

18 June 2021

Andrew Wilson
Director – Plantations and Innovation
Agvet Chemicals & Forestry Branch
Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment

Inquiries: Penny Wells
Phone: 6165 4070
Email: penny.wells@pft.tas.gov.au
Our Ref: D21/1060
Your Ref: [\[Click to enter text\]](#)

National Farm Forestry Strategy

Dear Andrew

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the proposed National Farm Forestry Strategy. Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) welcomes and supports the Australian Government's commitment to develop a new Strategy.

PFT is an independent statutory authority established under the Tasmanian *Private Forests Act 1994*. We work to facilitate and expand the sustainable growth and development of the private forest resource in Tasmania. Under our recently approved Corporate Plan 2021-24 one of our four goals is to work with policy makers and regulators to improve regulatory efficiency and practical policy settings for private forestry.

Through PFT, the Tasmanian Government is investing over \$1.5 million per annum into facilitating growth in the private forest resource, particularly through farm forestry. The PFT Corporate Plan details our current investment strategy which includes significant targeted investment of \$500 000 per annum over three years into expanding the extent and value of the private forest resource, particularly farm forestry. Priorities for this investment include:

- continue to develop landscape scale best practice agroforestry plantings in north west, northern, and southern Tasmania,
- accelerate implementation of PFT's Tree Alliance marketing campaign and engagement strategy to connect existing and potential new farm foresters with the information and planning tools they need to make sound investment decisions and to foster partnerships, alliances, and co investments with organisations with shared values and goals,
- develop and deliver tools to assist farm foresters in establishing and managing new and existing forests to enhance farm productivity and income,
- showcase and encourage expansion of best practice sustainable native forestry,
- pursue policy development that assists in removal of unnecessary barriers to farm forestry and enhances monetising of non-wood values of forests such as through carbon sequestration, emissions reduction, and other natural capital accounting,
- facilitate, lead and/or co-invest in projects identified by private forest service levy payers as priorities having industry wide benefit, (eg understanding future markets and demand, assisting industry work health and safety, fire management, integrated pest management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, innovation, research and development, and workforce, skills and development planning).

In implementing our investment strategy PFT will foster the inclusion of farm forestry in agriculture in a manner that enhances farm productivity and contributes to achieving both forestry and agricultural growth plans of the Tasmanian and Australian Governments, and will leverage from and provide a delivery agent for plantation expansion priorities identified by industry under the Tasmania Forestry Hub.

PFT would like to see the National Farm Forestry strategy reflect the strategies and actions being implemented here in Tasmania and include a collaborative approach between the Commonwealth and States on delivery of these strategies. Tasmania's significant investment in farm forestry could be used to leverage Australian Government

funding committed to farm forestry under the National Forest Industries Plan. For example, PFT would welcome co-investment by the Australian Government in further implementing Tasmania's Farm Forestry Engagement Plan as a pilot project for the proposed National Farm Forestry Strategy.

Please find below PFT's specific comments on your proposed structure, including links to relevant reference material. Note if any of the embedded links do not work, or you have any other queries, please feel free to contact me on 6165 4070.

I look forward to further collaboration on the National Farm Forestry Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Penny Wells.

Penny Wells
CEO Private Forests Tasmania

DAWE proposed National Farm Forestry Strategy structure with PFT comments and references

1. Foreword

2. Introduction

3. Vision

4. What is farm forestry?

- If the Strategy is looking to using a formal definition then Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) suggest using the definition contained in ABARES [Australia's forests and forestry glossary](#) on the ABARES website.

5. The importance and benefits of farm forestry

a. Current statistics on farm forestry

- PFT recently published the [2020 Tasmanian Private Forests Resource Review](#) which provides statistics and information on standing timber availability, condition and distribution across the private forest estate in Tasmania. Whilst the report is broad in its scope, the data presented in the report can be further analysed and manipulated to provide meaningful insights specifically for farm forestry in Tasmania.
- PFT is aware that ABARES (Forest and Land Sciences Division) are currently conducting an inventory project aimed at understanding the potential for farm forestry, private native forestry & indigenous owned forests to produce commercial wood supplies. PFT understands this is a national project and has recently provided ABARES with a range of Tasmania specific spatial data for the purpose of the project (ABARES contact Mihai Daian).

6. Principles and Actions

a. Farm forestry is a collaborative investment for Australia's farming and forest industries future

- The Tasmania Regional Forestry Hub has recently completed a Road Map 2021. One of the four key objectives in the Road Map is to 'Grow and maintain farm forestry' and includes specific actions to achieve this objective. Whilst the Road Map is not yet publicly available, the Hub had commissioned a number of assessment reports to identify the key objectives. Of most relevance to farm forestry are:
 - [Access to Land and Land Use Policy for Plantation Forest Investment Assessment Report](#) and,
 - [Climate Change and Carbon Policy Assessment Report](#)

b. Farm forestry benefits are multifaceted – economic, employment, social and environmental

- Over many years PFT has co funded and participated in research and development aimed at quantifying the benefits of farm forestry to agricultural enterprises. This has been in collaboration with CSIRO and the University of Tasmania through our Agroforestry program. The program has produced a range of publications and material communicating the benefits of trees on farms. These are available on our [Tree Alliance website](#). Case studies are a particularly good way of demonstrating the benefits of farm forestry. Specific local case studies are available on our website for:
 - [reducing paddock water loss](#)
 - [improving yields](#)
 - [improving shelter](#)
 - [restoring eroded gullies and improve farm productivity](#)
 - [improving enterprise income](#)
 - [increased pasture production](#)

c. Farmers require access to markets for farm forestry products and services

- The Tasmanian Regional Forestry Hub also commissioned a report on the constraints that affect forestry supply chain and infrastructure productivity and efficiency and the opportunities for the future. The report can be found here:
 - [Supply Chain and Infrastructure Assessment Report](#)

d. Farm forestry is enhanced by effective relationships, knowledge extension and communications to support consistent approaches nation-wide

- Over the past two years PFT has invested heavily in our Tree Alliance marketing campaign and engagement strategy aiming to connect farm foresters with the information and planning tools they need and to foster partnerships, alliances, and co investments with organisations with shared values and goals. The campaign has a public face through our [Tree Alliance website](#) and our Growing the Future magazine. Whilst our Farm Forestry Engagement Plans are essentially internal tactical plans, and not publicly available, PFT would be happy to share these internal documents with DAWE on a confidential basis.