

## **Ensuring Resource Supply of High-Quality Sawlogs and Maintaining the Future of Tasmania's Forest Industry**

**The Australian and Tasmanian governments will implement new initiatives to support and maintain the supply targets of a minimum 300,000 cubic metres per year of high-quality eucalypt sawlogs and veneer logs and 10,000 cubic metres per year of blackwood sawlogs to industry. Those initiatives are being implemented to offset any resource supply impacts in the medium or long term caused by changing clear-felling practices in old-growth forests or the increased reservation of old growth.**

Building on the Intensive Forest Management initiatives of the Regional Forest Agreement the Australian and Tasmanian governments will contribute \$115 million towards new intensive forest management activities. These activities will include:

- improvement, enhancement and development of existing plantation resources on State forest through pruning, thinning and fertilising to improve productivity and sawlog quality;
- establishment of new plantations suitable for supplying sawlogs;
- thinning of native forest to improve production of sawlogs;
- supporting investment in techniques and equipment that enhance resource utilisation and harvest processing capacity; and
- supporting the establishment of blackwood resources through fencing of suitable regenerating native forests.

These activities will contribute to the continued supply of sawlogs at target levels that promote the development of a sustainable and internationally competitive native forest industry in Tasmania. These target levels help provide long-term employment and socio-economic opportunities that significantly contribute to the Tasmanian economy.

New plantations and other intensive forest management activities will help ensure that sustainable yield of high-quality sawlogs is maintained and enhanced in the longer term.

There will, however, be changes in the composition of this log supply as greater use is made of regrowth and plantation timber. The Australian Government will invest \$46 million in a joint program to assist those businesses affected by changes in log composition.

Tasmania will continue to improve the methodology and reporting of sustainable yield projections of high-quality sawlogs from public lands to increase public understanding and confidence. Tasmania will also develop strategies for improved supply of and access to special species timbers from public lands (see Fact Sheet No. 22).