

11 February 2022

Project Manager
Draft Bioenergy Vision for Tasmania
Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania



Draft Bioenergy Vision for Tasmania

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Bioenergy Vision for Tasmania.

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 2021-24](#) one of our goals is to work with policy makers and regulators to improve regulatory efficiency and practical policy settings for private forestry.

PFT strongly supports the draft Bioenergy Vision. Bioenergy has been identified for some time by the broader forestry sector as a potential new market for forest products most recently in the *Strategic Growth Plan for the Tasmanian forests, fine timber and wood fibre industry*.

Two of the four drivers of bioenergy uptake identified in the Vision document (jobs and economic development and greenhouse gas emissions reduction) are common to the forestry sector. With regard emissions reduction, 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 the fourth dot point above regarding bioenergy, there still remains substantial unrealised potential in the forestry sector, particularly for forest thinnings and harvesting residues. Also, it is critical for forest growers to have diverse and robust markets for forest harvest residues to make forestry a competitive land use. Improvements in the bioenergy market for utilizing harvest residues will be a major positive in realising state and commonwealth government forestry growth policies. Any Government assistance in establishing markets and supply chains would be well targeted.

Some progress has been made in Tasmania using wood waste from timber processing facilities as a feedstock for bioenergy facilities. However, these have generally been local one off installations typically at a small scale. The Vision document has provided some examples of these Tasmanian projects, but it could benefit from identifying and highlighting examples from overseas where forest harvesting residues are being used successfully and at scale in proven, mature bioenergy facilities.

Bioenergy can generate many forms of energy from various organic feedstocks using a range of different technologies. The draft Vision document could benefit by identifying and highlighting what the Government believes the best bioenergy opportunities are for Tasmania. The \$100 000 allocated to explore where bioenergy can be used to displace fossil fuels in Government buildings is a start. These projects, if completed, could form the basis of a demonstration sites program.

The Australian Governments Emission Reduction Fund (ERF) has several methodologies where bioenergy projects are being registered to earn Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs). The possibility of earning carbon credits from bioenergy projects should be highlighted in the Vision document.

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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Penny Wells.

Penny Wells
CEO Private Forests Tasmania