

**GOOD  
NEIGHBOUR  
Charter FOR  
Commercial  
TREE  
FARMING  
IN Tasmania**



# GOOD NEIGHBOUR Charter FOR commercial

## PREAMBLE

This Charter has been developed by the Tasmanian tree farming businesses listed on the facing page. It has been developed in consultation with local government and farming groups. The Charter provides a list of undertakings that we commit ourselves to honouring.

Our aim in producing the Charter is to explain to the community how we will address concerns of neighbouring landowners where we are establishing commercial tree farms on agricultural land.

All of our operations will be in accordance with the Forest Practices Act. This Act regulates all forestry activity in Tasmania on both State and private land in order to protect environmental values. It is administered by the Forest Practices Board through the Forest Practices Code.

## WHERE WILL TREE FARMS BE PLANTED?

- We will only establish tree farms where permitted under the Forest Practices Act and in accordance with State policies and local government planning schemes.
- We will take account of community aspirations and issues in planning the development of new tree farms.
- We will behave with honesty and integrity, through a transparent process, when negotiating with landowners for land purchase, land lease or share-farm activities.

## HOW WILL LOCAL GOVERNMENT BE INVOLVED?

- We will consult regularly with local government on issues such as zoning, transport routes, planning schemes and water intakes.
- We will consult with local government on three year forward plans as required under the Forest Practices Act.
- We will inform local government of forest practice operations as required under the Forest Practices Code.
- We will provide local government with up-to-date contact lists of key industry people.
- We will work pro-actively and co-operatively to resolve issues of concern to local government.

## WILL WE LOOK AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT?

- We will protect Tasmania's natural and cultural heritage through the application of the Forest Practices Code, which covers:
  - soils
  - water quality and flow
  - geomorphology
  - flora, fauna, genetic resources
  - visual landscape
  - cultural heritage

## WILL WE CONTROL WEEDS AND VERMIN?

- We will adopt active strategies to control those weeds and animal pests which are of concern to neighbours, and work with the community and government on regional weed and pest management strategies.
- We will only use registered weed and pest control chemicals which are approved for forest use, in strict compliance with the Forest Practices Code and the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act. We will use chemicals consistent with best silvicultural, agricultural and environmental practice, with particular sensitivity in areas or catchments of concern to neighbours.

## WHAT ABOUT BOUNDARY FENCES?

- In consultation with neighbours we will equitably share the cost of establishment and maintenance of appropriate boundary fencing, as intended by the Boundary Fences Act.

# TREE FARMING IN Tasmania

## WHAT ABOUT SHADING?

- We will negotiate with neighbouring landowners in respect of appropriate setbacks for plantations, on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration proximity to dwellings, and the productive capacity of neighbouring land.

## WHAT ABOUT LANDSCAPE VALUES?

- We will make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests from neighbours where tree farms will impact on the immediate view from adjoining dwellings.

## HOW WILL WE MANAGE THE FIRE RISK?

- We will develop fire management strategies with the objective of preventing fires starting in our tree farms, and preventing fires spreading from our tree farms. This will include the establishment of necessary firebreaks, dams and access roads. We will also maintain fire-fighting equipment and trained fire-fighting crews and we will actively co-operate with local Fire Management Area Committees.

## WILL WE RETAIN HOUSES ON PROPERTIES TO BE PLANTED?

- We will make every reasonable effort to retain existing well-maintained dwellings on site. Where this is not practical we will actively facilitate relocation of dwellings.

## WILL WE COMMUNICATE WITH NEIGHBOURS?

- We will ensure active, ongoing and timely communication with neighbouring landowners by:
  - informing neighbours of planned forest practice operations
  - consulting with neighbours and responding appropriately on any issues of concern
  - providing ready access to local field staff, and processes for appeal to senior management.

## HOW DO NEIGHBOURS FIND OUT MORE?

- We will provide factual, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information to assist landholders, forest industry, local government and the community to better understand the role and impact of forestry on regional communities.

Signed in August 2000 by:



Keith Mitchelhill  
Executive General Manager  
Boral Timber Tasmania



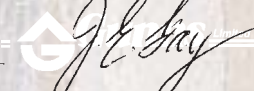
Arnold Willems  
Performance Manager, Fibre  
Norske Skog Paper Mills Aust. Ltd



Evan Rolley  
Managing Director  
Forestry Tasmania



Tony Cannon  
Forestry Director  
Forest Enterprises Australia Ltd



John Gay  
Managing Director  
Gunns Ltd



Dr Michael Beardsell  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Forest Products



Paul Nicholls  
Regional Manager  
Rayonier Tasmania Pty Ltd

This Charter will remain under review so as to accommodate continuing discussions, community suggestions and industry developments, and will be fully revised by 2005.



Kem Perkins  
President, TFGA

Endorsed by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

# RESOLVING Neighbour Concerns

If a neighbour has a concern, or even just a query, they should contact the local supervisor whose name and contact details will have been provided during initial neighbour consultations.

We pride ourselves in being responsive to neighbouring landowners' queries and concerns and we seek, as far as is reasonably possible, to ensure that issues are resolved at this local level.

If you do not feel that the issue has been addressed in accordance with the Good Neighbour Charter then please contact the senior tree farm manager of the relevant organisation (as listed below).

<b>Boral Timber Tasmania</b>	<b>Andrew White</b>	<b>Ph. 6394 5555</b>
<b>Norske Skog</b>	<b>Arnold Willems</b>	<b>Ph. 6261 0155</b>
<b>Forestry Tasmania</b>	<b>Paul Smith</b>	<b>Ph. 6434 6345</b>
<b>Forest Enterprises Australia</b>	<b>Steve Manson</b>	<b>Ph. 6334 9831</b>
<b>Gunns Plantations Ltd</b>	<b>Ian Blanden</b>	<b>Ph. 6335 5296</b>
<b>North Forest Products</b>	<b>Steve Worley</b>	<b>Ph. 6221 1111</b>
<b>Rayonier</b>	<b>Richard Hart</b>	<b>Ph. 6345 3200</b>

If the matter is still not resolved to your satisfaction, please feel free to contact the appropriate company's Charter signatory, whose name and signature are on this Charter.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Neighbours may also contact the following who may be able to provide additional information:

<b>Private Forests Tasmania</b>	<b>NW Regional Private Forester</b>	<b>Ph. 6434 6319</b>
	<b>NE Regional Private Forester</b>	<b>Ph. 6336 5300</b>
	<b>SE Regional Private Forester</b>	<b>Ph. 6233 7448</b>
<b>TFGA Forestry</b>	<b>Launceston HQ</b>	<b>Ph. 6331 6377</b>
<b>Forest Practices Board</b>	<b>Chief Forest Practices Officer</b>	<b>Ph. 6233 7727</b>