

### Why do I need a consulting forester and how do I choose?

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Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) recommends the use of consulting foresters for landholders wishing to grow trees for commercial and other purposes. While PFT can provide some initial advice and guidance this will be unlikely to cover all your needs from tree selection, establishment and management through to harvest.

We do not recommend specific individuals or companies, but we do provide a list from which you may choose.

***‘Consulting foresters can provide critical technical assistance in all phases of forest management’.***

Consulting foresters can provide a range of services, these services can include:

- Handling all aspects of timber sales administration.
- Timber sale contract preparation and management.
- Harvesting inspections.
- Harvest coordination.
- Marking harvest boundaries.
- Determining thinning requirements, harvest method, skid trail layout, location and quantities of landings, road building, intensity of tree removal and density of residual stand.
- Post-harvest clean-up.
- Site preparation, herbicide and fertilizer application, prescribed burns for hazardous fuel reduction and weed control.

- Reforestation.
- Mapping.
- Wildlife habitat improvement.

Fee arrangements vary by the type of service. They may be charged on an hourly, daily or per hectare basis, or the fee may be determined as a set amount for a complete project. Landowners will often find this expense is more than offset by improved productivity, reduced complexity and compliance with regulations.

Studies show that landowners using a consulting forester can achieve greater returns from their investment.

A forestry professional who practices forestry within your area is your best advisor. They will be familiar with the local environment and the general market.

#### **Choosing a Consulting Forester**

Initially, remember when choosing a consulting forester, they will be working for you, so make sure to choose someone that:

- Listens;
- Understands; and
- You can build a good working relationship with.

#### **Next, it is important to check on a forester's qualifications:**

- **Ask if they are a Registered Forestry Professional (RFP)**

Visit Forestry Australia website [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.forestry.org.au) for additional information or [CLICK HERE](#).  
The purpose of the RFP scheme is to provide the public, employers and clients confidence that they are dealing with a trained, competent and up-to-date professional forester.

- **Ask if they are a consulting Forest Practices Officer (FPO)**

Visit the Forest Practices Authority website [www.fpa.tas.gov.au](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au) for additional information or [CLICK HERE](#)

FPOs are authorised by warrant under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

There are two categories of FPO appointments:

- ❖ Forest Practices Officer (Inspecting)
- ❖ Forest Practices Officer (Planning).

FPOs (Planning) are delegated certain powers including certifying forest practices plans and plan variations.

- **Enquire about the consultant's educational qualifications.**

Usually, consulting foresters have at least a bachelor's degree in forestry, biology, natural resource management, environmental sciences, or a related discipline.

### Also, ask if the potential consulting forester:

- **Is a member of a professional association?**

Forestry Australia (FA) is a professional association for foresters, private forestry, commercial tree growing and all forestry professionals. Visit their website [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.forestry.org.au)

- **Has the necessary insurance?**

- **Any conflicts of interest?**

- **References?**

Preferably where they've worked with similar landowners on similar projects.

### Questions you can ask a forester, before you hire them:

- How long have you worked as a professional forester?
- Where have you been working and with what kinds of forests?
- What is your educational background?
- Are you a current member of Forestry Australia (FA)?
- What training have you attended recently?
- What are your fees, and what services do you provide?
- Are you associated with a sawmill or wood products firm?
- Can you provide references from previous clients and/or agencies?
- Would you sign a contract that details the services you will provide?

### Where to find a consulting forester?

Private Forests Tasmania's [Directory of Tasmanian Forestry Services](#) includes a listing of additional forest services to better assist and facilitate commercial forest management in the private forestry sector, including:

- Forest management services;
- Forest Practices Officers;
- Silvicultural contractors;
- Timber brokers; etc

The Directory and additional marketing information can be found at [www.treealliance.com.au](http://www.treealliance.com.au). [CLICK HERE](#) to be taken directly to the link.

Forestry Australia (FA) has the Registered Forestry Professional Scheme (RFP) [CLICK](#)

[HERE](#) for their current listing or visit [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.forestry.org.au)

Visit the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) website [www.fpa.tas.gov.au](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au) for the register

of consulting Forest Practices Officers (FPOs) or [CLICK HERE](#) to be taken directly to the link.

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### Hobart

30 Patrick Street  
Hobart 7000

### Launceston

State Government Offices  
171 Westbury Road  
Prospect 7250  
PO Box 180  
Kings Meadows 7249

### Burnie

State Growth Offices  
The Harris Building  
Level 1, 49 Cattley Street  
PO Box 68  
Burnie 7320

### Call the helpline

1300 661 009

### Email us

[admin@pft.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@pft.tas.gov.au)

### Disclaimer

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