

Tasmanian Special Species Timbers and Leatherwood Honey Resource

Tasmania, with its unique geography and environment, has some of the world's finest cool temperate hardwood forests. These forests produce some of the strongest and most beautiful special species timbers in the world, renowned for their texture and character. These species include blackwood, myrtle, sassafras, celery top pine, silver wattle, Huon pine and King Billy pine. Leatherwood, another tree species, also produces a unique honey, which is another Tasmanian brand product in national and international markets.

Both governments recognise the contribution these timbers make to Tasmania's forest products industries and the brand values that they sustain for Tasmania. The Tasmanian Government will contribute \$11.4 million to support the special species timber and the leatherwood honey industries in addition to the significant emphasis already provided to this sector.

The commitment to speciality timbers and leatherwood beekeeping will focus on:

- support for sawmills in the west and north-west affected by the reservation of substantial special species timber resources;
- low-impact access roading to special timbers management units, including leatherwood-rich stands;
- improved training and skilling in alternative salvage techniques, including development of a new recovery yard in north-west Tasmania;
- improved management of special timbers management units;
- enhanced long-term production of blackwood ; and
- support for new small business start-up in special species value adding, working with existing woodcraft and furniture groups, e.g. the Wood Craft Guild, the Wooden Boat School and Tasmanian fine furniture stakeholders, in conjunction with an improved marketing and communications campaign.