

29 April 2021

Project Manager
Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan
Tasmanian Climate Change Office

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Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the development of a new Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan.

Private Forests 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. Under our [Corporate Plan 2020-23](#) one of our goals is to work with policy makers and regulators to improve regulatory efficiency and practical policy settings for private forestry.

As outlined in the TCCO's Opportunities Paper, the LULUCF sector makes a key contribution to Tasmania's emissions profile and forestry is a key industry in that sector. Tasmania's forests and forest industries contribute to long term carbon emissions reductions in numerous ways, including:

- capturing and storing atmospheric carbon in growing forests, native and plantation;
- providing long-term storage of carbon in durable wood products;
- providing a renewable substitute for much more emissions-intensive building materials, such as steel, aluminium and concrete;
- replacing carbon-intensive fossil fuel sources such as coal, oil and gas with bioenergy from wood waste, forest thinnings and harvesting residues, and
- protecting forest carbon stores from damaging wildfires.

In response to the questions posed in the Opportunities Paper (page 9) on reducing Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions, PFT supports the following opportunities:

1. Reduce conversion of plantations to other land uses – Currently at least 1 000ha of plantation per year is converted to other land uses in Tasmania. Policy drivers and other market based incentives are required to address factors that discourage private landholders from re-establishing a second or subsequent plantation rotation.
2. Increase plantations including agroforestry – Recent reports indicate there are approximately 30-40 000ha of agricultural land suitable for plantation or agroforestry development in NW Tasmania alone. PFT recently launched its [Tree Alliance](#) campaign to raise awareness of farm forestry and the benefits of trees on farms, and to encourage and facilitate farmers to plant

commercially viable trees integrated in the agricultural landscape. Additional policy drivers and market based incentives will be required to fully realise this opportunity.

3. **Increase proportion of forestry logs directed to long term wood products, and increased domestic processing including bioenergy** – Tasmania’s existing Wood Encouragement Policy aims to increase the use of Tasmanian wood particularly for new buildings and refurbishment projects. Further investment in domestic processing (existing examples include Ta Ann, Norske Skog and the CLTP facility near Burnie) will result in an increase of forestry logs directed to long term wood products.
4. **Introduce measures to reduce the risk of major bushfires** – Requires further investment in the existing Fuel Reduction Program aimed at control burning and firebreak maintenance and ongoing support for active forest management through sustainable forestry.

If you have any queries or need further expansion on the points raised above, please contact myself on 6165 4070 or Murray Root on 6165 4072.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Wells
CEO Private Forests Tasmania