

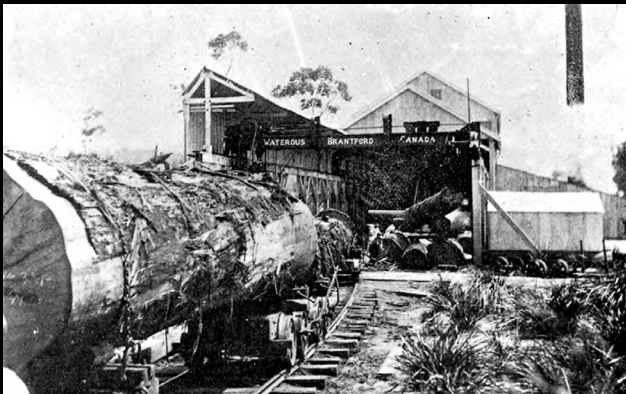
# Changing Technology



Tasmania's early timber-getters felled only the biggest and best trees, dragging them out of the forest using bullock teams, then later, steam engines. For the first fifty years or so, there was little forward planning – the forests seemed an endless resource.

But towards the end of the 19th century, it became clear that our forests needed to be managed more carefully to ensure timber resources would be available in future.

# How has changing technology changed the way we use wood products?



### Forests & Industry

The big trees selected by the early bushmen came from old-growth forests and were used in sawmills. Today, extensive areas of old-growth forests are in reserves. But society still needs the sawn timber we use for construction, furniture, joinery and a range of other uses. So the sawmilling industry has changed, developing new technology to process the smaller diameter logs that come from young regrowth and plantation forests.



### Sawmilling Today

One example of new sawmilling technology is the hew saw, which squares the log and cuts it into boards in a single operation. The "roundback" sections cut from the top, bottom and sides are processed into woodchips for paper, so waste is minimised. Other new sawmills use very thin blades to minimise the sawdust waste. Sawmills use their waste to produce heat, for drying sawn boards.