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Draft NRM South Strategy

Thank you for your email and providing a copy of the draft Southern Tasmania NRM Strategy 2030. As one of our Tree Alliance partners, NRM Souths' strategic direction is of particular interest to PFT, and we welcome the opportunity to provide input to the Strategy. Our comments are provided below against the three consultation questions.

Consultation questions:

1. Identify your organisation's aspirations for natural resource management in Tasmania.

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.

Our aspirations for natural resource management are best outlined in our recently approved [Corporate Plan 2021-24](#).

2. Please provide any comments on our current Priorities and Actions in the strategy

Section 5.1, Table 1 – A snapshot of Tasmania's land assets

Production forests are one of Tasmania's significant land assets and PFT suggests including 'Production forests' alongside the other 5 land asset classes already listed in Table 1. Including production forests in this Table would be consistent with the statement on page 3 of the Strategy "*Agriculture, forestry, and fishing are the largest employment sectors in the southern region*". The following statistics and figures are suggested for inclusion in a production forests asset class:

In Tasmania, production forests on public land occupy 812 000 ha and on private land there are 434 000 ha of private timber reserves. Production forests include both native forest and plantation forest. There is 283 000 ha of plantation forest across both public and private land tenures. In 2020-21 Tasmania's production forests produced nearly 5 million tonnes of forest products, the majority of which (66%) coming from plantations. The forestry industry generates over 5000 jobs, directly or indirectly, and has an annual value of \$1.2 billion to the Tasmanian economy.

A range of other statistics and figures on production forests can be provided by PFT on request.

Section 5.3 Resilient landscapes and Section 5.4 Soils and vegetation

PFT is currently running the [Tree Alliance](#) marketing campaign which aims to raise awareness of farm forestry and the benefits of trees on farms, and to encourage and facilitate farmers to integrate commercially viable trees into the agricultural landscape. Planting trees in the right place in the landscape can increase the resilience of those landscapes and improve individual farm productivity by protecting and improving soils, improve water quality and irrigation efficiency, provision of shade and shelter for livestock and sequestering carbon. If the intention is to harvest and replant the trees, there is the added benefit of growing high value timber products and producing biofuel. Trees protect our land for future generations. PFT has been engaged with researchers over many years to quantify and document many of these benefits.

PFT believes these aims and benefits dovetail well with some of the Priorities and Actions identified in Sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the NRM Strategy and suggest that further incorporation of tree planting and farm forestry would complement the existing draft Strategy.

For example, PFT suggest the following minor amendments to the text:

In section 5.3.2 in the last paragraph on page 21, re-word the first sentence to:

“There are also a number of climate change adaptation and mitigation opportunities in agriculture within southern Tasmania, including expansion of irrigation to provide greater reliability of soil moisture for crops, pasture and horticulture; planting of vineyards and other crops currently suited to warmer and drier climates; restoration of native vegetation and the establishment of new farm forestry plantings to sequester more carbon and provide other drought resilience benefits, and encouraging the uptake of agricultural practices that maintain and improve ground cover for greater feed base resilience.”

Action LS1.b could be re-worded to:

“Leverage funding and work with partners (eg. PFT) to support and deliver initiatives that demonstrate the economic value of retaining and establishing trees in the agricultural landscape (including farm forestry plantings) and support land managers to actively participate in emerging soil and forestry carbon markets, and ecosystem service markets.”

Likewise, PFT suggest Action LSS3.b could be re-worded to:

“Develop partnerships with other organisations, industry, research institutes, community groups and governments to deliver information and targeted extension (a) to support land managers to adopt grazing management and farm forestry practices that maintain and improve soil and above ground carbon levels; and (b) to enable land managers to actively participate in emerging soil and forestry carbon markets.

3. Are there any specific areas you would like to collaborate on into the future?

The overlap in interests of our two organisations lie in getting more trees planted in the Tasmanian agricultural landscape. PFT would be happy to collaborate with the NRMs in the implementation of Actions or projects where this is a goal.

If you have any queries on the points we have raised, please contact me on 03 6165 4070 or Murray Root, Policy & Data Officer on 03 6165 4072. Please note PFT intends to make separate submissions to the draft Strategies released by the other two Tasmanian NRM organisations.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Wells
CEO Private Forests Tasmania