



# Australia's State of the Forests Report

## Case studies

## Criterion 7

### Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management

#### Case study 60: Forest education and awareness in Western Australia

The Sustainable Forest Management Division of Western Australia's Department of Environment and Conservation runs a community forest inspection program throughout the *Forest Management Plan 2004–13* region. The program is designed to give community representatives the opportunity to increase their understanding of the relationship between timber harvesting and sustainable forest management, inspect at first hand the systems and processes in place to manage the sustainable harvesting of native forest trees from multiple-use public (state) forest, and observe the level of compliance with existing management systems and processes.

Source: WA DEC

#### Case study 61: Forest education and awareness in New South Wales

Forests NSW offers a diverse education program to the public. Informal education opportunities are provided through community participation, recreation, guided activities, and access to a wide variety of publications, the information centre and library at Cumberland State Forest and the Forests NSW website.<sup>1</sup> Additional educational opportunities are created through casual meetings and recreational activities. A range of school education programs and excursions continue to be delivered, primarily at Cumberland State Forest in Sydney and Strickland State Forest north of Sydney. An online adventure called *Parties RSVP* soon was established for upper primary students, who use it to examine recreation and sustainable forest management in the state's multiple-use public forests.

<sup>1</sup> [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests)

## Case study 62: Forestry skills in the Green Triangle

Forestry is one of the Green Triangle's fastest-growing industries, accounting for 25% of the region's employment. However, this growth could be hampered by a shortage of graduate foresters: in 2004–05, for example, more than 20% of entry-level foresters employed in the region had to be recruited from overseas.

In response to the high demand for forestry professionals, Southern Cross University formed a strategic alliance with the University of South Australia and Mount Gambier's College of Technical and Further Education in 2006 to offer a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science (Forestry) degree program. It is one of only a few four-year forestry degrees offered in Australia and the first in South Australia.

Source: [www.scu.edu.au/docs](http://www.scu.edu.au/docs)

## Case study 63: Tasmania's Forest Practices Authority

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) monitors compliance with Tasmania's *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the *Forest Practices Code*. In consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions, the FPA conducts formal legal investigations into serious breaches.

The state's forest practices system is designed to achieve high environmental standards, with an emphasis on planning, training, education, the monitoring of implementation, and random audits. The FPA seeks to ensure that problems in the system are dealt with by early detection and corrective action. Corrective action may mean remedial treatment in the forest, but it can also mean reviewing and improving management systems to ensure that similar problems do not arise in the future. Failures, which occur from time to time, reflect inadequate systems or insufficient care. In such cases, penalties are an appropriate way of reinforcing to all parties the importance of striving for full compliance with the requirements of the Act.

The FPA has found that most breaches are attributable to human error or a lack of knowledge about the requirements of the forest practices system. Therefore, most have been dealt with by corrective actions, in line with the philosophy of the Act to 'make good' and to effect improvement.

Source: FPA

## Case study 66: TASVEG – Tasmania’s reporting system

Tasmania has completed TASVEG, a state wide 1:25,000-scale vegetation map. TASVEG is a major improvement on previous maps of forest vegetation communities, with finer spatial resolution and more extensive ground-truthing.

The map is revised on an ongoing basis. The extent of private plantations is updated annually by Private Forests Tasmania based on detailed spatial data provided by the major plantation companies, as well as other information derived from field inspections, private growers and remote sensing updates. Forestry Tasmania maintains detailed information on the area of plantations on public land. These datasets on public and private plantations are the basis of the Tasmanian information summarised in annual updates of the National Plantation Inventory.

Programs that monitor populations of threatened species also provide data. Together with data from development assessments, academic studies, forest practices surveys and other studies, those data are collated in state wide databases, such as the Natural Values Atlas, to inform periodic reviews of the status of threatened species.

Soils, biodiversity and hydrology, and the interactions between them, are monitored at the Warra Long-term Ecological Research site (see Case study 67 in Indicator 7.1e) to establish baseline measurements and to help evaluate the impact of forest practices. The reporting of state trends is done through five-yearly SOFRs and *State of the Environment Reports*.

Source: Forestry Tasmania

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