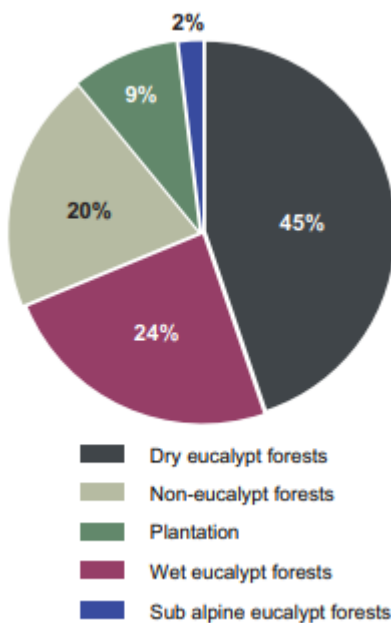


Forest facts

Tasmania has a total land mass of approximately 6.81 million hectares, of which nearly half (3.35 million hectares or 49 per cent) is forested. Native forest makes up 91 per cent of this and plantations nine per cent.

Of the native forest, 69 per cent is either wet or dry eucalypt forest, but there are significant areas of other non-eucalypt forest types such as rainforest, blackwood forest, paperbark forest, tea-tree forest, silver wattle forest, she-oak forest and Oyster Bay pine forest.

Tasmanian forests by forest type



Sources: [State of the Forests Tasmania 2017 \(summary booklet\)](#)

Tasmania's plantations (302 000 hectares) are made up of 25 per cent softwoods and 75 per cent hardwoods. *Pinus radiata* is the main softwood species, while *Eucalyptus globulus* and *Eucalyptus nitens* are the main hardwood species

Forest Management System

Tasmania's Forest Management System is underpinned by three core elements of sustainable forest management:

- a policy for maintaining a permanent native forest estate;
- a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system that securely protects conservation values; and
- sustainably managing forests outside reserves.

Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy prohibits broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest, other than in limited prescribed circumstances.

Broad scale clearing and conversion has ceased on public land. The extent and rate of clearing on private land is constrained by the policy.

Tasmania's CAR reserve system

Tasmania's CAR reserve system has been established to cover the broadest diversity of native forest communities on public and private land.

Fifty nine per cent of Tasmania's native forests (1.79 million hectares) are protected in reserves, which includes 85 per cent of Tasmania's old growth forests.

Managing forests outside the reserve system

In forests outside the reserve system, forestry operations are regulated by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA). The FPA is an independent statutory body which sets guidelines and standards to protect important natural and cultural values through the Forest Practices Code.

Tasmania's production forests

Production forests are managed to supply a wide range of wood products to local and overseas customers, including high and low quality sawlogs, high grade domestic peeler logs, special species timbers, pulpwood and firewood.

These forests also support other commercial activities, such as apiarists and tourism ventures, as well as recreational activities.

Wood production

In 2018-19, Tasmanian forests produced a total of 5 813 million tonnes of wood fibre. Nearly 78% of this came from plantations.

Source	Volume ('000 tonnes)
Native forest	1 290
Plantation- hardwood	3 113
Plantation- softwood	1 410
Totals	5 813

Sources: [Sustainable Timber Tasmania Annual Report 2018-19](#); [Private Forests Tasmania Annual Report 2018-19](#)

In native forests the main products are sawlogs, peeler billets and woodchips. Speciality timbers, such as huon pine, celery top pine, sassafras, blackwood and myrtle make up a minor but very important component of the native forest harvest.

From plantation forests the main product is pulpwood, but with a growing and increasingly important product being high quality sawlogs.

Employment and economic contribution

The Tasmanian forest industry makes a significant economic contribution to the State. In 2017-18, there were 3 076 direct jobs in the forest industry (primary and secondary processing), and 2 651 indirect jobs generated in other industries as a result of demand from the forest industry ([Schirmer 2018](#)).

Of the direct jobs, 24 per cent of jobs were in the Cradle Coast region, 37.4 per cent in the Northern region and 38.6 per cent in the Southern region.

In 2015-16, the direct value of output by the Tasmanian forest industry at the point of sale of primary processed products was \$712 million. This figure rises to more than \$1.2 billion when considering the flow-on-effects generated in other industries as a result of spending by the forest industry.

This total includes more than \$270 million in the Cradle Coast region, more than \$450 million in the Northern region and more than \$420 million in the Southern region ([Schirmer 2018](#)).

Tasmanian Government initiatives

Strategic marketing

To further grow the forest industry in Tasmania, the Government provided the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board with funding of \$1 million over four years from 2017-18, with matched contributions from industry, to support the strategic marketing and market development of Tasmanian wood and wood products.

The Government also provided support for the establishment of the Tasmanian Forest and Forest Products Network to represent the shared views and aspirations of the industry and raise community awareness.

National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI)

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments, together with industry, made an investment of almost \$10 million in a NIFPI research hub in Launceston. NIFPI plays a vital role in fostering collaboration, supporting cutting edge research, boosting innovation and securing Tasmania's place as the centre for forest-industry research in the country.

The Tasmanian NIFPI is hosted by the School of Architecture and Design at the University of Tasmania and was established in 2018.

Wood Encouragement Policy

The Tasmanian Government has a policy to encourage the use of sustainably sourced forest and wood products within Government procurement activities, particularly in building and construction and the heating and energy requirements of building and construction projects. The policy was the first of its kind in Australia and was launched in 2017.

Further information

Department of State Growth
www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/forestry
Forestry Tasmania
www.forestrytas.com.au/about-us/fact-sheets
Private Forests Tasmania
www.pft.tas.gov.au
Forest Practices Authority
www.fpa.tas.gov.au