

# Special Species Timber Harvesting Application Process

Tasmanian special species timbers make an important contribution to the Tasmanian economy and brand. The harvesting and utilisation of special species timbers has a long history in Tasmania, and is an important part of the state's cultural heritage.

Over the last two decades, the net harvestable area of public native forest has substantially reduced. There has been a similar decline over the period in the supply of special species timber from this land. Currently, future resource supply is considered by the special species timber sector to be a key constraint to the future of the sector.

The Tasmanian Special Species Management Plan (the Plan) provides a management framework for the long term, sustainable harvesting of special species timbers in Tasmania. The Plan applies to all public land tenures/classes where special species harvesting is consistent with the statutory purposes and/or objectives of the land tenure/class. Specifically:

1. Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZ Land) managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania.
2. Future Potential Production Forest Land (FPPF Land) managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) under the *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014*.
3. Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves, which are proclaimed reserves under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. PWS manages this land consistent with the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

4. Other public land, primarily managed by PWS under the *Crown Lands Act 1976* (CLA). The remaining land in this category includes public land that has been vested in an authority. Whilst there are a number of authorities in which public land may be vested, it is only land vested in the Hydro Electric Corporation, under the *Hydro-Electric Corporation Act 1995*, which is expected to hold much special species timber resource.

The following guide sheet outlines the process for applying to harvest special species timber on land managed by PWS; namely, FPPF Land, Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves, and other public land managed under the CLA.

The application process is broadly similar in relation to each land tenure/class, although there are some additional or different steps in respect of Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves, and land managed under the Forestry (RFI) Act. The specific steps and considerations applicable to each land tenure/class are outlined in Schedule 2 of the Plan. A copy of the Plan is available from:

[www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/specialspeciesmanagementplan](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/specialspeciesmanagementplan)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

There are a number of application steps to seek approval to undertake special species timber harvesting on land managed by PWS:

## STEP 1 – Preliminary Contact

The first step is to contact the Parks and Wildlife Service's Property Services (PS) team to discuss the application. At this stage PS can provide preliminary advice about the suitability of a proposed harvest location (e.g. there may already be an existing user of the Crown land etc.), and the application process more generally.

## STEP 2 – Forest Practices Plan

PS will direct applicants to complete an application form appropriate for the land tenure (e.g. a Reserve Activities Assessment form in relation to Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves) and to submit a Forest Practices Plan (FPP). PWS will then conduct a preliminary assessment and, subject to the outcome of that assessment, PWS will provide 'landowner consent' for the FPP. Applicants must then arrange for the FPP to be certified.

Once the FPP has been certified, applicants should then provide a copy to PS. In relation to FPPF Land, applicants will also need to lodge an application (in the form of a letter) with the Crown Lands Minister (as required under section 11 of the *Forestry (RFI) Act*). The letter to the Minister must enclose the certified FPP.

## STEP 3 – Assessment

PS will undertake an assessment of the FPP. Although an FPP requires a comprehensive assessment of both natural and cultural values within the proposed operation area, the assessment of an application by PS will also include the other matters applicable to the land tenure/class, such as a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) in respect of Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves.

### FPPF Land

In relation to FPPF Land, in accordance with the requirements of the Forestry (RFI) Act, the Minister administering the CLA must seek advice from the Minister administering the *Forest Management Act 2013* as to:

1. whether the special species timber that is the subject of the application can be supplied, at the time of the making of the application, from the PTPZ Land; and
2. whether the proposed harvesting will be consistent with the Plan.

The Crown Lands Minister may only approve an application for the harvesting of special species timbers from FPPF Land if satisfied that the species cannot be supplied from the PTPZ land, and the proposed harvesting will be consistent with the Plan.

## STEP 4 – Approvals

Following PWS' assessment of the certified FPP, and any other matters to be considered in respect of the land tenure, a decision will be made whether to approve the harvest application.

The approval will take the form of an agreement suitable for the land tenure, and may include a lease, licence or, in the event of a short-term activity, a works authority. The approval may have conditions additional to those imposed under the FPP. Royalties for the timber will also apply, as will fees in relation to the preparation of leases and licences.

**For preliminary advice please contact PS via the details provided below.**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Property Services' General Enquiries Message Service:  
Ph. (03) 6169 9015  
Or e-mail for appointments or enquiries:  
PropertyServices@parks.tas.gov.au