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Consultation – Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review of the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (CCRLUS). Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) has read the Discussion Paper and other supporting documents and can provide the following feedback.

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. We do this through providing information to private forest growers, through research collaborations, advocacy, innovation and planning tools. Under our [Corporate Plan 2025-28](#) one of our four goals is to work with policy makers and regulators to improve regulatory efficiency and practical policy settings for private forestry.

As stated in Section 1.1 of the Discussion Paper, the main purpose of the RLUS's is to implement the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System and the Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPP's) at a regional scale, and to guide the preparation of Local Provision Schedules (LPS) in the councils that make up each region.

The current batch of LPS's statewide have been made without the benefit of having the TPP's in place (due to commence 1 July 2026) or the revised RLUS's. As such, many of the LPS's have inconsistently applied zones and codes on land dedicated for forestry purposes. For example, Private Timber Reserves (PTRs), which are areas of private land set aside to establish forests or grow or harvest timber in accordance with the Forest Practices Code, are often zoned such that forestry is a discretionary or in some cases prohibited use. This has caused considerable concern for our private forest owner stakeholders who have PTR's registered over their forests. The zoning of land can influence public perceptions of what is an appropriate use of land, and land dedicated for forestry use that is zoned inappropriately will only cause confusion and is used as an argument by some that the land should be transferred to other land uses, despite the rigorous assessments that led to the dedication in the first place.

PTR's are registered on the land title and available on LISTMap, so their locations in the landscape and their purpose as timber production areas are readily available to local government planners when developing LPS's and assigning zones. PFT strongly recommends that the CCRLUS implements the requirements of the TPP's,

particularly TPP 4.2 *Timber Production*, to ensure land dedicated for timber production, and surrounding lands, are appropriately zoned and coded. These areas are not insignificant. The land dedicated to a forestry purpose in the Cradle Coast Region makes up nearly 337,000 hectares – on public land this is 234,000 hectares of Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) land, and on private land 103,600 hectares of PTR's. That is 15% of the land area for the entire Region is dedicated to producing timber from sustainably managed plantation and native forest. There are additional areas of private land used for timber production that are not covered by a PTR and therefore not included in these statistics. These significant areas, whilst their primary purpose is timber production, contain multiple other values – biodiversity, water quality and carbon sequestration and storage values – as well as timber. On page 35 of the Discussion Paper, it states that not all forestry operations are regulated under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Whilst this is correct it should be recognised that all forestry operations are indeed regulated under the strict requirements of Tasmania's forest practices system, being the Forest Practices Code and the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

The forestry industry is a major employer and economic contributor in the Region. The Discussion Paper (Fig.16) lists the combined Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors in the top 5 employers in the Cradle Coast. Furthermore, the Paper (page 10) lists the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors in the top 3 employers in 4 out of the 10 LGA's in the Region. In a separate report specifically focussed on the socio-economic impacts of the forestry sector alone, Schirmer et.al (2018)¹ found that the total annual value of output contributed by the forest industry to the Cradle Coast Region was \$271.8 million and which employed a total of 1,105 full time equivalent jobs. This contributed \$66.1 million to household income within the Cradle Coast Region alone. These figures from the Schirmer report are from 2015-16 financial year, so the contribution of the forestry sector to the socio-economic wellbeing of the Region would be even greater now.

These statistics clearly show the forestry sector makes a significant contribution to the Cradle Coast Region, both now and into the future. Forestry will play a key role in meeting Tasmania's ambitious carbon emission reduction targets as detailed in Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2025². Carbon forestry is emerging as a driver of change, particularly influencing the establishment of new and longer rotation plantations. From 2020 to 2024, over 24,800 hectares of private freehold land was registered for carbon forestry projects in Tasmania under the Australian Government's Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme, with activity accelerating from 2022 onward (PFT Annual Report 2025³). The forestry sector will also provide the timber to build the 10 000 new social and affordable homes by 2032 as part of Tasmania's Housing Strategy 2023-2043⁴. Total wood production from Tasmanian forests for 2024-25 was over 4.1 million tonnes across all forest product types. Public forests accounted for 1.3 million tonnes while private forests produced 2.8 million tonnes.

Sustainable forestry produces the ultimate renewable material – timber. Timber, through a tree's ability to regenerate and re-grow while sequestering and storing carbon, makes it one of the most important environmental materials of the future. PFT urges the Cradle Coast Authority to recognise the significant role for forestry in the future of the Region. This should be reflected in the CCRLUS. PFT looks forward to making further contributions as the Strategy is developed.

If you have any queries on the points we have raised, please contact our CEO Dr Elizabeth Pietrzykowski on [REDACTED] or our Policy & Data Officer Murray Root on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Phil Bishop
A/CEO Private Forests Tasmania

¹Schirmer, J. Mylek, M. Magnusson, A. Yabsley, B. & Morison, J. (2018) Socio-economic impacts of the forest industry - Tasmania. Report prepared for Forest and Wood Products Australia and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

²Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2025,
https://www.recfi.tas.gov.au/what_is_recfi/climate_change/action_plan/2023-25

³Private Forests Tasmania Annual Report 2025, <https://pft.tas.gov.au/annual-reports>

⁴Tasmania's Housing Strategy 2023-2043,
https://www.tasmanianhousingstrategy.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/600944/230265_Homes_Tas_Strategy_document_wcag.pdf