

Changing Technology



Planning for Change

Technological research and the updating of sophisticated equipment are time-consuming and expensive – operators need to know that the timber resource will be available to justify their investment. Foresters plan ahead to maintain timber supplies, while making sure that forest activities meet stringent environmental

guidelines. The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement and Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement aim to achieve a balance between the need to provide timber resources into the future and the social and environmental values of forests.

Working Forests

In working forests, new technology has made harvesting safer for operators and reduced the impact on forest soils. In regrowth forests and plantations, tree felling is done from the safety and comfort of an air-conditioned cab, in a specialised felling machine. Modern excavators have 'crab-grab' attachments to lift logs, and tracks or very wide high-flotation tyres to limit soil compaction. Bark from de-barked logs is spread at worksites to add another layer of protection for the soil. On steep sites, mobile harvesters or cable systems make the work safer.



Evolution of Practices

Wood is a valuable, renewable and versatile material with a multitude of uses. In Tasmania, it has always been a resource that has provided employment, created income and generated wealth for the wider community. The ways we have accessed and processed wood have changed over time. People working in forest industries have needed to learn new skills to adapt to the changes. The science of forestry and forest industry practices, continue to evolve to meet the demands of a modern society that values forests differently from past eras, but needs a greater variety of wood products than ever before.

