



**GREENWOOD**  
STRATEGY

# **PLANNING AND APPROVALS REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PLANTATIONS IN AUSTRALIA**

Report prepared for Australian Forest Products Association  
June 2021









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## DISCLAIMER

The Australian Forest Products Association (“AFPA”) engaged Greenwood Strategy Solutions Pty Ltd (“Greenwood Strategy”) to prepare this report on behalf of the South West Slopes, Tasmania, Gippsland, Northern Queensland, South East Queensland, South West Western Australia, Green Triangle and Central West New South Wales Regional Forestry Hubs.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Australian Forest Products Association, in conjunction with the South West Slopes, Tasmania, Gippsland, Northern Queensland, South East Queensland, South West Western Australia, Green Triangle and Central West New South Wales Regional Forestry Hubs, engaged Greenwood Strategy Solutions Pty Ltd to prepare this overview of the plantation regulatory environment in various Australian jurisdictions, with a particular focus on the regional forestry hub locations.

The focus of the report is regulation as it relates to establishing greenfield plantation in Australia which occurs by navigating the complex regulatory environment that operates for plantation establishment at both the state and local government jurisdictional levels.

As such, the analysis addresses the planning, approvals and regulatory environment for new plantation establishment on private land, where expansion opportunities exist, and does not address the regulation of plantations on public land where that differs from private land.

# INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT THE REPORT

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a timely and practical summary of the legislative, policy and regulatory environment for the planning, approval, establishment and management of new plantations in Australia, with a focus on specific jurisdictions where Regional Forestry Hubs (Hubs) are located.

The report and its findings will provide a useful tool to assist the Hubs, forestry companies and other representative organisations to engage with regulators from a factual base when it comes to the different regulatory frameworks in different locations.

### REPORT STRUCTURE

The report is structured in three parts.

The first part provides a general overview of the legislative, policy and regulatory environment for planning, establishing and managing plantations in Australia.

The second part of the report provides review, analysis and commentary of the regulatory environment and obligations in each of the state jurisdictions where the relevant Hubs operate.

The third part provides a summary of instruments relevant to planning and approval for establishment of forestry plantations in those Hubs. They include:

- South West Slopes (New South Wales and Victoria)
- Tasmania
- Gippsland
- Northern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- South West Western Australia
- Green Triangle (Victoria and South Australia)
- Central West New South Wales



## **BACKGROUND**

### **COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT POLICY**

In 2018, the Commonwealth Government launched its flagship policy framework for Australia's forest and forest products industries – **the National Forest Industries Plan: Growing a Better Australia – A Billion Trees for Jobs and Growth**<sup>1</sup>.

This important policy framework outlines the Commonwealth Government's strategy to drive growth in the renewable timber and wood fibre industry, focused on establishing Hubs, in locations which already exhibit scale with respect to the extent of the regional plantation estate, as well as timber processing and marketing infrastructure.

The Plan outlines an aim to establish a billion new trees over the next decade (often also expressed as 400,000 hectares of new plantations nationally) in order to meet a projected four-fold increase in global and domestic wood fibre demand by 2050. A critical focus of the Plan is the aim of “planting the right trees, at the right scale, in the right places”.

### **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANTATION PLANNING AND APPROVAL**

The establishment and operation of new commercial plantations is subject to a raft of legislation, regulation and policies that apply predominantly at the state government level and, in some instances, at the local government level. These instruments impact the extent to which plantations can be established, where they can be established and the rules under which they can be operated.

For individuals and companies looking to establish new plantations, and organisations looking to support and advise them (such as the Hubs), negotiating these complex state and local government legislative and regulatory frameworks can be a significant hurdle to progressing forestry establishment projects.

There is no contemporary consolidation and analysis of the state and local government instruments that affect the establishment and operation of plantations in Australia. As the Hubs move from planning to action, it is timely that this analysis is undertaken.

### **LAND USE COMPETITION**

Although covered by other reports, issues related to alternative uses of land are important when considering the challenge of establishing new plantations. In particular, there are specific constraints in some jurisdictions to plantation expansion related to alternative land uses. This particularly applies in instances where state and local government jurisdictions have in place mechanisms to prevent the conversion of “prime agricultural land” (noting there is no single, clear definition of what constitutes prime agricultural land) to alternative uses such as urban or industrial development or, in this case, commercial tree plantations.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 2018, Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth, Canberra

# PLANTATION REGULATION IN THE HUB REGIONS

## OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT STATE FRAMEWORKS

### GENERIC CHALLENGES

There is considerable difference between relevant state-level jurisdictions in terms of how they discharge their regulatory responsibilities for plantation management. However, across Australia greenfield plantations cannot occur without meeting either local or state government requirements prior to proceeding.

The establishment of new plantations face substantial additional land use change requirements for forestry when compared to any other as-of-right land use in every Australian jurisdiction. There are also significant additional complexity and regulatory cost burden for plantation establishment and management compared to any other land use change. This applies whether the regulatory function is delivered by state or local government authorities.

The granting of approval for the establishment of plantation is dramatically different from state to state. In Tasmania, for example, the state regulatory system is still strongly informed by experts in forestry and forest management. However, in Victoria, the capacity of the state regulator has been substantially diminished over a period of decades. Where the regulatory burden falls to local government authorities, there is rarely any skill base and capability among responsible officers to make informed, scientific and practical decisions about new plantations approvals. An additional issue is that in some regional locations, local government planning regulations strongly favour agriculture over forestry as a preferred economic land use and plantations are therefore disadvantaged by local government planning frameworks and decisions.



## COMPARISON OF REGULATORY REGIMES BETWEEN STATES

When considering the way in which the regulatory framework operates in each of these jurisdictions, the following parameters are important:

### 1. Complexity of the regulatory system

In some cases, complexity relates to the steps which need to be undertaken to secure approval such as detailed on-ground assessment and reporting requirements for soils, biodiversity, heritage and water. In other cases, complexity relates to the need to satisfy multiple regulatory instruments and/or levels of government to achieve approval.

### 2. Consistency of application

The consistency of application within jurisdictions varies considerably. In NSW and Tasmania, for example, a centralised state-wide approach means that proponents can rely on consistency across the state. In Victoria, by comparison, local government involvement in approvals results in considerably different outcomes within the jurisdiction, even though a single state-wide Code of Practice applies.

### 3. Certainty of regulatory outcomes

Certainty of outcome is an important consideration given the other factors outlined here. The certainty with which proponents of new plantation establishment can rely on reasonable approval outcomes varies between jurisdictions. Certainty in relation to right to harvest is also an important investment consideration and some jurisdictions do not provide this certainty at the point of plantation approval.

### 4. Equivalence with other land uses

An important concern for Australian plantation owners and managers is whether or not proposals for the establishment and management of commercial plantations are treated in an equivalent fashion to changes in land use for other agricultural uses (for example, changing from cropping to broad-acre grazing).

### 5. Cost of regulation

The costs of planning approval refer to direct costs of applying for approval as well as the indirect costs associated with work required to be undertaken to generate approvals and satisfy regulatory requirements.

## COMMONWEALTH FRAMEWORK

In addition to the specific state-based instruments discussed below, there are Commonwealth Government requirements which apply equally to all states. In practice, these instruments have little impact on the establishment of new commercial timber plantations or the operation of plantations. They include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Export Control Act 1982
- National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998
- Native Title Act 1993
- Quarantine Act 1908
- Regional Forests Agreement Act 2002

## **QUEENSLAND**

### **CODE OF PRACTICE**

The Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland (2015) provides guidance about operational activities associated with commercial timber plantations in that state, in order to comply with all laws and with accepted principles for sound plantation management.

The Code is tenure blind and outlines voluntary standards developed for use by all parties with an interest in commercial timber plantations in Queensland, including the landowner, the plantation owner, the plantation manager, the harvest manager and any employees and contractors employed that work in a plantation.

Although it is a voluntary Code, its application to plantation operations is intended to assist plantation operators in meeting legislative and other requirements that are applicable to the establishment and management of existing plantation areas and new plantation areas.

### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

There are some 20 pieces of legislation that apply directly to plantation activities on private land in Queensland. Application of the Code is intended to ensure that plantation managers meet the requirements of these laws.

New timber plantations that are a material change of land-use are subject to the Queensland Planning Provisions (QPPs) and local government planning requirements. The QPPs provide a universal local government regulatory framework for development the development of new plantation areas for wood production.

The Act and the QPPs allow for a local government to elect to specifically regulate “forests for wood production” separately from other forms of cropping in a rural zone. The QPPs related to forestry, when adopted by a local government, become regulatory instruments under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and any new plantation must comply with these regulations and other codes required by a specific local government area.

This requires proponents of new plantations to ensure direct consultation with each local government area where they intend to operate to determine the specific requirements of that local government area.

### **ASSESSABLE VEGETATION**

In order to provide increased, long-term investment security for native species plantations, a property map of assessable vegetation (PMAV) should be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy as a step in the planning process. A certified PMAV replaces regulated vegetation management maps, which are used to determine the location and extent of regulated vegetation for which permitted management activities are restricted. There is a risk with plantations of native species that they may be mapped as regulated vegetation and consequently deemed unavailable for harvest. The PMAV identifies the extent of the existing cleared areas prior to planting and ensure it is not categorised as regulated vegetation at a later date.



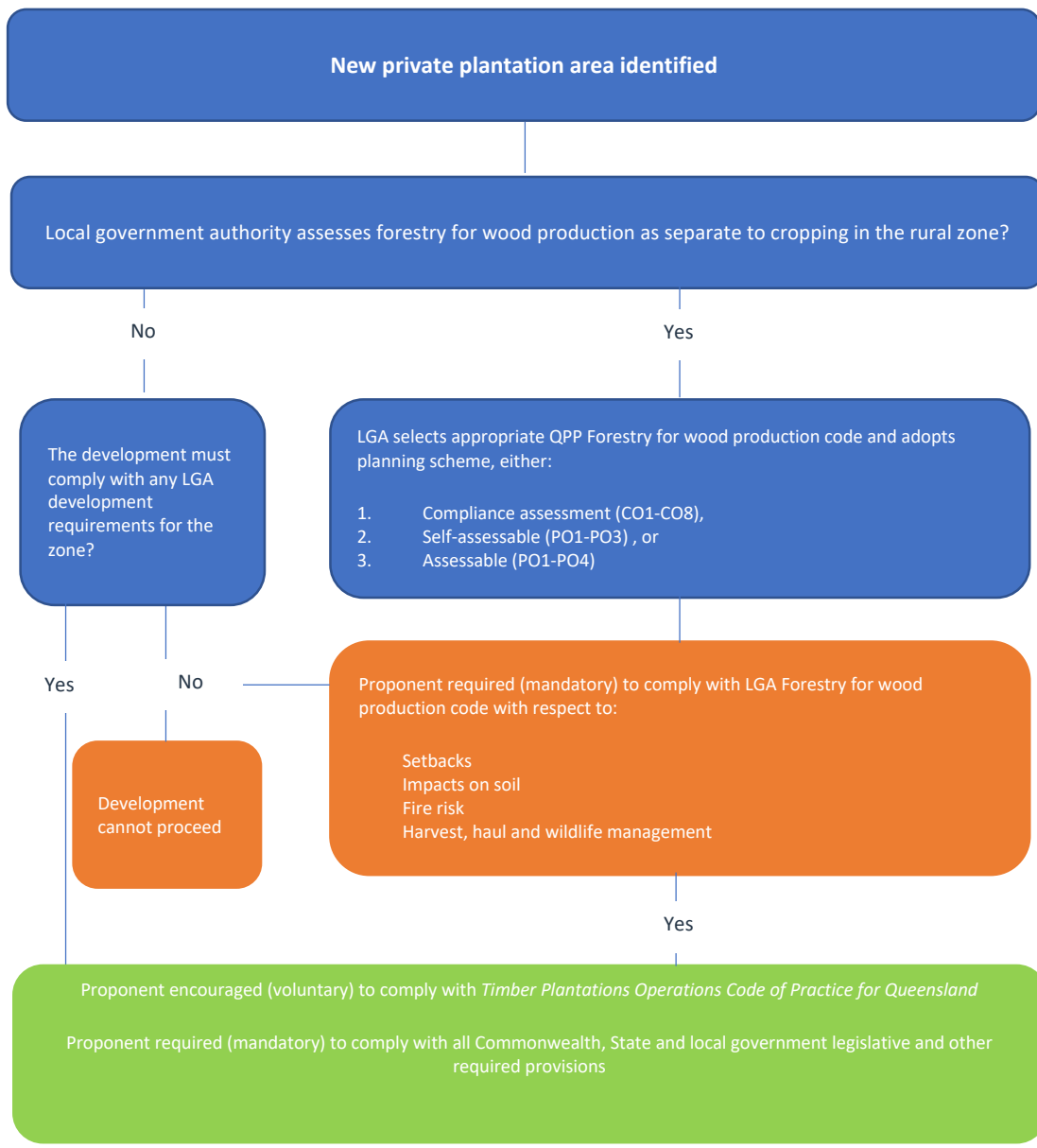


Figure 1: Queensland new plantations process<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Timber Queensland (2015), Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland, p3

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**

In New South Wales the planning, approval and regulation of private plantations typically falls under the auspices of the Plantations and Reafforestation Act (1999) and Plantations and Reafforestation Regulation (2001) which are administered by the Department of Primary Industries.

These instruments were introduced in order to streamline both the approvals process and regulatory framework for plantations. If a plantation is not approved for coverage by these instruments, it is subject to a broad range of other State legislation as well as local government planning overlays and restrictions.

An existing or proposed plantation can be covered by these provisions subject to assessment of the fitness of the potential site by an authorised person (Departmental officer). The proponent must make an application to the minister which includes:

- A statement demonstrating compliance with the forestry code, or the extent of compliance.
- The identification of land to be utilised.
- The contact details for the owner of the plantation.
- The class of plantation to be established.
- The progressive planting plans.
- Any other information the Minister determines as necessary.

The Minister is required to provide written advice on whether the plantation is approved under the Act as soon as practicable and is required to inform the relevant local government area within forty days.

The Act specifically exempts farm forestry, which includes plantations under 30 hectares in size.

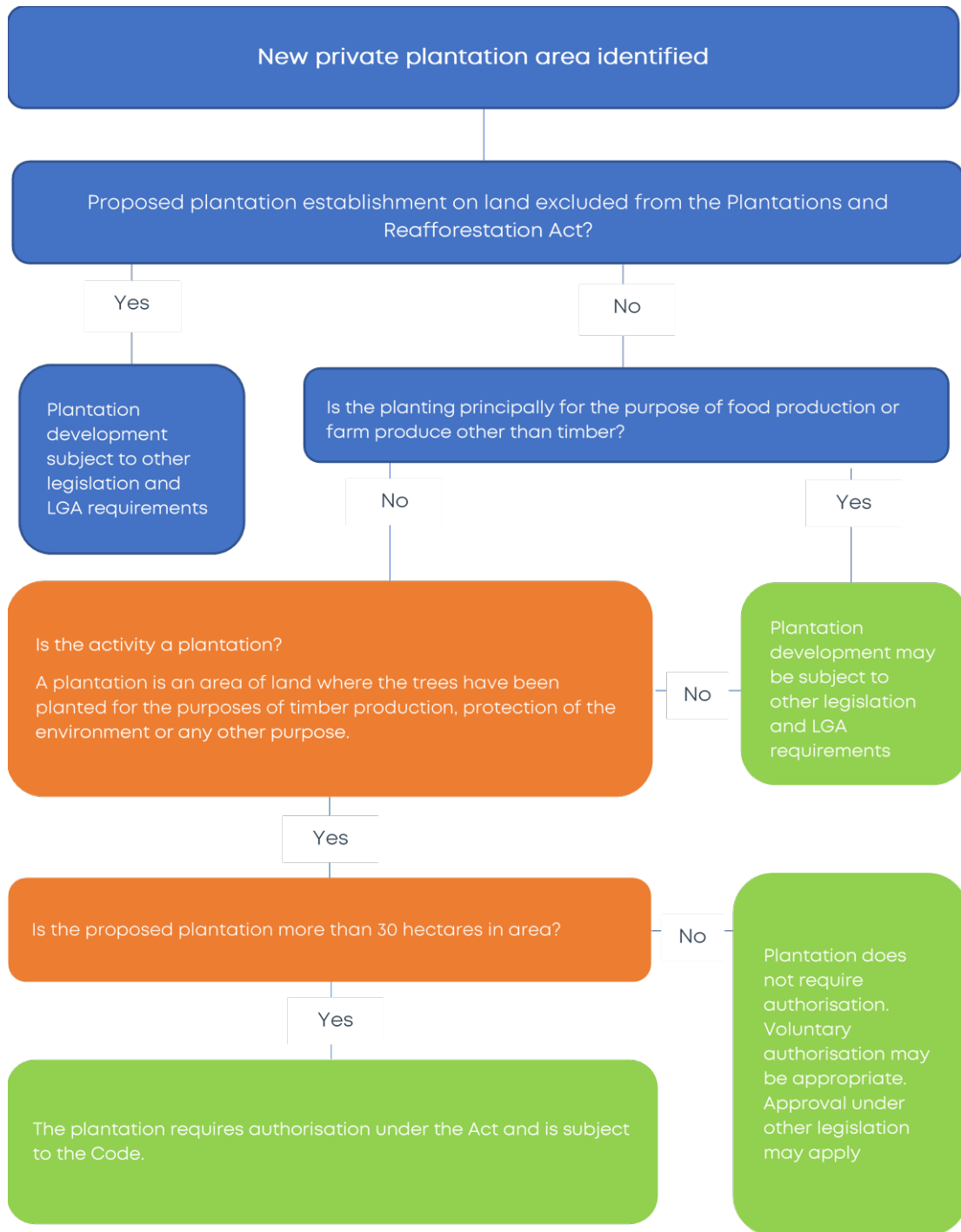


Figure 2: New South Wales new plantations process<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999 (NSW)



## **VICTORIA**

### **CODE OF PRACTICE**

Victoria's Code of Practice for Timber Production (2014) (the Code) applies to timber production (harvesting) from all forest types on all tenures and provides for regulation by local government, subject to the relevant Victorian Planning Provisions.

In relation to new plantations, the Code requires that plantations on private land are designed, managed and operated in accordance with the Code and that local government is appropriately informed of any new plantation development on private land by lodgement of either a Plantation Development Notice or a planning permit in accordance with the code.

### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

There is a large body of legislation and related instruments which apply to the establishment and management of new plantations in Victoria. This includes 36 acts, nine regulations and nine state government policies, in addition to the relevant Victorian Planning Provisions.

Victorian Planning Provision clause 35.07-01 states that forestry plantations are "permit exempt" providing they meet the requirements of Clause 53.11. Clause 53.11 requires the establishment of a plantation to comply with the Code for any commercial plantations in excess of five hectares in size. The Victorian Planning Provisions include a series of overlays some of which can have significant impact on forestry plantation operations. Overlays often require that permits for specific actions are issued.

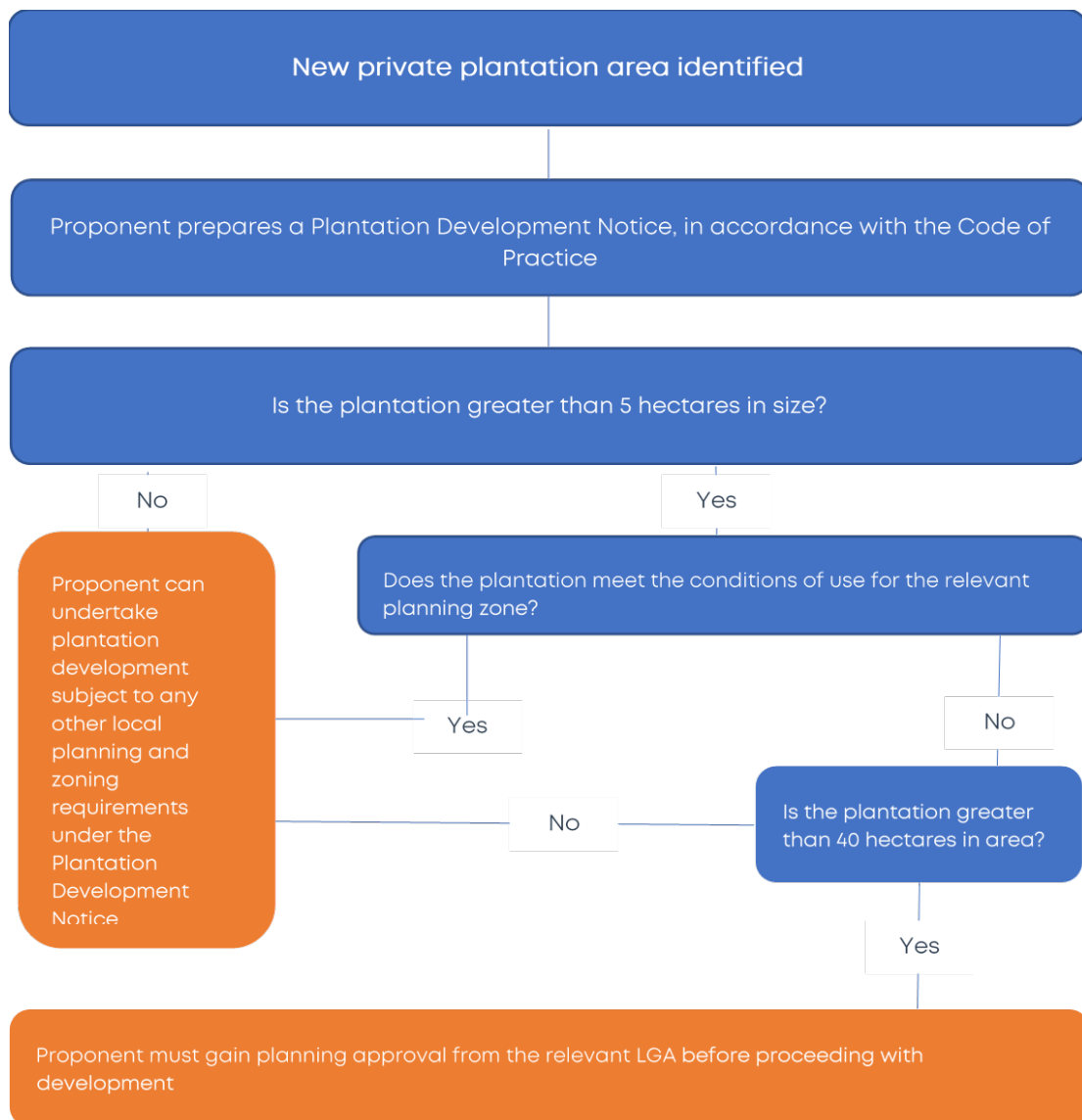


Figure 3: Victorian new plantation process<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> State of Victoria (2014), Code of Practice for Timber Production, p24

## TASMANIA

In Tasmania there are two key areas of regulation with particular importance for any consideration of maintaining and expanding the plantation forest estate in the Hub region.

### TASMANIA'S FOREST PRACTICES SYSTEM

Tasmania's forest practices system<sup>5</sup> applies as a single regulatory framework across all tenures and all forms of forest management. It is supported in legislation by the Forest Practices Act (1985), with the legislated objective (Schedule 7):

"...to achieve sustainable management of crown and private forests with due care for the environment, and taking account social, economic and environmental outcomes while delivering, in a way that is as far as possible self-funding-

- (a) an emphasis on self-regulation; and
- (b) planning before forest operations; and
- (c) delegated and decentralized approvals...; and
- (d) a forest practices code...; and
- (e) an emphasis on consultation and education; and
- (h) through declaration of private timber reserves – a means by which private land holders are able to ensure the security of their forest resources."

The Act oversees a comprehensive regulatory and governance system for forest management in the State, for which the practical mechanism is the Forest Practices Code. The Code prescribes the way in which forest operations are planned for, approved, supervised and monitored to meet the objectives of the Act. It applies to all forest management activities which are covered by the forest practices system, regardless of the ownership of land or of forests, or the type of forestry (native or plantation) which is being undertaken.

A Private Timber Reserve in Tasmania is an area of private land normally greater than five hectares, set aside for forestry purposes and registered on the land title and declared under the Forest Practices Act 1985. It is intended to provide security for forestry as a long-term activity on the title and nothing in a planning scheme or the Tasmanian Planning Scheme under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 affects the management of the land for forestry. Specifically, by declaring a private timber reserve the area becomes subject to the forest practices system and is not subject to other state or local government planning or decision-making imposition, as long as activities are compliant with the Forest Practices Code<sup>6</sup>.

### PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND POLICY

The Protection of Agricultural Land (PAL) policy<sup>7</sup> (the Policy) was implemented by the State government in order "...to conserve and protect agricultural land so that it remains available for the sustainable use and development of agriculture, recognising the particular importance of prime agricultural land." (Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2009). "Prime agricultural land" means agricultural land classified as Class 1, 2 or 3 land based on the class definitions and methodology from the Land Capability Handbook Tasmania. Prime land makes up only 4.3% of the private land in Tasmania.

The Policy constrains the establishment of new plantation forestry on Prime land, unless a planning scheme reviewed in accordance with the Policy allows for it. Such a planning scheme is required to take account of "...operational practicalities of plantation management, the size of the areas of prime agricultural land, their location in relation to areas of non-prime agricultural land and existing plantation forestry...". It should be noted that plantation forestry means the use of land for planting, management and harvesting of trees predominantly for commercial wood production, but does not include planting or management of areas of land for shelter belts, woodlots, erosion or salinity control or other environmental management purposes.

The Policy does not constrain new plantation forestry on land that is not Prime land.

<sup>5</sup> Tasmanian Government (2017), Tasmania's Forest Management System: An Overview

<sup>6</sup> Private Forests Tasmania (2020) Information Sheet Private Timber Reserves: Securing the long term management of private forested land

<sup>7</sup> Tasmanian Government (2009) State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land



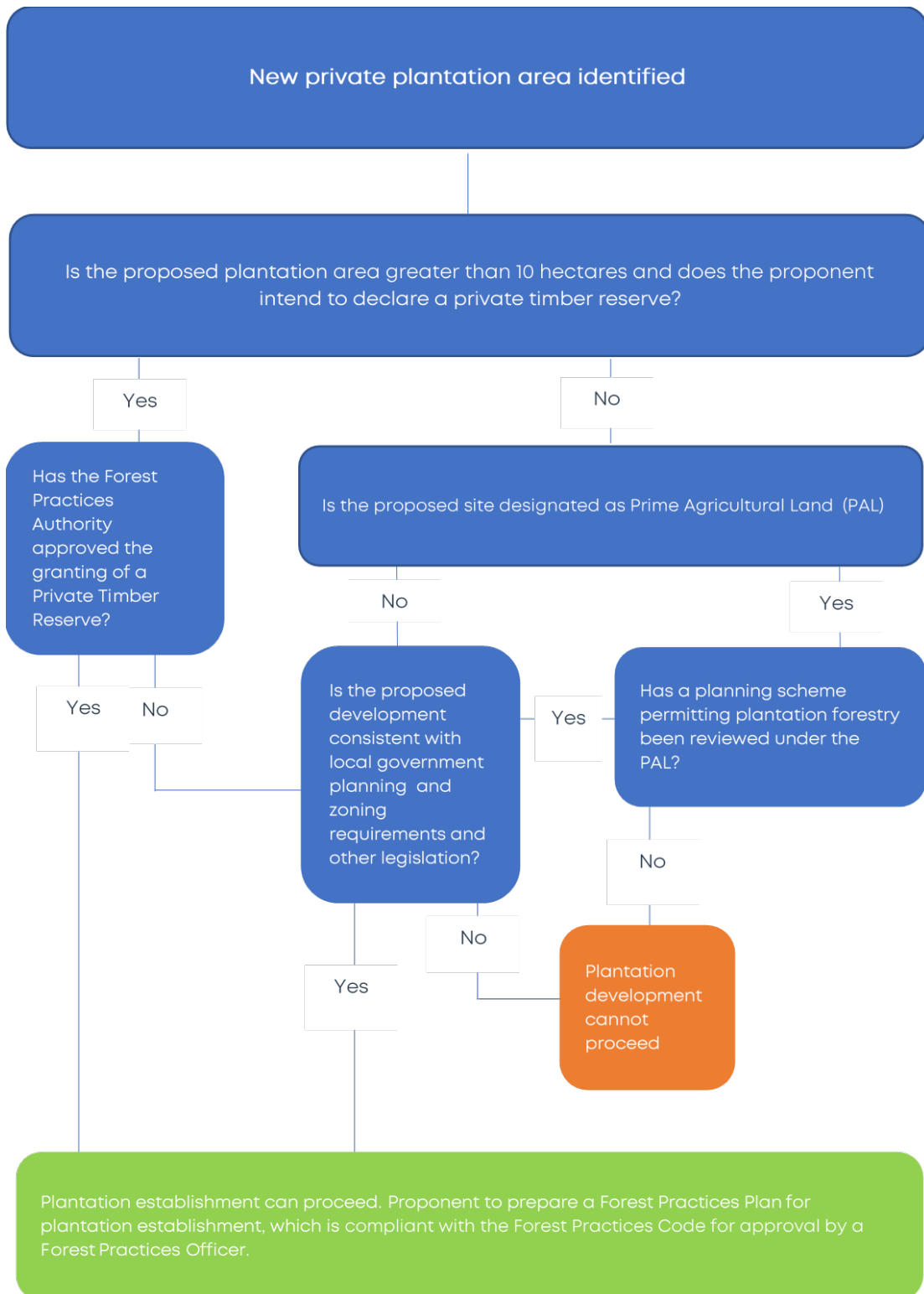


Figure 4: Tasmanian new plantation process

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### **GUIDELINES FOR PLANTATION FORESTRY**

In South Australia there is no statutory and enforceable Code of Practice in place for the establishment and management of plantations. In 2009 The Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) published a document – Guidelines for Plantation Forestry in South Australia – which provides a framework for ensuring adherence with legislated and mandatory obligations by plantation managers. With respect to selection of sites for undertaking plantation establishment, the Guidelines refer to acceptable forestry practices in specific plantation forestry land capability classes. It also references limitations for plantation forestry in relation to prescribed water use, particularly for the Green Triangle in the Lower Limestone Coast.

### **COMMERCIAL FORESTRY LICENSE**

Plantation development proponents in South Australia are required to obtain a commercial forestry license from the State Government under the Forest Property Act 2000.

### **ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Approvals for plantation forestry establishment in South Australia are the responsibility of local government authorities for plantations greater than 10 hectares in size. Where this is the case, a designated plantation approval is required which is informed by relevant local government overlays, that vary between local government areas.

### **PRESCRIBED WATER USE**

In the Green Triangle (Lower Limestone Coast), water resources are prescribed and water allocation plans have been developed and implemented which include a forest water licensing system. The basis of the South Australian Government's water licensing system in relation to plantation forestry is that plantation forests have been identified as an issue for sustainable water resources management on the basis that plantations are assessed as having a higher water use requirement than other dryland farming uses on the same land types.

The Landscape South Australia Act 2019 governs the appropriate use of water resources for forests managed under the Forest Property Act 2000 and covers:

- the declaration of forestry areas
- forest water licenses
- water allocation
- transfer of water allocations
- the surrender or cancellation of water licences
- penalties for breaches

The practical implication of the water licensing system in South Australia is that it makes the maintenance and expansion of plantation areas in the Green Triangle particularly challenging. The system operates through a suite of demarcated areas known as Hundreds. Depending on the rules which apply to the specific Hundred, movement of water between them and between land uses is either permitted or not. Currently prescribed water resources in the Hundreds where forestry plantations are operated are completely allocated. Therefore, any change in forestry extent relies on being able to acquire licensed water from other Hundreds. However, that is constrained for the Hundreds where forestry occurs.

This is a significant concern for maintaining the existing plantation footprint in the region, let alone exploration of plantation expansion.

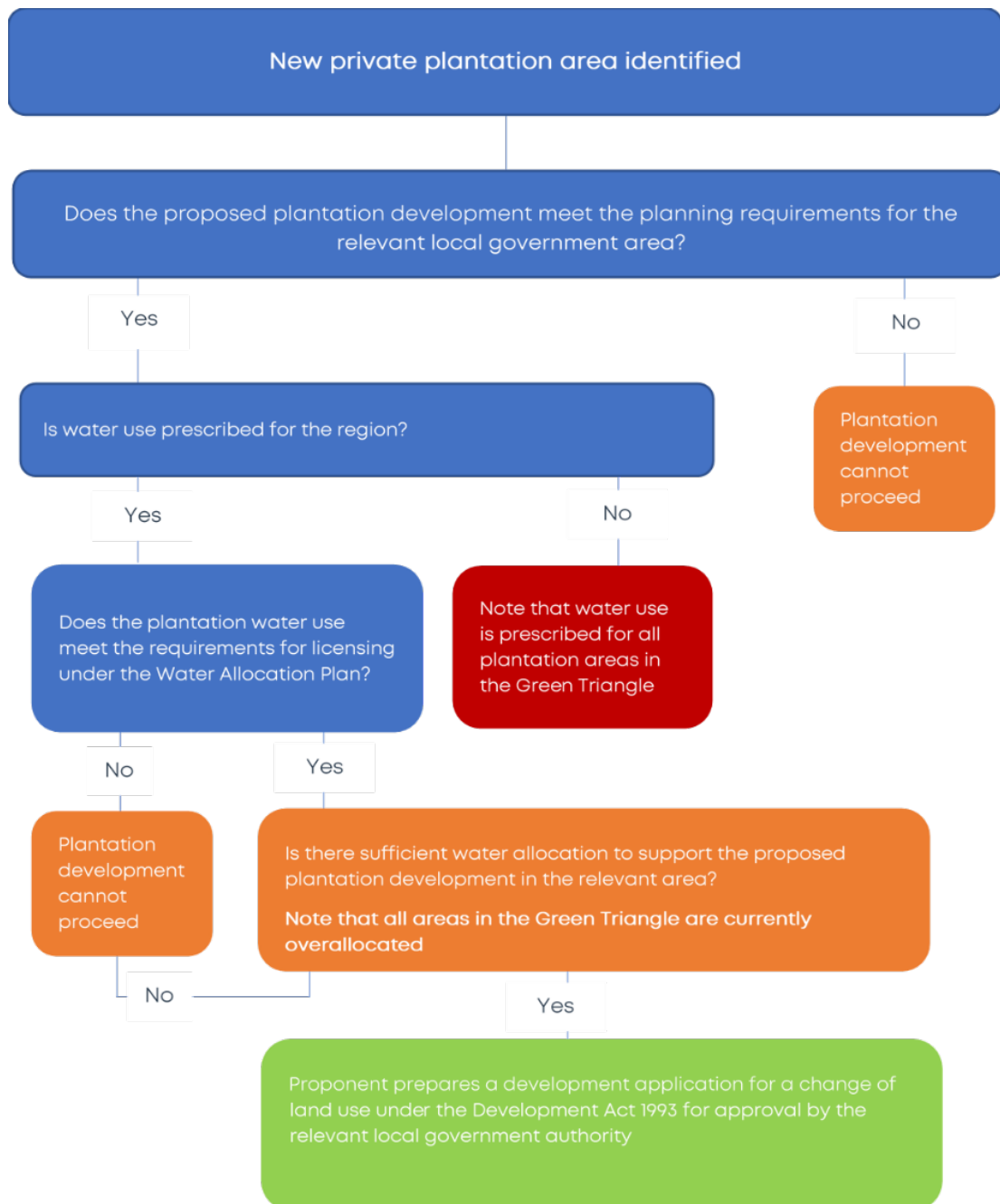


Figure 5: South Australian new plantation process



## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **CODE OF PRACTICE**

The Code of Practice for Timber Plantations (the Code) in Western Australia is a guide for the development of plantation management plans which form the basis of plantation management activities in the State. The Code is tenure neutral and is deliberately non-prescriptive. It identifies both mandatory (legislated regulatory requirements) and desirable practices and procedures. The Code also states that “Local governments can rely on adherence to this Code where planning approval for the establishment of a plantation is not required under a town planning scheme (i.e., is a permitted land use).”

### **ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Local government authorities in Western Australia have responsibility for the development and implementation of local planning schemes which set out the way land is to be used and developed, classify areas for land use and include provisions to coordinate infrastructure and development within the local government area under the Planning and Development Act 2005.

Plantation establishment proponents must submit a plantation development application to the relevant local government authority. Considerations about whether a plantation project is approved include issues such as amenity, development of prime agricultural soils, community demographics and water management.

As in some other states, a key concern is the extent to which local government authorities have the necessary understanding and expertise about plantation forestry and its role in the agricultural landscape.

Another key concern is the focus on prime agricultural land which has the potential to prevent expansion of commercial timber plantations in some local government areas. A challenge with this is the extent to which it is defined. For example, The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes states:

“Agriculture Council decision-making and Shire practice should:

- (i) Protect areas of agricultural significance (“priority agriculture” areas).
- (j) Diversify compatible land use activities in agriculture areas based on principles of sustainability and recognizing the capability and capacity of the land to support those uses.”<sup>8</sup>

This is a loosely defined policy which provides no clarity or certainty for forest managers looking to establish new plantations. Similarly, the Greater Bunbury Region Scheme: Priority Agricultural Land Policy (2017) appears to discriminate against plantation forestry developments in favour of “priority agricultural land”.

### **WATER MANAGEMENT**

The Western Australian Department of Water has developed a Plantation forestry and water management guideline which explicitly identifies the conversion of pasture to timber plantation as a significant water resource management issue in Western Australia, affecting groundwater and surface water availability for other uses. The guide is intended to support local government authority decision making under the Planning and Development Act 2005.

<sup>8</sup> Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Natural Environment Strategy; <https://www.bridgetown.wa.gov.au/documents/154/bridgetown-natural-environment-strategy> Accessed 17 April 2021

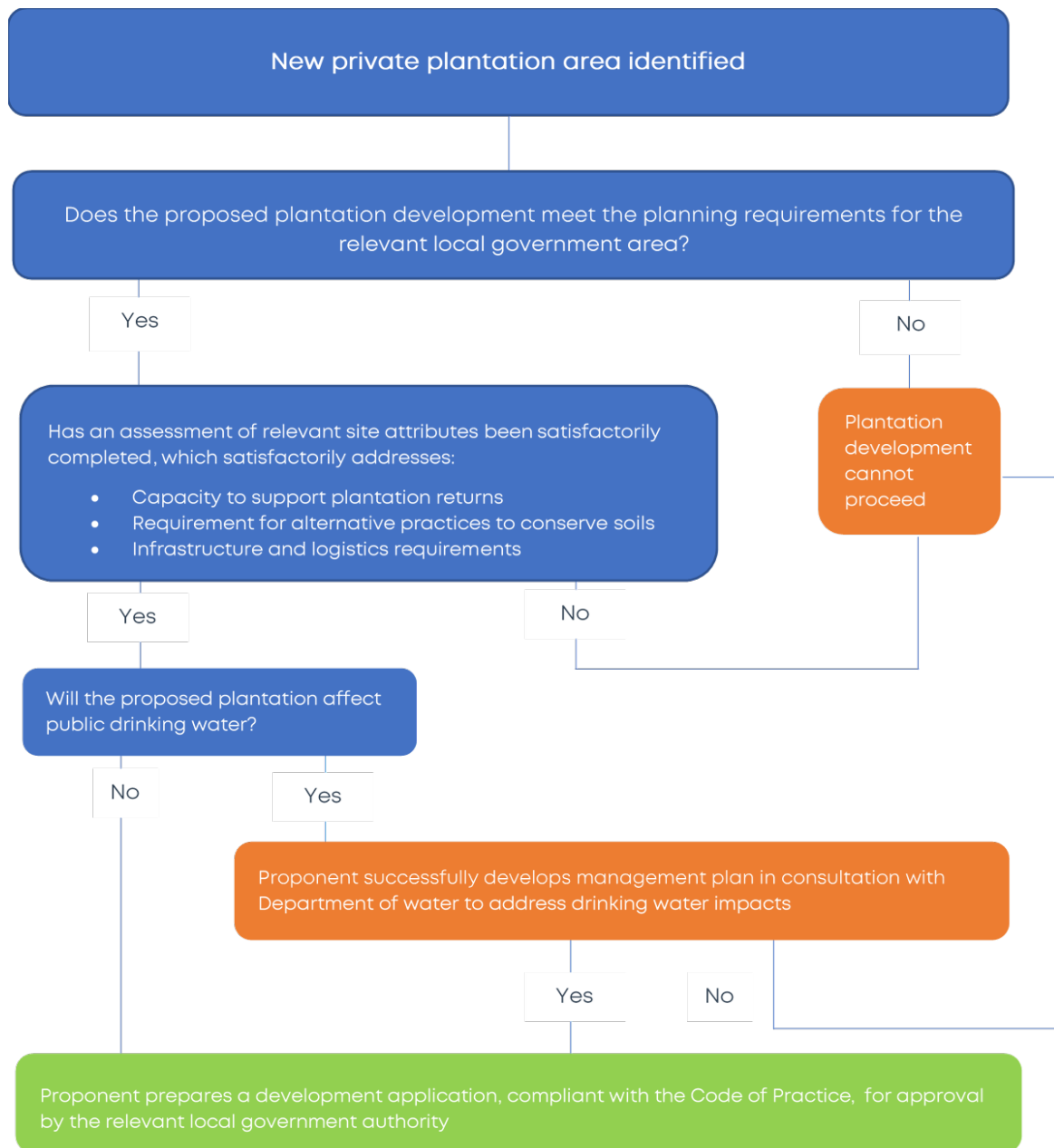


Figure 6: Western Australian new plantation process







# SUMMARY OF PLANNING, APPROVAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HUBS

The following section specifies the instruments that apply to the regulation of new plantation establishment and management in each of the Regional Forestry Hubs which are the subject of this report. They include:

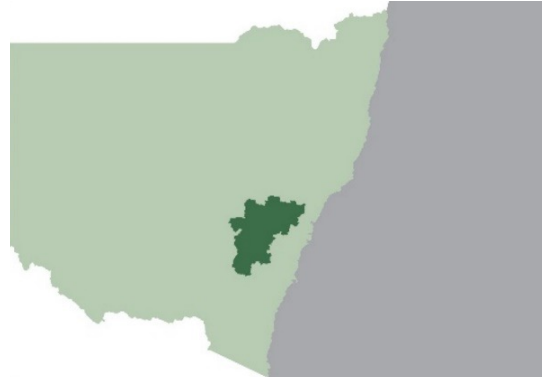
- South West Slopes (New South Wales and Victoria)
- Tasmania
- Gippsland
- Northern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- South West Western Australia
- Green Triangle (Victoria and South Australia)
- Central West New South Wales



Figure 1: Location of the Regional Forestry Hubs

## CENTRAL WEST NSW

The Central West NSW Forestry Hub is located on the western side of the Great Dividing Range. The Hub is focused around the regional cities of Bathurst and Orange, and the town of Oberon with its major wood processing facilities and the softwood plantation estate in the Central West Region of New South Wales. Plantations are predominantly publicly owned. However, the region also has a very long history of private plantation ownership and management. See pages 12 and 13 for more information.



AUTHORISED PLANTATIONS	OTHER PLANTATIONS
<p><b>State legislation and regulation</b></p> <p>Plantation and Reafforestation Act 1999            Plantation and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</p>	<p><b>State legislation and regulation</b></p> <p>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979            National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974            Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995            Fisheries Management Act 1994            Heritage Act 1977            Local Government Act 1993            Water Management Act 2000            Soil Conservation Act 1938            Crown Land Management Act 2016</p> <p><b>Local government instruments</b></p> <p>Local Strategic Plan Statements, Local Environmental Plans and relevant zoning provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bathurst Regional Council</li> <li>• Blayney Shire Council</li> <li>• Cabonne Shire Council</li> <li>• Cowra Shire Council</li> <li>• Goulburn Mulwaree Shire Council</li> <li>• Hawkesbury Shire Council</li> <li>• Lithgow Shire Council</li> <li>• Mid-western Regional Council</li> <li>• Oberon Council</li> <li>• Orange City Council</li> <li>• Upper Lachlan Shire Council</li> </ul>

## SOUTH-WEST SLOPES

The South-west slopes regional forestry hub encompasses what is commonly referred to as the Murray Valley Region, spanning southern New South Wales, west of the Great Dividing Range, and north-east Victoria. The region has significant competitive advantages in forestry, including a critical mass of forest plantations, transport and processing infrastructure as well as a skilled forestry workforce and supportive local governments. For more information, see pages 14 and 15 for Victoria and, 12 and 13 for New South Wales



## NEW SOUTH WALES

AUTHORISED PLANTATIONS	OTHER PLANTATIONS
<p><b>State legislation and regulation</b></p> <p>Plantation and Reafforestation Act 1999</p> <p>Plantation and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</p>	<p><b>State legislation and regulation</b></p> <p>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <p>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</p> <p>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</p> <p>Fisheries Management Act 1994</p> <p>Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>Local Government Act 1993</p> <p>Water Management Act 2000</p> <p>Soil Conservation Act 1938</p> <p>Crown Land Management Act 2016</p> <p><b>Local government instruments</b></p> <p>Local Strategic Plan Statements, Local Environmental Plans and relevant zoning provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowy Valleys Shire Council</li> <li>• Yass Valley Shire Council</li> <li>• Greater Hume Shire Council</li> <li>• Wagga Wagga City Council</li> <li>• Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council</li> <li>• Junee Shire Council</li> <li>• Albury City Council</li> </ul>

## VICTORIA

STATE LEGISLATION	
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)
Accident Compensation Act 1985	Forests Act 1958
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992	Forest Rights Act 1996
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994	Heritage Act 1995
Building Act 1993	Heritage Rivers Act 1992
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	Land Act 1958
Climate Change Act 2010	Local Government Act 1989
Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987	Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Country Fire Authority Act 1958	Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)
Dangerous Goods Act 1958	Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996
Electricity Safety Act 1998	Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995
Emergency Management Act 1986	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
Environment Protection Act 1970	Road Management Act 2004
Extractive Industries Development Act 1995	Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004
Fences Act 1968	Victorian Plantations Corporation Act 1993
Firearms Act 1996	Water Act 1989
Fisheries Act 1995	Wildlife Act 1975
STATE POLICY	
National Forest Policy Statement (1992)	State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade)
Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action (2002).	Victorian Pest Management Framework (2002)
State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management)	Victorian River Health Strategy (2002)
	Victorian Biodiversity Strategy (1997)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
Victorian Planning Provisions (2018)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Shire Council</li> <li>• Benalla Shire Council</li> <li>• Indigo Shire Council</li> <li>• Mansfield Shire Council</li> <li>• Mitchell Shire Council</li> <li>• Murrundindi Shire Council</li> <li>• Strathbogie Shire Council</li> <li>• Towong Shire Council</li> <li>• Wangaratta Shire Council</li> <li>• Wodonga City Council</li> </ul>	

## GIPPSLAND

The Gippsland Forestry Hub is located in eastern Victoria, stretching approximately 450 km from Melbourne to the NSW border. The Gippsland economy has a significant reliance on the forest and wood products sector and is currently going through a considerable transition with the planned cessation of native forest harvesting by 2030. Plantation expansion presents an important opportunity to assist that transition. See pages 14 and 15 for more information.

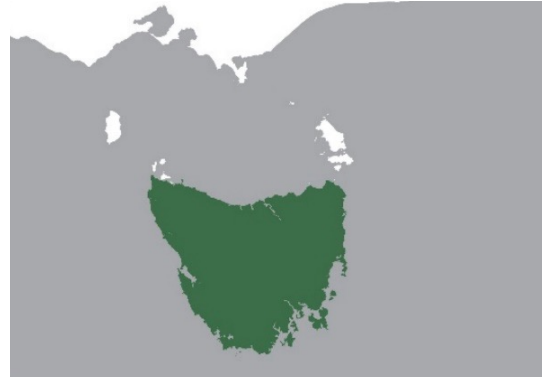


STATE LEGISLATION	
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)
Accident Compensation Act 1985	Forests Act 1958
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992	Forest Rights Act 1996
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994	Heritage Act 1995
Building Act 1993	Heritage Rivers Act 1992
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	Land Act 1958
Climate Change Act 2010	Local Government Act 1989
Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987	Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Country Fire Authority Act 1958	Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)
Dangerous Goods Act 1958	Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996
Electricity Safety Act 1998	Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995
Emergency Management Act 1986	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
Environment Protection Act 1970	Road Management Act 2004
Extractive Industries Development Act 1995	Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004
Fences Act 1968	Victorian Plantations Corporation Act 1993
Firearms Act 1996	Water Act 1989
Fisheries Act 1995	Wildlife Act 1975
STATE POLICY	
National Forest Policy Statement (1992)	State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade)
Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action (2002).	Victorian Pest Management Framework (2002)
State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management)	Victorian River Health Strategy (2002)
	Victorian Biodiversity Strategy (1997)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Planning Provisions (2018)</li> <li>• East Gippsland Shire Council</li> <li>• Wellington Shire Council</li> <li>• Latrobe City Council</li> <li>• Bass Coast Shire Council</li> <li>• South Gippsland Shire Council</li> <li>• Baw Shire Council</li> </ul>	



## TASMANIA

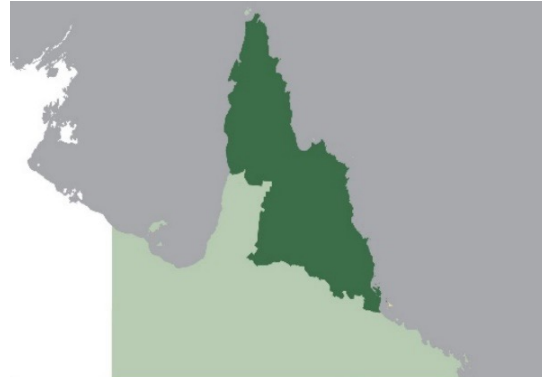
The Tasmania Regional Forestry Hub incorporates both the northern Tasmanian and southern Tasmanian Hub areas and now covers the entire state. Tasmania is a significant plantation forestry region, boasting world class softwood and hardwood plantation assets. Private plantation ownership, including small, medium and corporate scale estates, is significant in Tasmania. See pages 16 and 17 for more information.



STATE LEGISLATION	
<b>Legislation</b> Forest Practices Act 1985 Forest Practices Regulations 2017 Forest Management Act 2013 Nature Conservation Act 2002 Fire Service Act 1979 (RL) Fire Service (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2017 Water Management Act 1999 Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995	Weed Management Act 1999 Weed Management Regulations 2017 Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016 Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 Crown Lands Act 1976 Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014 Forestry Rights Registration Act 1990 National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
Tasmanian Planning Scheme and State Planning Provisions. Note the Tasmanian Hub covers the entire state so each local government area is included.	
OTHER INSTRUMENTS	
Forest Practices Code 2020 Prime Agricultural Land Policy (2009)	

## NORTH QUEENSLAND

The North Queensland Hub is located in an emerging area of plantation potential. The Hub is focused on opportunities and barriers for the forestry and wood products sector in the region, in order to address growth pathways for industry expansion. See pages 10 and 11 for more information.



STATE LEGISLATION	
<p><b>Legislation</b></p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</p> <p>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Qld) Act 1994</p> <p>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966</p> <p>Biosecurity Act 2014</p> <p>Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988</p> <p>Environmental Protection Act 1994</p> <p>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</p> <p>Fisheries Act 1994</p> <p>Forestry Act 1959</p> <p>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</p>	<p>Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993</p> <p>Nature Conservation Act 1992 Plant Protection Act 1989</p> <p>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</p> <p>Soil Conservation Act 1986</p> <p>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</p> <p>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</p> <p>Vegetation Management Act 1999</p> <p>Water Act 2000</p> <p>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</p> <p>Australian Government (visit <a href="http://www.comlaw.gov.au">www.comlaw.gov.au</a> for all current legislation)</p> <p>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
<p><b>Planning Provisions</b></p> <p>Queensland Planning Provisions version 3.1</p> <p>9.2.2 Forestry for wood production code</p> <p><b>Local Government Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aurukun Shire Council</li> <li>• Burdekin Shire Council</li> <li>• Cairns Regional Council</li> <li>• Carpentaria Shire Council</li> <li>• Cassowary Coast Regional Council</li> <li>• Charters Towers Regional Council</li> <li>• Cook Shire Council</li> <li>• Croydon Shire Council</li> <li>• Douglas Shire Council</li> <li>• Etheridge Shire Council</li> <li>• Flinders Shire Council</li> <li>• Hinchinbrook Shire Council</li> <li>• Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• McKinlay Shire Council</li> <li>• Mackay Regional Council</li> <li>• Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• Mareeba Shire Council</li> <li>• Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council</li> <li>• Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• Richmond Shire Council</li> <li>• Tablelands Regional Council</li> <li>• Torres Shire Council</li> <li>• Torres Strait Island Regional Council</li> <li>• Townsville City Council</li> <li>• Whitsunday Regional Council</li> <li>• Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council</li> </ul>
OTHER INSTRUMENTS	
<p>Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland</p>	

## SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

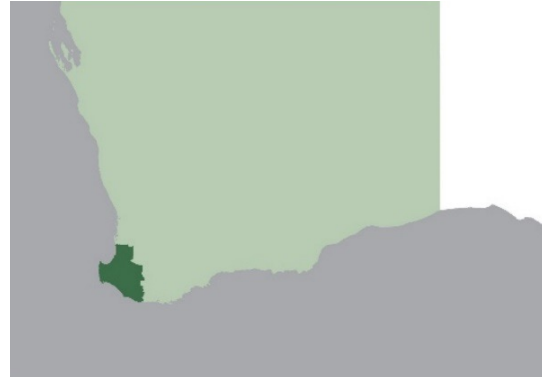
There is a well-established plantation industry in South-East Queensland with a diversity of softwood and hardwood processing and value adding operations. The region's plantations are dominated by large corporate ownership. However, there are material opportunities to complement the existing estate with high-value softwood and hardwood plantations. See pages 10 and 11 for more information.



STATE LEGISLATION	
<p><b>Legislation</b></p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</p> <p>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Qld) Act 1994</p> <p>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966</p> <p>Biosecurity Act 2014</p> <p>Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988</p> <p>Environmental Protection Act 1994</p> <p>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</p> <p>Fisheries Act 1994</p> <p>Forestry Act 1959</p> <p>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</p>	<p>Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993</p> <p>Nature Conservation Act 1992 Plant Protection Act 1989</p> <p>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</p> <p>Soil Conservation Act 1986</p> <p>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</p> <p>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</p> <p>Vegetation Management Act 1999</p> <p>Water Act 2000</p> <p>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</p> <p>Australian Government (visit <a href="http://www.comlaw.gov.au">www.comlaw.gov.au</a> for all current legislation)</p> <p>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
<p><b>Planning Provisions</b></p> <p>Queensland Planning Provisions version 3.1</p> <p>9.2.2 Forestry for wood production code</p> <p><b>Local Government Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bundaberg Regional Council</li> <li>• Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council</li> <li>• Fraser Coast Regional Council</li> <li>• Goondiwindi Regional Council</li> <li>• Gympie Regional Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lockyer Valley Regional Council Maranoa Regional Council</li> <li>• Moreton Bay Regional Council</li> <li>• North Burnett Regional Council Scenic Rim Regional Council</li> <li>• Somerset Regional Council</li> <li>• South Burnett Regional Council</li> <li>• Southern Downs Regional Council</li> <li>• Sunshine Coast Regional Council</li> <li>• Toowoomba Regional Council</li> <li>• Western Downs Regional Council</li> <li>• Noosa Shire Council</li> </ul>
OTHER INSTRUMENTS	
<p>Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland</p>	

## SOUTH-WEST WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The south-western corner of Australia is home to a significant hardwood plantation resource and an important softwood plantation resource. Centred on the export ports of Albany and Bunbury and with important domestic markets in Perth, geographic distance from the eastern states means that the region's plantations are locally important. Commercial tree plantations also have an important role to play in managing broader agricultural productivity in the region. See pages 20 and 21 for more information.



### STATE LEGISLATION

#### Legislation

Animal Welfare Act 2002	Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909 (MWSS&D)
Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914
Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1993	Waterways Conservation Act 1976 Environmental Protection Regulations 1987
Plant Diseases (Regulations) Act 1968	Environment Protection (Clearing of native vegetation) Regulations 2004
Quarantine Act 1908 and the Customs Act 1901	Environment Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004
Carbon Rights Legislation Act 2003	Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972	Wildlife Conservation Act 1950
Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990	Bush Fires Act 1954
Conservation and Land Management Act 1984	Road Traffic Act 1974
Contaminated Sites Act 2003	Dangerous Goods (Transport) Act 1998
Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)	Dividing Fences Act 1961
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995	Land Drainage Act 1925
Health Act 1911	Planning and Development Act 2005
Health (Pesticides) Regulations	Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 (s19, s231)
Poisons Act 1964	Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996
Local Government Act 1995	Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966
Stock Diseases Act	
Country Areas Water Supply (CAWS) Act 1947	

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

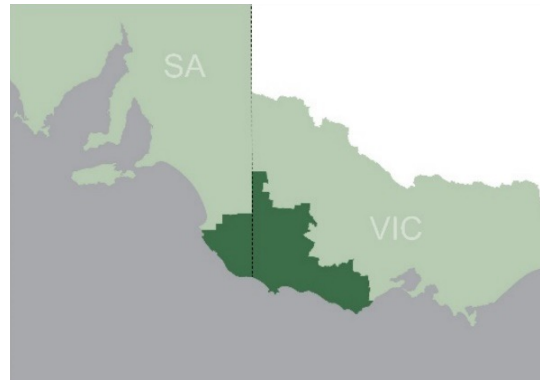
Local planning for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capel Shire Council</li> <li>• Collie Shire Council</li> <li>• Dardanup Shire Council</li> <li>• Donnybrook-Balingup Shire Council</li> <li>• Harvey Shire Council</li> <li>• Manjimup Shire Council</li> <li>• Nannup Shire Council</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bunbury Shire Council</li> <li>• Busselton Shire Council</li> <li>• Augusta-Margaret River Shire Council</li> <li>• Boyup Brook Shire Council</li> <li>• Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Council</li> </ul>	

### OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia  
Plantation forestry and water management guideline (2009)

## GREEN TRIANGLE

The Green Triangle Regional Forestry Hub incorporates the highly productive forestry regions across south-west Victoria and south-eastern South Australia. The Green Triangle is a world-class forestry region which contains the breadth of the entire value chain – from seedling cultivation right through to final fibre processing. The industry in the region has access to both mature domestic and export markets based on a substantial planted forest resource. For more information, see pages 14 and 15 for Victoria and, 18 and 19 for South Australia.



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STATE LEGISLATION	
<b>Legislation</b>	Heritage Places Act 1993
Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002	Landscape South Australia Act 2019
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 Biological Control Act 1986	Local Government (Forestry Reserves) Act 1944
Controlled Substances Act 1984	Mining Act 1971
Dangerous Substances Act 1979	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972
Development Act 1993	Native Vegetation Act 1991
Electricity Act 1996	Natural Resources Management Act 2004
Environment Protection Act	Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986
Explosives Act 1936	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985
Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005	River Murray Act
Forestry Act 1950	Road Traffic Act 1961
Forest Property Act 2000	South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992
Plant Health Act 2009	Waterworks Act 1932
	Wilderness Protection Act 1992
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
South Australian planning provisions.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Council of Grant</li> <li>• City of Mount Gambier</li> <li>• District Council of Wattle Range</li> <li>• District Council of Naracoorte and Lucindale</li> <li>• District Council of Robe</li> </ul>	
OTHER INSTRUMENTS	
Guidelines for Plantation Forestry in South Australia	
Managing the water resource impacts of plantation forests – a State wide policy framework (2009)	
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan (2019)	



## VICTORIA

STATE LEGISLATION	
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)
Accident Compensation Act 1985	Forests Act 1958
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992	Forest Rights Act 1996
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994	Heritage Act 1995
Building Act 1993	Heritage Rivers Act 1992
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	Land Act 1958
Climate Change Act 2010	Local Government Act 1989
Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987	Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Country Fire Authority Act 1958	Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)
Dangerous Goods Act 1958	Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996
Electricity Safety Act 1998	Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995
Emergency Management Act 1986	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
Environment Protection Act 1970	Road Management Act 2004
Extractive Industries Development Act 1995	Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004
Fences Act 1968	Victorian Plantations Corporation Act 1993
Firearms Act 1996	Water Act 1989
Fisheries Act 1995	Wildlife Act 1975
STATE POLICY	
National Forest Policy Statement (1992)	State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade)
Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action (2002).	Victorian Pest Management Framework (2002)
State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management)	Victorian River Health Strategy (2002)
	Victorian Biodiversity Strategy (1997)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	
Victorian Planning Provisions (2018)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colac-Otways Shire Council</li> <li>• Corangamite Shire Council</li> <li>• Glenelg Shire Council</li> <li>• Horsham Shire Council</li> <li>• Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>• Southern Grampians Shire Council</li> <li>• Warrnambool City Council</li> <li>• West Wimmera Shire Council</li> </ul>	

## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- Clancy, T. and C. Howell (2013) Sustainable forest management: the Australian context, ABARES Research Report 13.2, Canberra
- Forest Industries Federation (WA) Inc (2014) Code of practice for timber plantations in Western Australia [Link](#)
- Forest Practices Authority (2020) Forest Practices Code, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania [Link](#)
- Government of South Australia (2009) Managing the water resource impacts of plantation forests: A statewide policy framework [Link](#)
- Government of Tasmania (2009) State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land
- PIRSA (2009) Guidelines for plantation forestry in South Australia, Government of South Australia [Link](#)
- Private Forests Tasmania (2020) Information Sheet – Private Timber Reserves: Securing the long term management of private forested land
- Raison, R.J., P.J. Smethurst, E.K.S. Nambiar, B. Moggridge (2012) Assessment of Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry: South Australia– report prepared for Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, CSIRO, Canberra
- Smethurst, P.J., R.J. Raison, E.R.S. Nambiar, A.P.N. House and B. Moggridge (2012) Assessment of Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry: Victoria – report prepared for Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, CSIRO, Canberra
- Timber Queensland (2015) Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland [Link](#)
- Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries (2014) Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 [Link](#)
- Western Australian Department of Water (2009) Plantation forestry and water management guideline









**GREENWOOD**  
STRATEGY