



Forestry Tasmania
GROWING OUR FUTURE

2007-08
to
2009-10
Three Year
Wood
Production
Plans

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The Three Year Planning Process

As a means of communicating planned, future operations on State forest with its' stakeholders, Forestry Tasmania (FT) updates and publishes a Three Year Wood Production Plan annually.

The 2007 Three Year Wood Production Plan is the first plan produced since Forestry Tasmania announced an end to the broad scale conversion of State-owned native forests to plantations. Only coupes, in which harvesting had commenced prior to the end of 2006, have been listed for conversion to plantation in this plan.

The plan complies with the Forest Practices Act 1985 and has been prepared according to guidelines approved by Forestry Tasmania, and following consultation with the forest industry and local government. It is also consistent with the Regional Forest Agreement, the Forestry Growth Plan and the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Forestry Tasmania's sustainable forest management performance is supported by an integrated management system that meets three certification standards, including the Australian Forestry Standard. Third-party certification against the Australian Forestry Standard provides a clear and unambiguous statement that wood production is being managed in accordance with a set of clearly defined environmental, economic, social and cultural performance requirements that supports the sustainable management of forests.

The Australian Forestry Standard (<http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/>) is formally recognised by Standards Australia and has also received mutual recognition from the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). www.pefc.org PEFC is a global umbrella organisation for the assessment of and mutual recognition of national forest certification schemes and is the world's largest certification scheme.

The plan contains details of the volumes of hardwood and softwood that FT intends to harvest over the next three years. All coupes contained in these plans fall within Forestry Tasmania's designated Defined Forest Area as certified under the Australian Forestry Standard, unless listed in Appendix 1. A summary of this document and any amendments will be available through Forestry Tasmania's website under *Current Topics* at www.forestrytas.com.au. The website will include a list of planned coupes with maps showing their location.

The maps show the indicative location and extent of the intended harvest operations. Actual boundaries and operational specifications will only be determined following detailed field surveys and community consultation and will be documented in a Forest Practices Plan. These plans are prepared prior to the commencement of harvesting operations and are available for inspection at the local Forestry Tasmania District office. See http://www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/pages/forest_practices_plan.htm for Guidelines for Public Access to Forest Practices Plans.

Any changes in operational sequence will be approved by the respective District Manager in consultation with the Manager (Field Services). Any additions to the plan must be approved by the Manager (Field Services) in consultation with the Forestry Tasmania Executive.

Description of Codes Used in Tables

Road classification:

<u>Road Class</u>	<u>Code</u>
Primary all weather 2 lane access - Main road	1
Significant all weather 2 lane access - Semi-main road	2
Heavy vehicle single lane - Through road	3T
Heavy vehicle single lane - Spur road	3
Vehicular track	4

Operation Type (Op Type):

<u>Operation Type Description</u>	<u>Code</u>
Cable	C
Ground	G
Predominantly Cable	C/G
Predominantly Ground	G/C

Harvest Method:

<u>Harvest Description</u>	<u>Code</u>
Aggregated Retention	ARN
Advanced Growth Retention	AGR
Clearfell	CLF
Clearfell with Retention	CLR
Early Clearfell of Hardwood Plantation	ECP
Early Clearfell of Native Forest Regrowth	ECR
Group Selection – 1 st Cutting Cycle	GS1
Salvage - Roadline-Quarry-Dam	RLS
Seed Tree Retention	SED
Seed Tree Removal	STX
Selective Logging	SEL
Potential Sawlog Retention	PSR
Shelterwood Retention	SW1
Shelterwood Removal	SW2
Commercial Thinning	THN
Commercial Thinning of Hardwood Plantation	TNP
Commercial Thinning of Softwood Plantation	TNS

Future use of the harvest area, may be more than one use (Future Use):

<u>Future Use</u>	<u>Code</u>
Clear for Agriculture (incl. Sale)	AGC
Fenced Blackwood	FBW
Fenced Intensive Blackwood	FIB
Lease Agreement established to Hardwood Plantation	HWA
Land Purchase established to Hardwood Plantation	HWL
State Forest converted to Hardwood Plantation*	HWS
Conversion to Road, Lakes, Easements etc.	OTH
Pre-commercial thinning	PCT
Potential Sawlog Retention	PSR
Return to Hardwood Plantation	RHW
Regenerate to Native Forest	RNF
Return to Softwood Plantation	RSW
Lease Agreement established to Softwood Plantation	SWA
Land Purchase established to Softwood Plantation	SWL
Commercial thinning of Native Forest	THC
Commercial thinning of Hardwood Plantation	THH
Commercial thinning of Softwood Plantation	THS
Uneven aged treatment	UAT
Unknown (as yet, undetermined)	UNK

** Note that On the 1st June 2007 Forestry Tasmania announced an end to the broad scale conversion of State-owned native forests to plantations. Only coupes that had commenced harvesting prior to the end of 2006 have been listed for conversion to plantation in this plan.*

Classification of Timber Forest Products:

Veneer - Eucalypt veneer log with specifications as set out in the Forestry Regulations 1999.

Category 1 & 3 Sawlog (Cat 1&3) - First grade eucalypt sawlog with specifications as set out in the Forestry Regulations 1999.

Category 2 Sawlog (Cat 2) - Second grade eucalypt sawlog with specifications as set out by Forestry Tasmania.

Category 8 Sawlog (Cat 8) - Eucalypt log with a quality below Category 2 specifications but which is deemed suitable for sawmilling by a customer of Forestry Tasmania.

Rotary Veneer Peeler - Logs below sawlog quality which are suitable for peeling on a lathe to produce veneer for a range of solid wood products.

Category 4 Sawlog (Cat 4) - First grade special species timber sawlog with specifications as set out by Forestry Tasmania.

Pulpwood - Logs below sawlog quality which are suitable for the manufacture of pulp, paper and panel products.

Roundwood - Logs below sawlog quality which are suitable for the manufacture of posts and poles.

Category 5 Sawlog (Cat 5) - Softwood sawlog with specifications as set out by Forestry Tasmania.

Part A - Hardwood Wood Production Plan

Introduction

The Three Year Wood Production Plan for hardwood forest products lists the specific areas Forestry Tasmania will harvest to meet its contractual obligations to customers.

The plan reflects Forestry Tasmania's commitment to increase the productivity of its forests, consistent with the 2002 five-yearly review of sustainable yield.

The period of this plan (2007-08 to 2009-10) is concurrent with the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement program, which includes in its objectives; to reduce clearfelling in oldgrowth native forests, to establish new eucalypt plantations and to increase the thinning of young eucalypt forests.

Forestry Tasmania is also working with its customers and with other investment partners to achieve further increases in productivity, which complement, and extend beyond, the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Preparation of this plan has followed an agreed set of priorities for the scheduling of native forest coupes, and a number of specific targets. The targets are based on:

- (i) contractual commitments for the supply of each product (i.e. veneer log, sawlog and pulpwood) in each supply zone, together with anticipated market opportunities;
- (ii) thinning requirements in relevant supply zones;
- (iii) plantation area targets in relevant supply zones; and
- (iv) requirements for the optimal use of cable harvesting equipment used to access areas that cannot be harvested by ground-based equipment.

Hardwood harvest scheduling is based on fully-integrated harvesting operations, in which all forest products for current markets are recovered for sale. The planning process also identifies contingency areas. These are to ensure that supply can be maintained from alternative areas in response to changes in market demand for some products or to changes in accessibility (eg, due to unseasonal wet weather). These contingency coupes may include some in which harvesting may not be fully integrated, if this is required to meet the demand for one product at a time when the demand for other products is depressed.

District Planners have been guided in the preparation of this plan by target supply quantities for each major product. However, harvest scheduling in this plan may vary from the targets for a number of reasons. Variations in one supply zone are usually compensated for in adjacent supply zones. Actual demand may also vary from the targets and from the planned amounts, due to changes in markets through the year.

Summary

Forestry Tasmania has statutory obligations to make available a minimum of 300,000 cubic metres per year of eucalypt veneer and sawlogs meeting the relevant specifications. The plan's target volume of 300,000 cubic metres of high quality sawlog and veneer is based on an assessment of these statutory obligations, the Forestry Growth Plan, contractual supply commitments and new sales opportunities that can be anticipated with reasonable confidence. It is consistent with the 2002 five-yearly review of sustainable yield and subsequent provisions of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

The planned production, summarised below, provides the pool of resource from which the target volume will be supplied.

The capacity to meet current industry requirements for eucalypt veneer logs is reduced by the very exacting market requirements for pale, unblemished quarter sliced eucalypt veneers. District planners have scheduled 7,100 cubic metres of eucalypt veneer logs and the best quality sawlogs in 2007/08 to meet current industry requirements. This quantity can be supplemented with additional logs, if ongoing marketing efforts in this sector are successful in establishing demand for eucalypt veneers that are darker or that display grain features and figure.

On this basis, the 10,000 cubic metres of veneer logs that could be made available include a proportion that either:

- (i) is not pale enough to meet current market expectations; or
- (ii) displays grain features that are currently regarded in the marketplace as blemishes; or
- (iii) is too small for quarter slicing, requiring them to be crown sliced (resulting in a highly figured grain that is not currently preferred in the marketplace).

The available wood production for the first year of the plan is given in the following statewide summary tables.

Table: Summary of Eucalypt Sawlog and Peeler available from planned coupes in 2007-08

District	High Quality eucalypt sawlog and veneer (‘000 m3)			Rotary Veneer Peeler (Logs)	Low Quality eucalypt sawlog (‘000 m3)		
	Cat1&3	Veneer	Total		Cat 2	Cat 8	Total
Bass	54.5	2.1	56.6	32.7	10.7	22.9	33.6
Derwent	115.6	2.8	118.4	54.0	18.7	18.7	37.5
Huon	73.6	2.0	75.6	155.1	6.9	0.8	7.7
Mersey	16.0	0.0	16.0	10.5	4.5	6.8	11.3
Murchison	60.3	0.3	60.6	68.3	21.2	29.7	51.0
TOTAL	320.0	7.2	327.2	320.6	62.0	78.2	141.1

Table: Summary of Special Species Timber available from planned coupes in 2007-08

District	Cat4 sawlog (m ³)
Bass	1,200
Derwent	2,900
Huon	1,300
Mersey	0
Murchison	15,300
TOTAL	20,700

This table reports forecast quantities for Category 4 special species timber sawlogs. The table excludes smaller volumes from proposed Special Timber Management Unit (STMU) harvests.

Table: Summary of Hardwood Pulpwood available from planned coupes in 2007-08

District	Pulpwood ('000 tonnes)			Total
	Plantation	Regrowth	Other	
Bass	107.4	266.3	458.1	831.8
Derwent	16.2	222.9	430.7	669.8
Huon	20.4	85.1	125.8	227.7
Mersey	46.3	28.5	178.6	253.4
Murchison	24.1	172.6	152.0	348.9
TOTAL	214.4	775.4	1,345.2	2,331.6

Appendix 1 – Coupes not within the Australian Forest Standard Defined Forest Area

The following coupes are listed in Forestry Tasmania's Three Year Plan, but are not within Forestry Tasmania's Defined Forest Area as certified under the Australian Forestry Standard. These coupes are either softwood plantations being managed by an external party, or are in the process of being purchased by Forestry Tasmania. The latter areas will become part of the Define Forest Area once purchase is settled.

BD042X	SX029X
BD043W	SX039W
CO003Z	SX040W
DU008A	SX042Y
DU029T	SX043U
DU034X	SX045X
DU034Y	SX046Y
DU036X	SX047U
DU036Y	TN010U
FN025K	TN018Y
PL005Y	TN064Z
PL005Z	TN070X
PL006W	TN070Y
PL006Y	TN070Z
PL007S	TN071X
PL007T	TN071Y
PL007U	TN072Z
PL007W	WI116E
PL008V	WW055Z
PL008W	WW057V
PL008X	WW057Y
PL010Z	WW057Z
PL016Y	WW058Z
PL016Z	WW059Z
PL017W	WW060X
PL018V	WW060Y
PL019U	WW060Z
PL019V	WW061Z
PL020S	WW063Z
PL020V	WW064Z
PL020Z	
PL023X	
PL024Z	
PL026V	
PL028Y	
PL028Z	
RP001Y	
RP001Z	
RP002Y	
RP002Z	
RP003Y	
RP003Z	
RU001D	
RU001E	

Part B - Softwood Wood Production Plan

Introduction

This Softwood Wood Production Plan is prepared along similar lines to previous years, based on the softwood resource on State forest, excluding the joint venture which is managed by Rayonier Pty Ltd.

Any roading requirements for management of the softwood resource are covered within the roading section of the Hardwood Plan.

Anticipated sales of sawlogs for 2007-08 will essentially be from the Strahan and Dunrobin softwood plantations to the Auspine mill in Scottsdale.

Anticipated sales of pulp logs for 2007-08 will be from 2 main streams:

1. To the Norske Skog Boyer mill:
 - a) from arisings from silvicultural treatments (including thinning) from Derwent District (Dunrobin); and
 - b) from Norske Skog plantations on State forest.
2. To Smart Fibre (Bell Bay) and Gunns (Burnie) from Strahan softwood plantations

Summary

The available wood production for the first year of the plan is given in the following statewide summary table.

Table: Summary of Softwood available from planned coupes in 2007-08

District	Cat 5 sawlogs (m ³)	roundwood tonnes	pulpwood tonnes
Murchison	155,200	0	110,400
Mersey	0	0	0
Bass	0	0	0
Derwent	9,800	0	70,500
Huon	0	0	6,900
Total	165,000	0	187,800