

Case Study: Forestry Tasmania

Project TSDS_1722

Forestry Tasmania is a Tasmanian Government Business Enterprise responsible under State legislation for:

- sustainably managing approximately 800,000 hectares of public production forest (Permanent Timber Production Zone land);
- undertaking forest operations for the production and sale of forest products from these forests (including making available at least 137,000 cubic metres of high quality eucalypt sawlogs and veneer logs per annum).

The majority of Forestry Tasmania's customers and stakeholders now require that wood products are sourced from independently certified sustainably managed forests. One of the key ways to sustainably manage its forests and meet its legislative obligations is for Forest Tasmania to ensure appropriately trained Forest Practices Officers throughout the organisation.

The availability of the Training and Skills Development Service (TSDS) fund allowed Forestry Tasmania to have five employees, undertake Threatened Butterfly training through the Forest Practices Authority. "It will benefit me by being able to identify potential butterfly habitats for rare, threatened or endangered species as well as identify the butterflies themselves. It enables me to identify the best times to search and where to search. Even if I cannot identify the butterflies themselves it is also possible to determine the type of butterfly that may be present by other signs such as the way shelters are built," said one employee.

"Courses provided by the Forest Practices Authority such as the Threatened Butterfly Species are important for our staff to attend in order to maintain their industry knowledge and are of huge benefit to Forestry Tasmania in undertaking its special values planning and the implementation of biodiversity provisions of the Forest Practices Code," said Dion McKenzie, Forest Tasmania's Manager, Engagement and Land Management.

Forestry Tasmania agreed that participation in the TSDS program has resulted in an improvement in their employee's work practices and skills whilst causing minimal disruption to normal work practices. Overall Forestry Tasmania were very satisfied with their involvement in the TSDS program.