

## Forestry in South Australia



### South East: Home to forestry

The South East of SA is iconic for its production of forests and extensive wood processing industry, which is the largest regionally-based manufacturing industry in the State. Other significant forestry regions are the Mount Lofty Ranges, Mid North and Kangaroo Island. SA has about 188 110 hectares of plantation forests. Of this 128 400 hectares are softwood, (mostly radiata pine) and 59 710 hectares are hardwood, (mostly Tasmanian blue gum).

### Did you know?

- About 2.5 million cubic metres of softwood logs are harvested in SA annually which is equivalent to the volume of the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt.
- There are 17 trees in an average house frame.
- One tree can produce a dining table and six chairs.
- A timber floor for an average house uses three trees.
- Honey, eucalyptus oil, and cork all come from trees.
- One pine tree can produce 2 000 rolls of toilet paper.



This information can be provided in an alternative format or another language on request for those who need it.

### Contact Us

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## Forestry in South Australia

growing  
sustainable  
regions



Government  
of South Australia  
Primary Industries  
and Regions SA

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### South Australia's forestry industry

Forestry is a growing business – and South Australia is a leader in the way it establishes and manages its forests. Trees – purposely planted for harvesting – are known as plantations, and can include a wide variety of species.

It takes between 12 and 35 years for trees to grow to their full size and be ready for harvesting, depending on the species and products to be made.

Wood harvested from SA's plantations is used for many purposes, including house frame construction, infrastructure (bridges and buildings), fencing, furniture, bioenergy (such as wood for heating and power), and fibre for paper-making.

### Why is it important?

The State's forest and wood processing industries are entirely plantation-based. Importantly, there is no harvesting of native forests in SA and they are protected by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

The sector directly and indirectly produces more than \$2.8 billion of economic activity for the State annually. In addition, about 200 000 people visit the State's forest reserves for recreation each year – everything from camping and hiking to bike and horse riding – and it adds to the tourism opportunities in the regions.

More than 13 000 people are directly or indirectly employed in the sector. Forestry employment is quite significant in the South East – making up about 35% of employment where the forestry and forest products sector contributes 28% (or \$759 million directly and indirectly) to gross regional product. That means there is about a one in three chance that if you visit the region, you'll meet someone employed in the forestry industry.

### A sustainable future

Forests are an important part of the global carbon cycle. Growing forests absorb (sequester) more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via plant photosynthesis than it emits through respiration. Carbon is stored in the above ground biomass (leaves, bark, twigs, branches, trunk) and in the below ground biomass (roots). Forestry is the only

primary industry sector that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits. When trees are harvested and used to make wood products, the carbon remains stored in the wood for the life of the product. In fact 50% of the dry weight of wood is carbon.

SA is leading the way towards its use of renewable energy as a share of electricity by 2020, with the proportion of wood waste currently burnt for fuel being 10 times greater than solar energy production.

A key priority in the *South Australian Forestry Industry Strategy 2011-16*, is to promote the environmental benefits of forestry and forest products to the public, to establish better consumer understanding and demand. This will lead to new value-adding opportunities and maximise returns from plantation resources.

Nationally, there is an expectation of increasing demand for Australian softwood sawn timber; and as Australia moves towards becoming a low carbon economy, an increase in the preference for low energy intensive building products is expected.