

## **Skills and Training in the Tasmanian Forest Industry**

**A competitive forest and forest products industry in Tasmania depends on skilled and trained workers.**

Over the next few years, the industry will face skills shortages in all categories, from harvesting contractors and sawmill workers to university graduates.

A highly-skilled workforce will ensure that the industry obtains maximum benefit from new harvesting and processing equipment, the introduction of new technology and new marketing opportunities. This should result in greater productivity and fewer injuries.

Training needs have also been identified to continually improve the delivery of best practice forest management, improved product recovery and quality throughout the supply chain and improved business management skills for contractors.

The Australian Government will invest \$4 million over four years to address this workforce challenge by enhancing skills and training opportunities in the industry. Funding will support improved training and skills development throughout the forestry sector, including environmental care, changing forest management and wood processing, safety, product quality, and business skills.

Funding of \$4 million will be specifically earmarked for the forest and forest products industry, represented by the Forest and Forest Products Employment Skills Company Ltd (FAPFESC), to become part of a National Skills Council, conditional on an agreed business plan including agreed funding activities and outcomes.

This investment will complement the investments already being made by the Australian and Tasmanian governments and the industry in forest industry training.

In addition the Tasmanian Government will support new training initiatives to ensure the successful implementation of non-clear-felling silvicultural practices in public old-growth forests.