trunked treefern that can be harvested or traded is *Dicksonia antarctica*.
- Two of Tasmania's treefern species (*Cyathea cunninghamii* and *Cyathea marcescens*) are protected by the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.



DICKSONIA HARVESTING REGULATIONS

- Commercial *Dicksonia* harvesting is only permitted from:
 - native forest to be converted to another land use
 - native forest to be intensively logged and regenerated
 - existing softwood and hardwood plantations
 - treefern plantations or nursery sites.
- *Dicksonia* can only be commercially harvested from an area covered by a forest practices plan (FPP). Plans must be certified by a Forest Practices Officer (FPO) and signed by the landowner.
- Harvesting of *Dicksonia* is not permitted within streamside reserves, machinery exclusion zones, swamps, habitat clumps or other areas reserved from clearing.

TASMANIAN TREEFERN TAGS

- All harvested *Dicksonia* must have a Tasmanian treefern tag attached securely at the point of harvest, before being removed from the area covered under the FPP. The secure attachment of treefern tags to treeferns is the responsibility of the treefern harvester.
- Treefern tags are issued by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA).
- Treefern tags must not be removed, swapped or used more than once at any stage in the harvest, transport or trading process.

DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF DICKSONIA

- All wild harvested *Dicksonia* that are distributed and traded must be tagged with treefern tags issued by the FPA.
- The overseas export of trunked and artificially propagated *Dicksonia* requires an export permit from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH). This department must be contacted for export permits and further information on exporting *Dicksonia*: <www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/index.html>



Commercial harvest of Dicksonia antarctica can only take place under a Forest Practices Plan.

An FPP is not required for the harvesting of *Dicksonia* if the owner of the 'applicable land' (see below for definition) has consented, and no more than six treeferns are harvested on each property during one calendar year. The *Dicksonia* must be for personal use only and must not be traded or used for commercial purposes.

PENALTIES

The FPA has considerable powers under the *Forest Practices Act 1985* to control *Dicksonia* harvesting to ensure that such harvesting meets the objectives of the Tasmanian Treefern Management Plan.

Failure to comply with the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and Forest Practices Regulations can result in substantial penalties.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact the FPA or the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania.

'applicable land' means:

- (a) in relation to Crown land and state forest, any land that is not within 100 metres of any other Crown land or state forest that is subject to forest practices
- (b) in relation to any other land, any land recorded as one valuation on the valuation roll under section 23(1) of the *Land Valuation Act 1971*. (Forest Practices Regulations)



HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT THREATENED SPECIES OR NATIVE VEGETATION COMMUNITIES YOU HAVE ON YOUR LAND

If you are planning to carry out forest practices on your land, you will have to find out if any threatened native vegetation communities (listed in Table 4 on page 25) or threatened species are on your land. If any of these threatened species or threatened communities, which include both forest and non-forest communities, are on your land, you will be limited in what forest practices you can carry out. Substantial penalties apply for unauthorised practices.

There are a few ways of obtaining information about the vegetation on your land:

Check the Forest Practices Authority website

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) website has information on soils, threatened flora and fauna, threatened native vegetation communities, and a plant identification kit:

<www.fpa.tas.gov.au/>



Brunonia australis is a blue-flowered plant which is classified as vulnerable. In Tasmania it is found mainly in dry forest in the northern midlands. Much of this forest has been cleared for agriculture. (Photo by Hans and Annie Wapstra)

Employ a Forest Practices Officer to produce a forest practices plan

Forest Practices Officers (FPOs) identify the vegetation communities in the process of preparing a forest practices plan (FPP). They will ensure that proposed forest practices comply with all legal requirements, including the *Forest Practices Code*.

Contact your council

Contact your council to see if they can provide you with information about the vegetation on your land. A number of councils have had vegetation surveys done and now have vegetation information on their computer systems, covering much of their municipal area.

Contact the Threatened Species Section

For further information on threatened species and threatened native vegetation communities, contact the Threatened Species Section of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment on (03) 6233 2863. The Threatened Species Section provides advice on what management strategies are likely to be required to protect any particular threatened species. The department's website also contains useful information:

<www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/RLIG-53KUPV?open>

Use TASVEG

TASVEG is an ongoing program to map the forest and non-forest areas in Tasmania. Completed maps in the series are available on the LIST website: <www.thelist.tas.gov.au> The accuracy of mapping is continually being updated and information about forest communities should be

checked in the field by a botanist.

Use the Natural Values Atlas

Another way to check if a threatened species might exist on your land is to use the online Natural Values Atlas. The Natural Values Atlas provides an easy to use web interface allowing access to comprehensive natural values information. It can be used to search for information on more than 20,000 plant and animal species from Tasmania, Australia and can display maps showing their location. <www.naturalvaluesatlas.dpiw.tas.gov.au/pls/htmldb/f?p=400:1:18312821352787642743>

Have a specialist survey carried out

The vegetation information from either TASVEG or your local council is likely to be fairly general in content. Detailed information regarding the vegetation specific to your land can only be obtained by carrying out a botanical survey of the property, which FPOs do in the process of preparing an FPP. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (telephone (03) 6233 4501) and the FPA can provide you with a list of qualified botanists. You may also need a zoological survey.



CARRYING OUT FOREST PRACTICES ON LAND WHERE A THREATENED SPECIES OR THREATENED NATIVE VEGETATION COMMUNITY IS PRESENT

You will generally need an FPP if you are planning forest practices where threatened species, or their habitats, or threatened native vegetation communities (TNVCs) are present. There are a few exemptions which are detailed on page 24.

An FPO will determine if threatened species or TNVCs are potentially present. The specialists at the FPA are consulted by the FPO preparing the FPP if there are threatened species or TNVCs to consider in the FPP. The specialists have developed tools, such as the Threatened Fauna Manual and the Threatened Fauna Adviser, to assist FPOs in identifying and managing for threatened species. In April 2007, the FPA produced a series of information sheets designed to assist in identifying TNVCs. The specialists also provide advice on prescriptions to place in the plan to protect threatened species and TNVCs. If you have threatened species or TNVCs present on your land, you may be restricted in the forest practices you can carry out.

The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* also obliges local councils to take into account activities that may threaten listed species or critical habitat when considering a Development Application. The FPP will in most situations satisfy this requirement, as section 51(3) of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* specifically recognises that further permits under the Act are not required if a certified FPP is in existence.

Forest Practices Authority specialists (left) advise Forest Practices Officers preparing Forest Practices Plans for areas with threatened species.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) lists nationally threatened species and ecological communities. These can differ to some extent from the species listed under state legislation. More information can be found on the Department of Environment and Heritage website: < <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/index.html> >

An action that might impact on these species or communities is referred to the Australian

Government Minister for the Environment who then decides whether the action is significant enough to require assessment under the EPBC Act. The Minister also decides the level of environmental impact assessment required.

Penalties for breach of the EPBC Act are stringent and can be up to \$550,000 for an individual and \$5.5 million for a company.

Most commercial forestry activities conducted under the Regional Forest Agreement do not have to go through further EPBC Act referral processes. However, some land clearing or non-forestry activities may require referral.



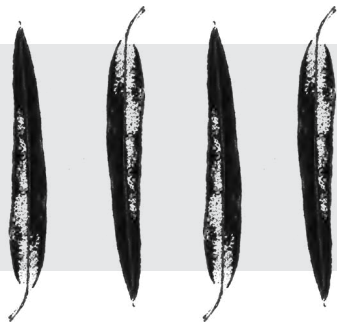
The giant freshwater crayfish (Astacopsis gouldi) (above) is found in some streams and water bodies in northern Tasmania. It is vulnerable due to past fishing pressure and deterioration in water quality. It prefers cool, deepish pools with logs in undisturbed rivers or streams where the streamside vegetation has been left intact. Controls applied to forest practices in catchments where A. gouldi occurs aim to ensure maintenance of water quality and other aspects of habitat quality such as shading, snags, food input and free movement of individuals up and downstream.



Wedge-tailed eagles (above) are very sensitive to disturbance when nesting. Measures to ensure their protection in production forests include retaining reserves around nests and restrictions on forest practices during the August to January breeding season.



The forty-spotted pardalote (left) is only found in Tasmania and lives only in dry grassy forest and woodland containing white gum (Eucalyptus viminalis). It is endangered due to its restricted distribution and small population resulting from habitat loss and fragmentation of colonies. Even minor disturbance such as selective logging can be detrimental to forty-spotted pardalotes. Principal management objectives are to protect all areas of dry sclerophyll forest and woodland containing E. viminalis in and close to areas where colonies are known to occur.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU WANT TO MANAGE YOUR LAND FOR CONSERVATION

If you are interested in taking further steps to ensure the survival of the threatened species or threatened native vegetation communities (TNVCs) on your land, you could consider entering into a conservation covenant.

Conservation covenants

The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* allows the relevant Minister to enter into a conservation covenant with a landholder where the Minister considers it 'necessary or desirable to do so for conservation purposes' (section 34). A covenant is binding on existing and subsequent owners and travels with the title.

ASSISTANCE FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE LAND

Enhanced conservation of forests on private land remains a priority for the Australian and Tasmanian governments. Conservation goals for forests cannot be met without the support of private landowners. Nearly 30 per cent of Tasmania's forest is on private land, including many forest communities that are threatened as a result of their rarity or as a result of past land clearing.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment's Private Land Conservation Program Forest Conservation Fund supports landowners who want to manage their land for conservation. Under-reserved oldgrowth forest communities are a priority for the scheme.



The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment's (DPIPWE) Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) aims to develop and encourage an integrated approach to private land management and planning that helps landowners fully benefit from the sustainable management of their properties' natural diversity. The PLCP seeks to achieve high level recognition of the biodiversity values of natural systems and the need to appropriately protect them and to support individuals who voluntarily manage these systems for conservation outcomes.

The PLCP provides a coordinated and targeted approach to the establishment of voluntary conservation covenant with private landowners. To this end, the program works with partners including landowners to deliver a variety of initiatives and shorter-term incentive programs. Over the last 10 years, this has resulted in the creation of 635 private protected areas under conservation covenant, covering almost 80 000 hectares (as at May 2011).

Benefits of a conservation covenant include:

- exemption from land tax (for the area under covenant)
- rate rebates in some council areas
- salinity and erosion protection by maintaining remnant native vegetation
- support and management advice for landowners
- a regular newsletter
- supporting applications for funding for environmental works
- a sense of well-being from knowing that you have protected your land for future generations and will be making an important contribution to nature conservation in Australia.

For more information on the PLCP and current opportunities for voluntary conservation covenants log onto www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/plcp.

Tax exemptions

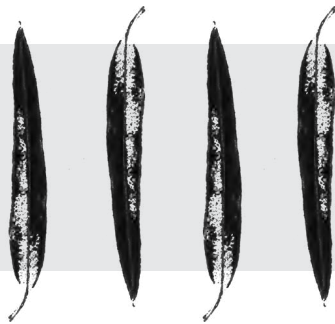
If a landholder enters into a covenant under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, they can be eligible for land tax exemptions.

Rate rebates

Some councils offer rate rebates where a conservation covenant is entered into. Check with your local council to see if this is the case.



Most of the least well-reserved Tasmanian forest communities are on private land, highlighting the continued importance of private reserve programs. A good example of this is Grassy Eucalyptus viminalis forest (pictured), of which 97 per cent is on private freehold land. In 2005, only 4.4 per cent was in CAR reserves (Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001 – 2006) but by 2010 this had increased to 13.2 percent (TASVEG Vegetation Communities in Tasmania's Reserve System 2010).



ARRANGING A FOREST PRACTICES PLAN

Forest practices plans (FPPs) are detailed, complex documents and to prepare one requires a thorough understanding of forest management. Anyone is entitled to prepare and submit an FPP for approval but the plan must be in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* (the code) and other legislation. It will only be certified if it is of the required standard. It is advisable to arrange for a consultant Forest Practices Officer (FPO) to prepare the plan. A list of FPOs is available on the Forest Practices Authority's website: <www.fpa.tas.gov.au/>

Before forest practices can start, an FPP must be certified by an FPO who has been trained and authorised by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) as a certifying FPO. A local government planning permit may also be required for forest practices planned for private land, excluding private timber reserve (PTRs).

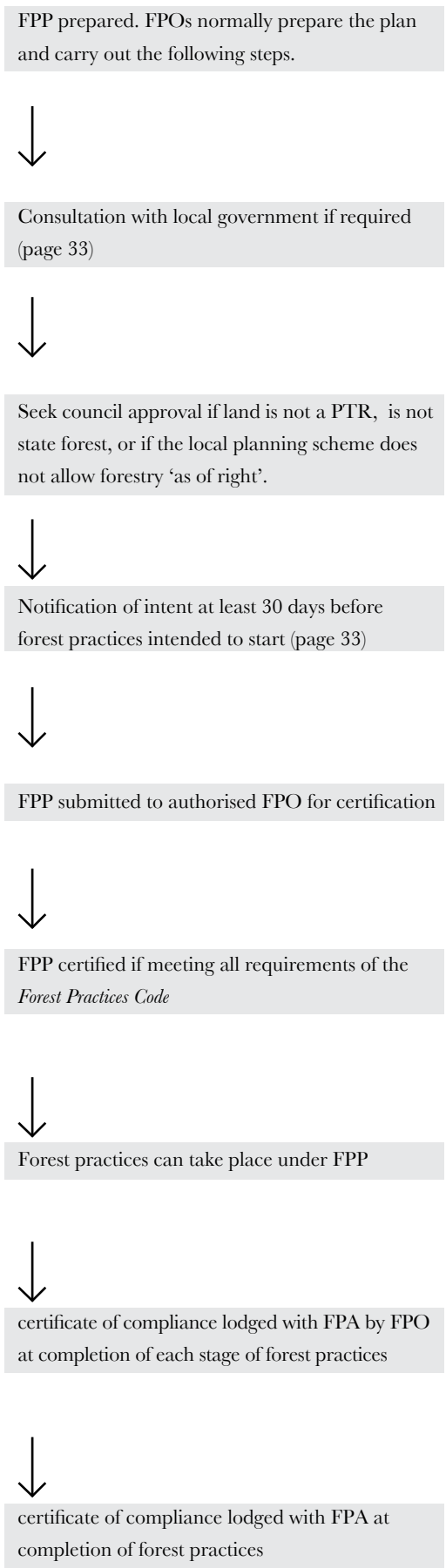
FPOs supervise and monitor the operations conducted under FPPs. They must lodge a compliance report with the FPA on completion of each stage of the FPP. This report details the degree of compliance of the operation with the FPP.



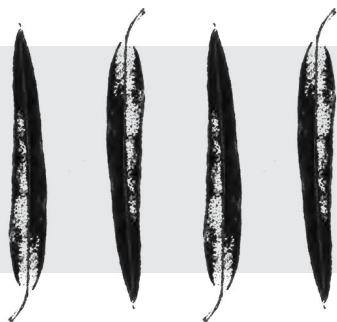
WHOM TO CONSULT ABOUT APPROVED FOREST PRACTICES PLANS

Information from	Information to	Nature of information
Applicant for FPP or landowner (all tenures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landholders within 100 m of boundary Local government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification of intent at least 30 days before operation intended to start
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested parties that request FPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information in FPP should be made available
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government 	<p><i>Forest Practices Code</i> stipulates consultation if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local government landscape protection provisions in local planning scheme forest practices will potentially affect water quality in a listed town water supply catchment operations within 2 km upstream of a town water supply intake the plan involves new or upgraded access to local government roads
Major timber processors (greater than 100,000 tonnes pa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Year Plan which contains information on timber volumes to be harvested, reforestation measures and transport routes
Commercial tree farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government Neighbours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information volunteered, as outlined in Good Neighbour Charter

Figure 5 How to arrange a forest practices plan and the process it follows



- FPOs can be contracted to prepare and arrange the FPP for you.
- FPPs are best prepared by an FPO.
A list of consultant FPOs is available on the FPA website: <www.fpa.tas.gov.au>
- FPPs must be in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* and other legislation and policies.
- FPA specialists must be consulted if special values are identified in the forest.
- FPPs may include reserves and other measures to protect the natural and cultural values of the forest.
- Consultation with local government is required under the circumstances prescribed in the Code (page 33).
- If local government approval is not given, you can modify the FPP or lodge an appeal (page 36).
- The FPA has delegated authority to certify FPPs to selected FPOs. The list is on the FPA website.
- An FPP may be rejected or amended if it is not meeting appropriate standards or requirements.
- Most forest practices are overseen by FPOs.
- All forest practices must be audited at various stages for compliance by an FPO.
- Non-compliance is dealt with by warnings, making good and/or penalties. All forest practices are subject to a compliance check and report by an FPO.
- Certificates of compliance detail any areas of non-compliance with the FPP at the end of each stage of forest practices.
- A random sample of FPPs are independently audited by the FPA annually.
- Notices may be issued by FPOs to make good, or the FPA may impose fines or prosecute where serious breaches have occurred.



OBJECTIONS, APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

OBJECTIONS

Opportunities for public input and objections

There are various mechanisms for the public to have their say in both land use decisions and the technical standards set by the *Forest Practices Code*. These are designed to give the public an opportunity to have some input during the planning stage.

Land use decisions

- Dedication of state forest is a parliamentary process. Forest Management Plans are prepared by Forestry Tasmania and approved by the Minister following consideration of public input.
- Private timber reserve (PTR) declarations. Prescribed persons may object to a PTR declaration – see below for details.
- Planning Schemes follow a participatory process of development.
- Planning permits are advertised if forestry is a discretionary activity.

Operational standards

The *Forest Practices Code* was initially developed after extensive consultation and public comment. It is reviewed periodically, most recently in 2000, incorporating suggestions from scientists, government, the forestry industry and the public.

Objecting to a private timber reserve

Objections to land being declared a PTR can be made by the people or authorities as prescribed in the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. The following can object to a PTR:

- the local council
- a state authority
- a person who has a legal or equitable interest in either the land, or the timber on the land, to which the application relates
- a person who is the owner of land that adjoins or is within 100 metres of the boundary of the proposed PTR.

If you have objected to a PTR application or if you have had your application for a PTR refused, you can appeal the decision to the Forest Practices Tribunal. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar of the Forest Practices Tribunal: telephone (03) 6233 6464.

Objecting to a forest practices plan

Most forest practices require a forest practices plan (FPP). The few exceptions are detailed on page 24. There is no formal mechanism for objecting to an FPP if forest practices occur in accordance with a certified FPP on land that has been approved for forestry use (i.e. state forest, PTRs, permitted and ‘as of right’ zones in local government planning schemes).

Where forestry is a discretionary activity within the local government planning scheme, the Development Application is advertised by the council. Any person may then make a representation. Appeals against a local council’s decisions are heard by the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal (RMPAT).

Objecting to a local government

Development Application for forest practices

The opportunity for lodging an objection to a local government planning permit for forest practices is limited to where forestry is discretionary in the local government planning scheme. Where forestry is a permitted use, council approval is also required but only the applicant can object to conditions imposed within the planning permit.

The objection process follows these steps for situations where a Development Application is discretionary:

- When a Development Application is advertised you have 14 days to lodge an objection to the council.
- The decision (approval or refusal) of the council can be appealed against by the objector or the applicant. Appeals are lodged with the RMPAT.
- The appeal must be lodged with the RMPAT within 14 days of being given notice of the local government's decision.
- The RMPAT will hold a hearing to consider the application. If you have lodged an objection, you can attend the hearing and present your point of view.
- The RMPAT then makes a decision which is binding on all parties.

APPEALS

Private timber reserve or forest practices plan refused

If you are a landowner and have had an application for a PTR refused or if your FPP is refused by an FPO, you can appeal the decision through the Forest Practices Tribunal. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar of the Forest Practices Tribunal: telephone (03) 6233 6464.

Development Application for forest practices refused or additional conditions imposed

If you are a landowner and have had your Development Application refused by your local council or you do not agree with the conditions imposed on a permit by the council, you can appeal through the RMPAT. The process follows the same procedure as that described for objections to local government Development Applications.

COMPENSATION

Landowners may be entitled to apply for compensation in certain circumstances if a PTR is refused.

Where an application for an FPP is refused by the FPA because of the presence of threatened native vegetation communities or threatened species, the affected landowner may be entitled to apply for compensation. The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* sets out the processes and criteria for compensation.

Further information can be obtained from the Forest Practices Authority (FPA): telephone (03) 6233 7966 or go to <www.fpa.tas.gov.au/>

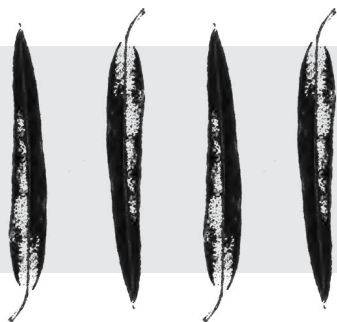
COMPLAINTS

Reporting an alleged breach of a forest practices plan

The FPA audits and monitors forest practices to ensure that standards are being met. Possible breaches of FPPs or the *Forest Practices Code* can be reported to the FPA by members of the public. The FPA investigates all complaints relating to alleged breaches. Penalties for breaches include orders for corrective action and/or financial penalties.

Complaints about road use

Many councils recognise that there are safety and maintenance issues associated with the frequent use of rural roads by log trucks. However, councils have limited powers to control traffic on public roads. Use of public roads by log trucks or any other vehicles is also outside the purview of the *Forest Practices Code*. Log trucks are as legally entitled as any other vehicle to use public roads. Some councils use the three year plan process of communication with the forestry industry to negotiate conditions on road usage and repair. Councils may sometimes impose conditions on use of council roads by log trucks — either through the Development Application process or under the provisions of the *Local Government Highways Act 1982*.



GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

- **Clearance and conversion:** clearance and conversion means the deliberate removal of native vegetation, and its replacement with introduced vegetation or other material permanently or in the long term.
- **Clearing of trees (under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*):** the removal or destruction (by clearing, cutting, pushing down, burning or any other means) of native trees, and any seedlings, shrubs or woody plants that have the potential to grow to a height of five metres or more. The controls apply to forest species planted for wood production but do not apply to other introduced species such as those planted for agricultural or amenity purposes (e.g. willows).
- **Conservation covenant:** a binding covenant on existing and subsequent owners that travels with the title, where the Minister considers it 'necessary or desirable to do so for conservation purposes'.
- **Co-regulation in the forest practices system:** combination of forest industry self-management and government regulation.
- **Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE):** the Tasmanian Government department charged with managing the state's natural resources.
- **Development Application (local government):** application for a development to be considered for approval under the local council planning scheme.
- **Endangered:** distribution has contracted to less than 10 per cent of original range – or less than 10 per cent of original area remaining – or 90 per cent of area is in small patches and is subject to threatening processes.
- **Existing infrastructure:** existing infrastructure means infrastructure existing before 30th April 2007; or infrastructure built after 30th April 2007 in accordance with a certified FPP or for which no certified FPP is required.
- **Fire management work :** fire management work means burning off vegetation and constructing firebreaks and access tracks where the sole purpose of the work is to reduce fire hazards or control wildfires; and trees affected by the work are not harvested or cleared for any other purpose; and reasonable precautions are taken to avoid harming natural and cultural forest values, including forest cover and regeneration.
- **Forest operations:** planting trees, managing trees before they are harvested, harvesting forest products and any related land clearing, quarrying, land preparation, burning-off, access construction or transport operation.
- **Forest Practices Authority (FPA):** the independent statutory body responsible for the development and management of the forest practices system.
- **Forest practices:** harvesting and regenerating native forest, harvesting and establishing plantations, clearing forests for other purposes, constructing roads and quarries for the above purposes, harvesting treeferns (*Forest Practices Act 1985*).
- **Forest Practices Code (the code):** The *Forest Practices Code* provides a set of guidelines and standards to ensure reasonable protection of the natural and cultural values of the forest during forest practices.
- **Forest Practices Officer (FPO):** FPOs are employed either by forest owners or the forest industry to prepare and supervise FPPs. They are trained, authorised, directed and monitored by the FPA. Selected FPOs are authorised to certify FPPs. A list of FPOs is on the FPA website.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

- **Forest practices plan (FPP):** FPPs contain prescriptions and a map detailing how the planned forest practices will be conducted. FPPs must be consistent with the *Forest Practices Code* and be certified by an FPO before work starts.
- **Forest Practices Tribunal (FPT):** an independent body established under section 34 of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* that conducts hearings and makes determinations with respect to appeals that are lodged by aggrieved parties.
- **Forest roads:** roads on state forest as defined in the *Forestry Act 1920*, and which therefore generally need an FPP for construction.
- **Forestry Tasmania (FT):** the Government Business Enterprise charged with managing state forest.
- **Infrastructure:** infrastructure includes but is not limited to roads, fences, buildings and drainage channels.
- **Native forest:** any naturally occurring forest community containing the full complement of native species and habitats normally associated with that community, or having the potential to develop these characteristics.
- **Native vegetation regrowth :** native vegetation regrowth means native vegetation not containing, in any 0.5 hectare area, more than 20 eucalypt plants, of any species, more than 2 metres in height.
- **Natural Resource Management (NRM):** the framework set up to provide a systematic way of integrating natural resource management in Tasmania through three management regions.
- **Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy (PNFEP):** a state government policy that aims to maintain an extensive and permanent native forest estate on both private and public land in Tasmania.
- **Planning scheme (local government):** a set of maps covering the planning scheme area that show the zoning of land and an Ordinance that defines the criteria by which Development Applications will be assessed.
- **Plantation:** trees established by planting in the process of afforestation or reforestation.
- **Previously cleared and converted land:** previously cleared and converted land means land either whose owner can demonstrate a history of agricultural or other non-forest land use over a consecutive period of at least 5 years, since 1985, during which the land did not contain trees or threatened native vegetation communities; or that has been cleared and converted in the immediately preceding 5-year period in accordance with a certified forest practices plan.
- **Private forest:** forest on land owned by a private landholder or company.
- **Private Forests Tasmania (PFT):** Private Forests Tasmania is a Tasmanian Government authority established under the *Private Forests Act 1994* to promote the development of private forestry in Tasmania.
- **Private timber reserve (PTR):** an area of private land that is dedicated to forestry. Forest practices in PTRs do not require approval from the local council but do need a certified FPP. PTRs give landowners long-term security that they will be able to harvest their timber in the future.
- **Property (in the forest practices system):** a single property is any land recorded as one valuation on the valuation roll under section 23(1) of the *Land Valuation Act 1971*.
- **Public road:** in the Forest Practices Regulations a public road is defined as a state highway, subsidiary road or country road, as defined in the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*, or as a highway under the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*. An FPP is not required for harvesting or clearing trees for public roads.
- **Rare:** total range generally less than 10,000 hectares, or total area generally less than 1,000 hectares, or patch size generally less than 100 hectares.
- **Reasonable buffer:** a reasonable buffer, in relation to infrastructure, means either a buffer of land of such area as is necessary to provide safe vehicular access to the infrastructure or a buffer of land of such width as is necessary to protect the infrastructure from being damaged by falling timber.
- **Regional Forest Agreement (RFA):** the 1997 agreement between the Tasmanian and Australian governments which established a comprehensive, adequate and representative forest reserve system.
- **Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal (RMPAT):** an independent statutory body set up under the *Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal Act 1993*.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

- **Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC):** oversees the state's planning system, and state of the environment reporting, assesses public land use issues and projects of state significance, and reviews water management plans.
- **Self-management (in the forest practices system):** the forest industry's self-management is delivered by the FPOs who are employed within the industry to plan, supervise and monitor forest practices.
- **State forest:** forest on state land which has been designated forest by parliament to be managed by Forestry Tasmania for multiple use, including wood production.
- **Table of use (local government):** a provision found under each zone that sets out the policy for permitted and discretionary use in that zone.
- **Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement:** an agreement between the Tasmanian and Australian governments in 2005 which reserved further forests on top of the RFA reservations.
- **Timber:** timber includes the trunk, branch and any other part of a tree or fallen tree, whether or not it is cut up, sawn, hewn, split or otherwise dealt with.
- **Threatened native vegetation community (TNVC):** listed on page 24
- **Three year plan (in the forest practices system):** companies harvesting more than 100,000 tonnes of timber each year must lodge a three year plan detailing proposed forest practices with the FPA and consult with local government.
- **Vulnerable:** approaching greater than 70 per cent loss (depletion), or forest communities where threatening processes have caused loss or significant decline in species that play a major role within the ecosystem or significant alteration to ecosystem processes.
- **Vulnerable land (in the forest practices system):** land which is within a streamside reserve, is steep, is very erodible, consists of or contains a threatened native vegetation community or is inhabited by a threatened species, contains karst (limestone or dolomite) soils, contains areas of reserved forest or contains rare, vulnerable or endangered forest communities.
- **Zone (local government):** an area or district shown on local government planning schemes where particular land use policies and standards apply.



Roads constructed under a forest practices plan must be in accordance with the Forest Practices Code. This example shows the minimum essential roadside clearance to provide a stable batter and good sightlines. Drainage has been diverted into the vegetation before it reaches the stream. The road metal has been well consolidated before use, giving a hard surface even in wet weather.



FURTHER INFORMATION ONLINE

For more information on the forest practices system:

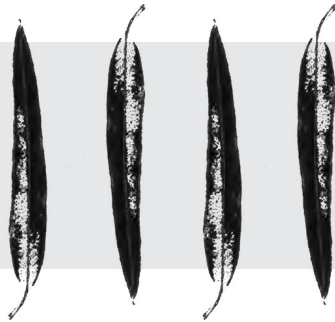
- The Forest Practices Authority: www.fpa.tas.gov.au/
- The *Forest Practices Act 1985* and other Tasmanian legislation: www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p
- *Forest Practices Code*: www.fpa.tas.gov.au/
- Private timber reserves: www.privateforests.tas.gov.au
- Forestry Tasmania: www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/
- Tourism and Forestry Protocol: www.tourismforestryprotocol.com.au/
- Good Neighbour Charter: www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/pages/publications.html
- Forest Practices Tribunal: www.rmpat.tas.gov.au/
- Regional Forest Agreement: www.rfa.gov.au/tasmania/
- Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy: fpa.tas.gov.au/fileadmin/user_upload/PDFs/Zoology_Ecology/PFEPolicy_Nov_2005.pdf
- Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement: www.premier.tas.gov.au/190505.html and www.deh.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/index.html
- The Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal: www.rmpat.tas.gov.au/

For more information on the local government planning system:

- Online access to all Tasmanian councils: www.lgat.tas.gov.au/
- Local government planning schemes: www.lgat.tas.gov.au/
- NRM in Tasmania: www.nrmtas.com.au/

For more information on threatened species and vegetation:

- Threatened Fauna Manual and information on threatened species: www.fpa.tas.gov.au/
- Information sheets on Threatened Native Vegetation Communities (TNVCs): www.fpa.tas.gov.au/
- To find out if any threatened species or TNVCs are likely to be on your land: www.naturalvaluesatlas.dpiw.tas.gov.au/pls/htmldb/f?p=400:1:18312821352787642743
- To find out what plant species or TNVCs are likely to be on your land: <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/LBUN-6B28G5?open>
- TASVEG: www.gisparks.tas.gov.au/explorer/TasvegGuide/tasvegdoc.htm
- For more information on threatened species or TNVCs: www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/RLIG-53KUPV?open
- Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/index.html>
- The LIST (Land Information System Tasmania) has maps of forest and non-forest vegetation: www.thelist.tas.gov.au/



CONTACTS

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Website: www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/

Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal

Level 1, 144–148 Macquarie St
Hobart 7000
Tasmania
GPO Box 2036
Hobart 7001
Tasmania
Tel: (03) 6233 6464
Fax: (03) 6224 0825
Email: rmpat@dpipwe.tas.gov.au
Website: www.rmpat.tas.gov.au/

Forest Practices Tribunal

GPO Box 2036
Hobart 7001
Tel: (03) 6233 6464
Fax: (03) 6224 0825
Email: rmpat@justice.tas.gov.au
Website: www.rmpat.tas.gov.au/

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

GPO Box 44
Hobart 7001
Tasmania
Tel: 1300 368 550 (local call cost)
Email: NatureConservationEnquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au
Website: www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/

Forest Industries Association of Tasmania

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Website: www.fiatas.com.au/

Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)

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Fax: (03) 6233 5986
Email: admin@lgat.tas.gov.au
Website for contact details of your council:
<http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm>

Your local council





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Version control

Version	Date	Author(s)	Summary of changes
1.0	June 2006	Chris Grove	Document creation
2.0	December 2009	Daniel Livingston	Updated in line with revised Forest Practices Regulations
2.1	April 2011	Chris Grove	Changed formatting and added document control log table. Edit to FPA's style manual, update of private land conservation funding and treefern information.
2.2	Nov 2011	Chris Grove	Changed information under compensation
2.3	Jan 2015	Chris Grove	Inserted information on clearance restrictions under the PNFE
2.4	Feb 2016	Chris Grove	Updated PNFE info
2.5	May 2017	Chris Grove	Removed date from Forest Practices Regulations

Stages required for release outside FPA

Category of advice – C		
Stages	Required/not required	Completed (date)
Specialist	Required	June 2006
Line Manager	Required	June 2006
Peer/FPO/stakeholder review (LGFCC Committee)	Required	June 2006
CFPO	Required	June 2006
FPAC	Not required	
Board	Not required	