



**TREES ON FARMS**  
*with Forestry Tasmania*



Forestry Tasmania

Trees on Farms offers **farmers** the chance to plant **trees** to reclaim weed infested land, secure a new **revenue stream**, capture **carbon** and provide **long term** habitat for the swift parrot.



## Trees on Farms - The Vision

Trees on Farms seeks to enable farmers to earn additional revenue, rehabilitate degraded land, capture carbon and provide habitat for swift parrot by incorporating trees into whole-of-farm management plans.

## How it will work

Trees on Farms provides a low cost opportunity for individual farmers to joint venture with Forestry Tasmania to establish commercial woodlots on cleared land.

Landowners will incur minimal costs and will share the income generated from the harvested timber with Forestry Tasmania.

**FT will work with farmers to identify cleared land suitable for planting trees, giving priority to:**

- areas infested with weeds such as gorse;
- potential shelterbelts as part of an integrated whole-of-farm management plan;
- areas of reduced agricultural productivity; and
- areas where swift parrot habitat can be established.

**Where the land is suitable, and Forestry Tasmania and the landowner agree, they:**

- enter into a contract to formalise their joint venture;
- share timber proceeds with 70 per cent to Forestry Tasmania and 30 per cent to the landowner.

Depending on soil and local conditions, shining gum, blue gum and radiata pine will be the preferred species.

Depending on the species grown, the trees will be harvested in 15 to 30 years.

Landowners maintain ownership of their land, while Forestry Tasmania owns the trees.



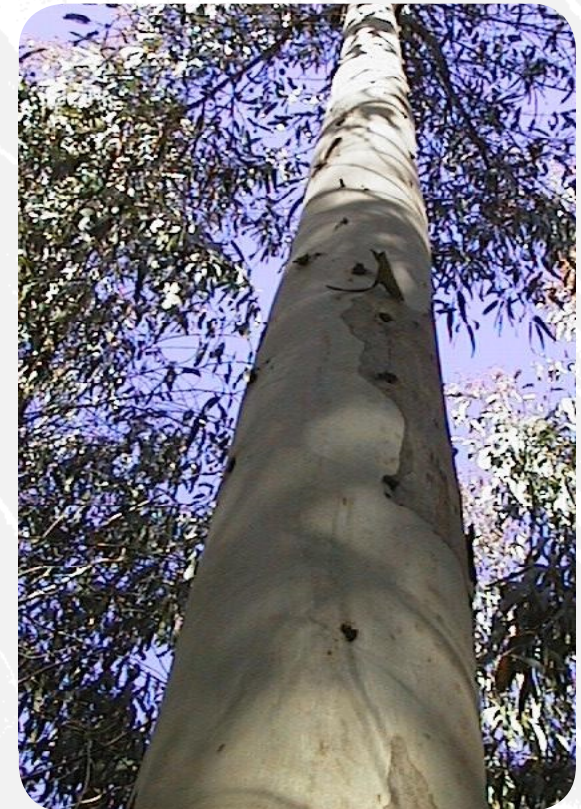
## Benefits

### Planting trees delivers significant benefits to farmers.

#### Trees on farms:

- can be planted at virtually no cost to landowners;
- will turn unproductive land into productive land;
- increase the capital value of properties;
- diversify farmers' incomes and provide insurance against market and climate fluctuations;
- provide future income or potential superannuation;
- increase productivity and employment in currently unproductive areas;
- improve shelter for stock and crops;
- provide habitat for threatened species such as the swift parrot; and
- offset greenhouse emissions.

In the future, tree plantings may also provide the potential for additional income from carbon credits.



# Responsibilities

## Forestry Tasmania

Forestry Tasmania is responsible for all work costs (excluding fence construction and maintenance, where fencing forms part of an agreement), for legal and administrative requirements to establish trees, and for harvesting.

### Specifically, Forestry Tasmania:

- arranges for the land to be assessed to determine its suitability for plantations;
- plans, establishes, manages and harvests the plantation;
- complies with the Forest Practices Code;
- seeks a Private Timber Reserve for the plantation, to provide security for future forestry operations;
- establishes a Timber Right for the plantation to protect the investment, should the land be sold; and
- establishes blue gum habitat for the swift parrot on appropriate sites.

As the trees mature the area may be opened up to grazing and access by stock, following agreement between Forestry Tasmania and the landowner.

## Landowner

### The landowner's responsibilities under the project are to:

- provide suitable land for growing trees;
- protect the trees from damage by stock, for example by fencing; and
- control pine or eucalypt wildlings arising from the plantation, where these pose an ecological threat.



# Frequently asked questions

## Fire protection

**Q: Who is responsible?**

A: Both the landowner and Forestry Tasmania have responsibilities under current laws and regulations.

## Insurance

**Q: Is the plantation insured?**

A: Forestry Tasmania is a self insurer. This means that Forestry Tasmania will replant if the trees are lost in a natural disaster.

## Grazing domestic stock

**Q: What happens if the landowner's livestock damage the trees?**

A: The landowner will be required to pay the cost of the damage.

## Access

**Q: Who is responsible for access?**

A: Forestry Tasmania is responsible for creating access to the plantation and will fund upgrades to roads if they are necessary. In order to ensure all the required silvicultural works are completed on schedule, Forestry Tasmania requires free access to the plantation site. Therefore, it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that Forestry Tasmania has the appropriate keys for any locked gates. Keys provided to Forestry Tasmania are kept securely and only issued to authorised staff.

**Q: What are the notification arrangements?**

A: Each case will be negotiated individually between the landowner and Forestry Tasmania.

## Disputes

**Q: How will any disputes that may arise be resolved?**

A: Initially we will try and resolve disputes at a personal level. Should this not prove successful, a dispute resolution process is also outlined in the contract.

## Post harvest

**Q: What will be the condition of the land and fences after harvest?**

A: Stumps and post-harvest slash will be left on site. The fences will be left in good repair.

**Q: Is there an option for another joint venture after harvest?**

A: Yes.

## Herbicides

**Q: Will Forestry Tasmania use herbicides?**

A: Forestry Tasmania has a long standing commitment to reducing chemical use in plantations, to help protect the environment. We will not use herbicides except in accordance with our Sustainable Forest Management policy, where they are essential to protect the health of the plantation.

## Blue gum plantings for swift parrots

Blue gums are a Tassie icon, and so are the swift parrots that depend on them.

Swift parrots are now rare, partly because their preferred feeding-habitat (grassy blue gum forest) is now much scarcer than it used to be.

Planting blue gums in the right places can help restore habitat so that the future of this endangered species is more secure.

### Swift parrots:

- breed only in Tasmania, but migrate to the mainland to overwinter
- nest in holes in old eucalypts (any species), usually in extensive areas of forest
- forage for nectar among the flowers of nearby blue gums, including isolated stands of trees
- breed in different areas each year, depending on where the blue gums are flowering best
- tend to go around in noisy groups, yet are easily overlooked because of their green colouration and fast flight
- occur mostly on private land



### Where will blue gum plantings work best for swift parrots?

Swift parrots breed mostly in coastal eastern Tasmania, from about Binalong Bay south to Dover. This distribution sits within the natural range of blue gum. Restoring and expanding blue gum forests in these areas is one of our best options for helping swift parrot numbers to recover.

### What sort of plantings will work best for swift parrots?

Blue gums flower more prolifically as they age and therefore their attractiveness to swift parrots also increases with time.

Older blue gums also harbour more lerps (scale-insects) that are a nutritious supplementary food for swift parrots.

Swift parrots may congregate around relict stands of blue gums along creeklines or fencelines. These trees are the best indicator of where blue gums (and swift parrots) are most at home in the landscape today, and where additional plantings can have most benefit tomorrow.

### How can these blue gum plantings also be profitable?

Any blue gums destined for harvesting on short rotations will offer little benefit for swift parrots. However, it is preferable to site new blue gum plantings next to, or surrounding, an existing relict stand of blue gums.

When most of the planted trees are ready for harvest, a proportion can be retained, to help restore the relict stand and to provide habitat for swift parrots in subsequent decades.

The larger the number of trees destined for retention, the better – economies of scale work for ecology too.

The Trees on Farms business model will then apply to the proportion of blue gum planting that will ultimately be available for harvest.



# SUMMARY OF KEY TERMS OF TREES on FARMS AGREEMENT

## Basic Terms:

- The Land Owner, as the registered proprietor of the Land, wishes to establish a tree farm on the Land for the purpose of wood production.
- The Land Owner will agree to Forestry being able to register a Forestry Right on the Land and (with the assistance of Forestry Tasmania), will apply for a declaration of the Land as a Private Timber Reserve under the Forest Practices Act 1985.
- The Plantation Crop is the property of Forestry Tasmania until the end of the original term of the Agreement (or as extended).
- The Land Owner (with Forestry Tasmania's consent) may have a limited right of grazing livestock on the Land.

## Forestry Tasmania will:

- Plan, prepare and supervise the operations leading up to planting, including removal of existing vegetation, having regard to sound forestry practice as provided in the Forest Practices Code 2000.
- Supply and plant the seedlings.
- Carry out all operations services and duties necessary to establish maintain and harvest the Plantation Crop and Forest Products.
- Pay all stamp duty and all the Land Owner's reasonable legal costs of and incidental to the preparation, completion, stamping and registration of the Trees on Farms Agreement including all survey costs.

## The Land Owner will:

- Enable Forestry Tasmania to perform its obligations under the Agreement.
- Allow Forestry Tasmania, its contractors and their employees access to the Land.
- Provide Forestry Tasmania with a suitable location to safely store seedlings after delivery and prior to planting.
- Construct a fence along the external perimeter of the Land to keep livestock from straying on to the Land.
- Sign any relevant Approved Forest Practices Plan as Land Owner.



**More information:**

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