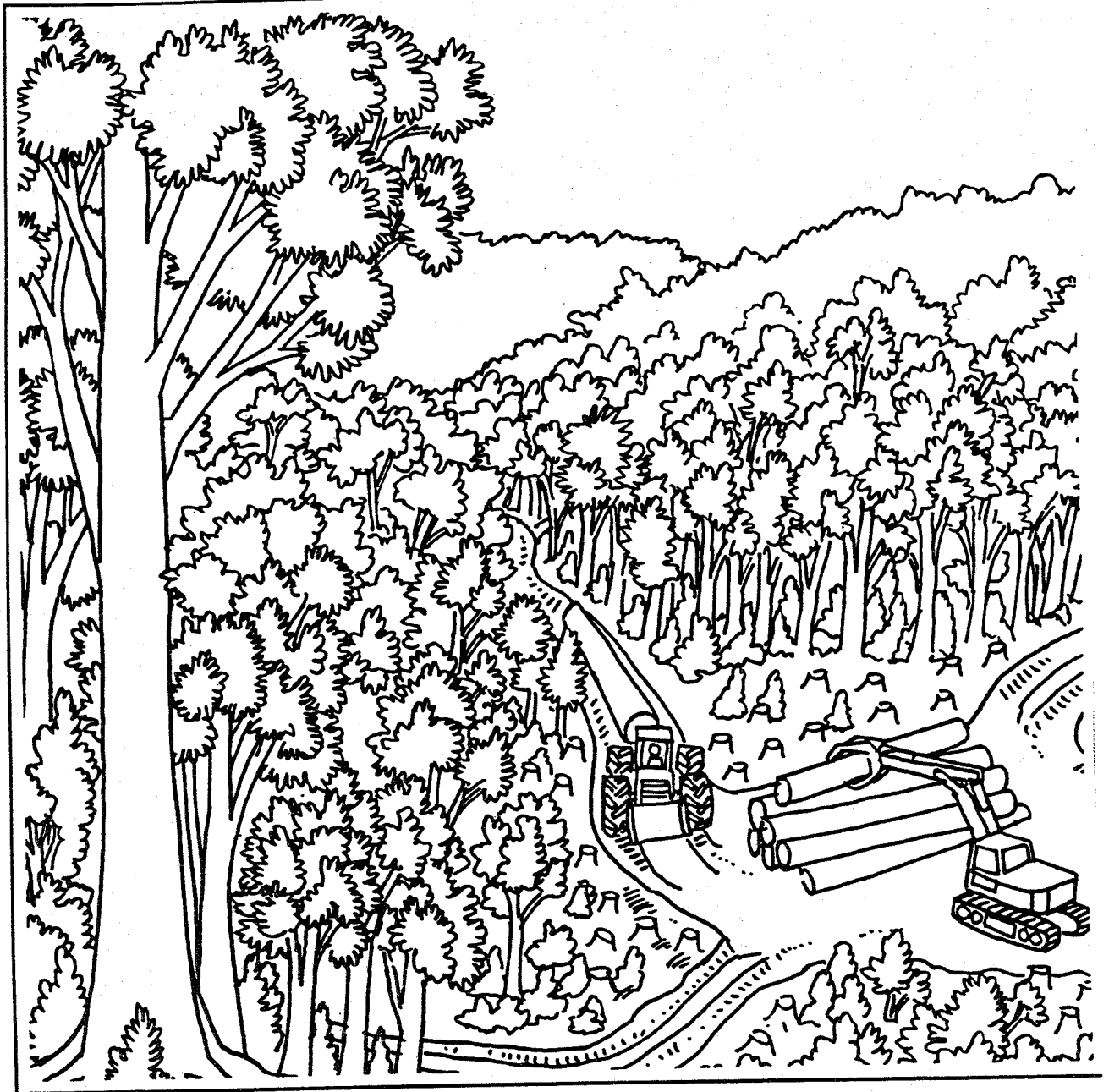


Forest Practices Unit

Annual Review 1992-93

Box 4



Forestry
COMMISSION
— Tasmania —

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INTRODUCTION

The forest industry is a vital part of the Tasmanian economy. Approximately one in eight Tasmanians depend on it for a living.

Forest activities, like farming or tourism, have an impact on the environment.

The purpose of the Forest Practices Legislation is to ensure that this impact is environmentally and socially acceptable at an operational level and to ensure or encourage the proper reforestation of harvested areas on State forest and private property. It is land care in action and aims to prevent problems rather than cure them.

The Forest Practices Act is but one facet of the total management of Crown forests. Over a quarter of Tasmania is already reserved in one form or another including large areas of forest on Crown Reserves. Mechanisms exist for additional reservations in Crown production forests where such communities are under represented in the Crown Reserves. In addition, the Forest Practices Code provides for management by prescription and for additional reservation of rare and endangered species when commercial timber harvesting takes place on forested private property.

The Act is based on the reasonable assumptions that with a soundly based publicly reviewable code of practices, a commitment by all sections of the industry to implement such a Code, proper training and education and a cost effective enforcement mechanism, most forest values and benefits are renewable and can be maintained in production forests in the long run. Other benefits can be maintained in the reserve system.

The Forestry Commission is charged with the implementation of the Act on private property and State Forest. The Forest Practices Unit of the Commission deals with the forest practices aspects of the legislation.

The main aspects of the legislation provide for:

- A periodically and publicly reviewed Forest Practices Code.
- Timber Harvesting Plans, required for most commercial timber harvesting operations on private property and State forest (including roading, logging and reforestation where applicable). Their provisions must follow the Code.
- Three Year Plans showing location, volumes and transport routes of timber from private property operations of the large companies.
- Forest Practices Officers to administer the process.
- Enforcement provisions for making good unacceptable damage or for court action in case of repeated major breaches.
- A Forest Practices Tribunal to hear appeals.

This review focuses on achievements and problems encountered during the year in implementing the legislation and provides relevant statistics. It is also used for reporting to the Private Forestry Council, the Department of Primary Industry & Energy (Canberra) and the Forestry Commission.

Steady progress has been made. Some problems identified previously have been resolved. If the transfer of production forests to other uses continues, more pressure will be put on the remaining forests where timber harvesting is permitted. Alternatively, sawlog harvests will need to be reduced.

*Bert Witte
Chief Forest Practices Officer
September 1993*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Issue of the amended Forest Practices Code

An amended Forest Practices Code was issued in January 1993 after wide public and industry consultation.

Monitoring

A major survey monitoring the application of forest practices was again completed by three senior technical staff covering a random sample of about 15 per cent of commercial timber harvesting operations on crown and private land. Results showed a general improvement in forest practices.

Independent Private Property Operations

The Forest and Forest Industry Council (FFIC) continued to fund a Forest Practices Officer appointed to the Country Sawmillers Federation for the year.

The Council also funded and appointed one Forest Practices Officer in the NW and one in the SE for one year to assist in the implementation of and training in forest practices on independent private property operations.

The Private Forestry Council have supported funding from the Consolidated Fund for the monitoring of independent operations on private property.

The advent of Treegrowers Cooperatives in the NW, NE and SE should result in improved forest practices on those operations the Co-ops are involved in.

There have been substantial improvements in forest practices on independent private property operations.

Timber Harvesting Plans

Some 600 Timber Harvesting Plans were approved this year by Forest Practices Officers relating to roading, commercial timber harvesting and reforestation on private property and State forest.

Forest Practices Specialists (Fauna, Flora, Archaeology, Geomorphology, Soils)

Some 50 per cent of specialists' time has been spent on forest practices related research or on the supervision of such research. Part of this research is funded through the Tasmanian Forest Research Council, by the woodchip export industry and supervised by the Division of Silvicultural Research and Development. Additionally, a number of forest practices related research projects have been funded by the National Estate Grants Programme, the National Soil Conservation Programme and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Such research is generally directed towards testing or improving the effectiveness of Forest Practices Code provisions and increasing or improving the data base for special values so that better decisions can be made.

The compilation of comprehensive data bases for rare, vulnerable and endangered species for Tasmania is making good progress.

Operational decisions about special values at the Timber Harvesting Plan level on State forest will be greatly facilitated by the introduction of the District Conservation Fund and the District Management Classification System in which important special values are identified and zoned on map overlays on a district basis.

Manuals and Publications

The Forest Soil Conservation Manual was completed. A cultural heritage booklet titled *A Short History of the Timber Industry in the Wielangta State Forest* was produced.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ASPECTS REQUIRING ATTENTION

Implementation of the Forest Practices Act/Code

The standard of forest practices has generally improved on independent operations following the appointment of Forest Practices Officers funded by the FFIC. However, the operations of some independent operations are still below acceptable standards, due more to a lack of commitment than lack of training or awareness of what is reasonably required.

The FFIC funding for private property Forest Practices Officers is for one year duration. Longer term arrangements will need to be put into effect if the State's responsibilities under the Act are to be discharged.

For self regulation to be successful all Forest Practices Officers have to take their delegated responsibility seriously. This has been overwhelmingly the case. However, some Forest Practices Officers will need to improve their performance.

Enforcement

The difficulties, delays and costs of dealing with major breaches of the Forest Practices Act through the court system remain. How to effectively deal with repeated minor breaches by some contractors or operators also remains a problem. The suggested introduction of additional training and registration of operators and contractors and a demerit point system along Victorian lines as an effective alternative or addition has received a mixed reaction from industry, the main doubt being the effectiveness of such a demerit point system on private property.

Private Landowners Responsibilities

Some non-industrial forest owners still actively encourage the clearing of stream side reserves after logging. The need for a complimentary agricultural code of practices remains. The proposed Land Use Planning and Approvals Bill may address this issue with control exercised via local government planning schemes.

Local Government Planning Schemes

There is still no uniformity in the restrictions imposed on forest activities in some recent local government planning schemes. Rather than use the Forest Practices Code (amended if need be) as the basis for forest activities, many municipalities appear to draw up their own provisions, often varying considerably between adjoining municipalities. This is likely to cause considerable confusion to contractors and the public alike. The policies proposed by at least one municipality could potentially close down much of the forest industry in this State if implemented statewide.

Act Amendments

Discussions have been held with various organisations and some progress made towards proposals for amending the Forest Practices Act 1985, particularly in relation to landowners responsibilities, enforcement procedures and when Timber Harvesting Plans should be required. The Forest Practices Act will be affected by the corporatisation of the Forestry Commission and a new place will have to be found for forest practices control.

Regeneration - Reforestation

There is concern about a number of smaller private property blocks being left after harvesting without either being reforested or cleared for agriculture, forming a potential fire hazard and leaving often high quality land unproductive thus potentially affecting the future private property resource. Some recent 'independent' private property woodchip export licences have not been subject to the reforestation requirements applying to the large woodchip exporters. Too early grazing of regenerated private property can also affect the standard of the future forest, but this needs to be balanced against what the landowner wishes to manage his land for.

ANNUAL REVIEW 1992-93: details

1. Forest Practices Legislation

There were no amendments made to the Forest Practices Act 1985. (Note that amendments to the Forest Practices Act which occurred in 1991/92 in relation to rare and endangered species on private property, were inadvertently not mentioned in the 1991/92 Review).

The Forest Practices Act Regulations were amended to the extent that ambiguities in wording of the Regulations were removed, without changing the intent.

Some aspects of the Act and Regulations are still under review. They include:

- Providing for shared and increased land owner responsibility for the implementation of forest practices on the land owned. (Private property owners have no direct responsibility in this regard at present).
- Timber Harvesting Plan requirements to relate to actual volume cut (rather than on what is processed by the receiver of the timber as is the case at present).
- Changing present provisions relating to rules of evidence and proof for major breaches of the Act.
- Registration of all operators to be subject to basic training in and knowledge of the Forest Practices Code.
- Extending THP requirements to include all timber harvested in log form (commercial firewood contractors are exempt at present).
- Three year plan process.

The above issues are not likely to be resolved until responsibilities for the Forest Practices Act and the future of the Forest Practices Unit are decided following corporatisation of the Forestry Commission.

2. Private Timber Reserves

Dealt with by the Private Forestry Division

3. Timber Harvesting Plans

3.1 General

The Act requires that, with minor exceptions, all commercial timber harvesting operations on private property and Crown land be subject to approved Timber Harvesting Plans. The provisions in the THP must be in accordance with the Forest Practices Code. The plan is signed by the main parties involved. This provides an opportunity for all the parties to know what is required before operations start. Harvesting includes roading, logging and reforestation where applicable.

There is concern among Forest Practices Officers that because of continued staff reductions and the transfer of some forest practices responsibilities from the larger processors to contractors insufficient time will be available for proper Timber Harvesting Plan preparation, approval and supervision. Monitoring of Timber Harvesting Plan standards will be included in the 15 per cent annual monitoring survey. Reduced supervision can be accommodated only if more attention is given to training of contractors and operators. This is considered a company responsibility in the first place.

A start has been made on reviewing the Timber Harvesting Plan format following the introduction of the amended Forest Practices Code in early 1993.

A process for monitoring the implementation of special values is being put into practice.

3.2 Statistics

THPs approved 1992-93

	Roads Only	Hardwood PP CL, SF	Softwoods PP CL, SF	Total	%	90-91 %
By industry FPOs	20	134 6	25 -	185	31	40
By FC FPOs	30	25 158	18 64	295	49	45
By Consulting FPOs	-	115 -	6 -	121	20	15
TOTAL	50	274 164	49 64	601	100	100
Percent	8	46 27	8 11			

Percentage of Operations by Harvesting Method, Future Land use and Tenure (Native forests only)

Future land use	Native Forest Clearfelling followed by:				Non- clearfelling in native forest(1)	Total
	Sown NF regeneration	Plantation eucalypt	pine	Clearing for agriculture		
Crown lands	27%	20%	3%	-	50%	100%
Private Property	2%	26%	1%	26%	45%	100%

(1) regrowth retention, shelterwood, selective logging etc

PP=private property. SF=State forest. CL=Crown land. NF-native forest

3.3 Matters requiring attention

State Forest

On the whole, basic THP provisions are reasonably well adhered to although further improvements are still needed and problem areas still exist (see Section 9.2 on Forest Practices Code Monitoring). Minor breaches still occur particularly with some contractors with large quotas.

Industrial freehold

The comment above also applies to industrial freehold or private property operators supplying pulpwood to the major companies with Forest Practices

Officers on their staff. These companies accept responsibility for approving THPs and supervising or inspecting operations; commitment varies between companies and individual FPOs.

Independent operations

There has been a steady improvement. However, some operations still do not measure up to reasonable forest practices requirements. Although small in area and number they appear to have a disproportionate adverse effect as they generally occur on private blocks within the more settled areas of the State (See Section 9.3). The breaches appear to be due more to a lack of commitment to doing a workmanlike job than to lack of knowledge of what is required.

General

Presentation of THPs is generally fair to good for plans prepared by forestry consultants, Forestry Commission or industry staff. More precision is still required in the wording.

THP boundaries need to be clearly marked on the THP map and areas to be reserved from logging included within the THP boundary where feasible.

Contractors have a responsibility to ensure their employees know the forest practices requirements of a particular operation. This responsibility is not always honoured.

Contractors should ensure that a copy of the THP is on the job at all times.

Some municipalities continue to raise concerns about the lack of consultation for operations they perceive to be important. More emphasis is still required on local government consultation before THPs are approved. The amended Code makes consultation a specific requirement in relevant cases.

4. Three Year Plans

The Forest Practices Act 1985 provides for the production of three year plans for private property operations showing their location, volumes to be harvested and the carting routes for the timber produced. Such plans are to be produced by companies harvesting or causing to be harvested more than 100 000t in the preceding year. Hence, all operations from which pulpwood is supplied to these companies should appear on a three year plan. Summaries of the plans are required to be sent to relevant local government authorities.

The three year plan process needs to be re-evaluated. The plans are costly to produce. The smaller independent operators are not included in the plans yet appear to present local government with the bulk of perceived problems. Local government has generally made little use of the plans. A change to the Act needs to be considered.

5. Forest Practices Code

5.1 Amended Code

After two drafts, widespread consultation with industry, conservation bodies, government departments, local government, farmers and graziers representatives and the general public, the amended Forest Practices Code was issued in January 1993 and came into effect on 15th March 1993.

Particular attention was paid in the amended Code to:

- improved local government consultation;
- steep country logging (to be reviewed in two years);
- biodiversity;
- plantation treatment;
- special values;
- rare and endangered species on private property.

5.2 Implementation - Monitoring

A pre-Code survey of logging operations mainly on State forest was carried out before the first Code came into effect in 1987.

Follow up surveys have been carried out annually by Forestry Commission Senior Technical Foresters seconded from the three regions and covering Crown and private forests. Their services are greatly appreciated.

See Section 9.2 for details.

5.3 Main issues

While reforestation after harvesting is generally assured on State forest and the large woodchip exporting company's reforestation programme is well in excess of the area harvested and required by export licence conditions, private property blocks logged by independent operators are often left, neither reforested nor cleared for agriculture. They can become a fire hazard, are often unsightly and take high quality land out of production. Recent woodchip export licences given to 'independent' companies do not appear to have reforestation requirements attached to them, unlike those given to the major exporters.

Poor regeneration in some of the more marginal private property areas being logged and/or lack of subsequent protection of young regeneration against grazing or fires until regeneration is well established on some non-industrial private property.

Most of the forest industry still has a holiday shut down in the driest part of the year. Stockpiling to any extent is the exception rather than the rule. **Suitable wet weather areas** are becoming scarcer and the loss of State forest to other land tenures has reduced the alternatives available.

Applying the **visual management system** to private property and particularly to smaller private property blocks is difficult. Many landowners have different views on landscape management than the general community or neighbours. Where reforestation is to take place, many private landowners consider logging as a temporary change in the landscape, similar to agricultural cropping.

Lack of a basic code of agricultural practices to ensure protection of streamside reserves when timber harvesting is not involved.

6. Forest Practices Tribunal

There were no appeals to the Tribunal in 1992-1993

7. Administration

Responsibility for and control of forest practices is under review by the taskforce overseeing the transition from the Forestry Commission to a Forestry Corporation.

7.1 Forest Practices Officers (FPOs)

Together with contractors and operators, Forest Practices Officers are the key people in implementing and maintaining sound forest practices. The Forestry Commission delegates, under its seal, responsibilities it has under the Forest Practices Act directly to qualified FPOs drawn from industry, consultants or Forestry Commission staff.

The prerequisite qualifications are: **Forest Practices Officer (Planning)** - a degree in forestry or equivalent academic qualifications or demonstrated personal expertise together with at least five years practical field forestry in planning and supervision of operations. **Forest Practices Officers (Inspecting)** - a tertiary qualification or equivalent technical expertise and at least five years experience in supervising forest operations. In addition, staff nominated for FPOs attend a training course consisting of a number of formal teaching sessions, field trips and practical exercises in various parts of the State.

Forest Practices Officers appointed

	As at 30.6.92	Left/ Retired during year	Changed between FC, Industry, Consultants	Changed Inspecting to planning	New Appointments	Appointed as at 30.6.93	Active as at 30.6.93 *
FPO(Planning)							
- Industry	28	-4	+1	+2	+5	28	26
- Independent Consultants	4	-	+4	-	+1	9	6
- FC	43	-	-1	+5	-	47	38
	75	-4	0	+7	+6	84	70
FPO (Inspecting)							
- Industry	30	-	-3	-2	+4	29	27
- Independent Consultants	-	-	+3	-	-	3	2
- FC	31	-1	-	-5	+3	28	27
	61	-1	0	-7	+7	60	56
TOTAL	136	-5	0	0	+13	144	126

* some FPOs have been transferred to positions where the THP approval or inspection is not part of their duties or have taken up temporary positions overseas.

7.2 Forest Practices Unit Staff

Staff as at 30.6.93

Bert Witte	B.Sc.(For), Dip.For	Chief Forest Practices Officer
Paul Wilkinson	B.Nat.Res	Environmental officer
Sheryl Wolfe		Clerk/Typist, Registrar for the Forest Practices Tribunal
Kevin Kiernan	Ph.D. Geomorphology	Geomorphologist
Fred Duncan	B.Sc.	Botanist
Anne McConnell	B.Sc.(Geology, Anthropology)	Archaeologist
	M.Sc.(Geology)	
Robert Taylor	Ph.D.Zoology	Zoologist
Mike Laffan	M.Agr.Sc	Soil Scientist
Rolan Eberhard	B.A.	Technical Officer (temporary, geomorphology)
Denise Gaughwin	B.A. Hons, M.A.	Acting Senior Archaeologist (while Anne McConnell on extended leave)
Bill Manning	Senior Techn. Forester	Seconded from FC (NE) to deal with forest practices on independent private property

7.3 Forests and Forest Industry Council staff

Gary Richardson	Senior Techn. Forester	Seconded from FC to Country Sawmillers Federation
David Tucker	Senior Techn. Forester	Seconded from FC (SE) *
David Dean	Senior Techn. Forester	Seconded from FC (NW) *
		<i>* (seconded from the FC to assist in THP preparation, training and education on independent private property.)</i>

8. Forest Practices Training, Education

8.1 Forest Practices Officer

- Training courses for 25 people were completed during the year. 13 FPOs were appointed.
- Additional training sessions were organised by the Forest practices Specialists.
- A refresher course following the introduction of the amended Forest Practices Code was held for all FPOs.

8.2 Other Forestry Commission and Forest Industry Staff

- In house training has been done by most Commission districts and major companies.

8.3 Contractors

- Major company contractors: training these contractors has traditionally been considered a company responsibility.

8.4 Field inspections for 92/93 on private property

PPFPO (Country Sawmillers Federation)	132	(full year)
PP FPO (South)	103	(6 months)
PP FPO (North west)	96	(6 months)
Total	331	

8.5 Matters requiring attention

There has been a move towards more contractor responsibility and supervision of operations and less trained company staff involvement. If the trend continues the responsibility for contractor training will need to be reconsidered.

Department of Labour and Industry registration of operators is a legal requirement. Forest practices training and competency could be tied to this registration as is already the case for safety and operational competence. Some forest practices training is provided in present faller and operator courses run by Hollybank Inc but this training is considered too limited in respect of forest practices and does not cover all operators. Hollybank Inc. have also developed a short operators forest practices training course but it appears industry has made little use of this course to date.

9. Monitoring and Enforcement

9.1 Field visits - current operations

(1) By Chief Forest Practices Officer, Environmental Officer

During the year a considerable number of requests were received for interpretation or advice on the Code or on breaches of the Code.

1992-93 Forest Practices Visits by Chief Forest Practices Officer or Environmental Officer

State Forest	Native Forest	Plantation	Total
Smithton District	1	-	1
Burnie District	-	-	-
Devonport District	1	1	2
Launceston/Deloraine District	1	-	1
Scottsdale District	1	1	2
Fingal District	1	-	1
Triabunna District	-	-	-
Geeveston District	1	1	2
Queenstown District	-	-	-
Norfolk District	1	1	2
TOTAL State Forest	7	4	11

Private Property

Major Company Operations:

ANM	1	1	2
APPM (Triabunna)	1	2	3
APPM (Tamar)	2	-	2
Forest Resources	2	1	3
APPM (Burnie)	1	-	1

Independent Operations:

Norfolk	1	-	1
Deloraine/Launceston	3	1	4
Geeveston	1	-	1
Burnie	2	1	3
Fingal	1	-	1
Smithton	1	-	1
Devonport	1	-	1
Scottsdale	3	1	4

TOTAL Private Property	20	7	27
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GRAND TOTAL	27	11	38
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(2) By Forest Practices Inspector

Initially the Inspector funded by the Forestry Commission inspected and monitored operations on independent private property operations. Towards the end of the year inspections were extended to include current operations on State forest and large company freehold or company controlled operations as well:

Independent private property	125 visits
Large company controlled operations (on private property)	79 visits
State forest operations	12 visits
Total	216 visits

9.2 Annual Monitoring

In 1984 a survey of the implementation of the then Forestry Commission environmental guidelines on State forest was carried out.

Following the introduction of the Forest Practices Code in late 1987 annual surveys have been carried out since 1988-89.

These surveys have covered a random sample of approximately 15 per cent of the timber harvesting operations taking place on private property and State forest.

The 1992-93 survey was carried out by Senior Technical Foresters J. Cunningham, G. Richardson and G. Siely, all seconded from Forestry Commission field administration staff. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Results from the surveys have become important in improving forest practices as:

- Both good examples and problem areas shown up in operations visited are discussed in detail with the relevant district staff and/or companies to effect future improvements.
- A questionnaire for each operation provides a basis to measure progress in implementation of the Forest Practices Code in subsequent years.

Some of the key questions are shown below and results are plotted in Tables 1 and 2.

Key Forest Practices Survey Questions

Road Construction

1. Is drainage diverted 50m before stream crossing?
2. Is culvert size and spacing according to Code?

Harvesting

3. 15 years between aggregates?
4. One year between coupes?

Snig Tracks

5. Are stream crossings minimised?
6. Were temporary log crossings used?
7. Have snig tracks been drained?
8. Is grip spacing as per Code/THP?
9. Is grip spacing adequate (no erosion)?

Landings

10. Are landings on elevated areas?
11. Are landings >40m from streamside reserves?
12. Do snig tracks approach landings from below?
13. Minimal rutting and erosion of landings?
14. Have landings been drained?
15. Has water flowing towards landings been diverted?
16. Has rubbish been removed?

Streamside Reserves

17. Is retained vegetation intact?
18. Has equipment been excluded from streamside reserves?
19. No evidence of sediment in streams?

Note: Question 3 (dispersal) is not really applicable to many private property operations and has not been plotted for private property in Figure 2.

The following table gives an indication of progress made:

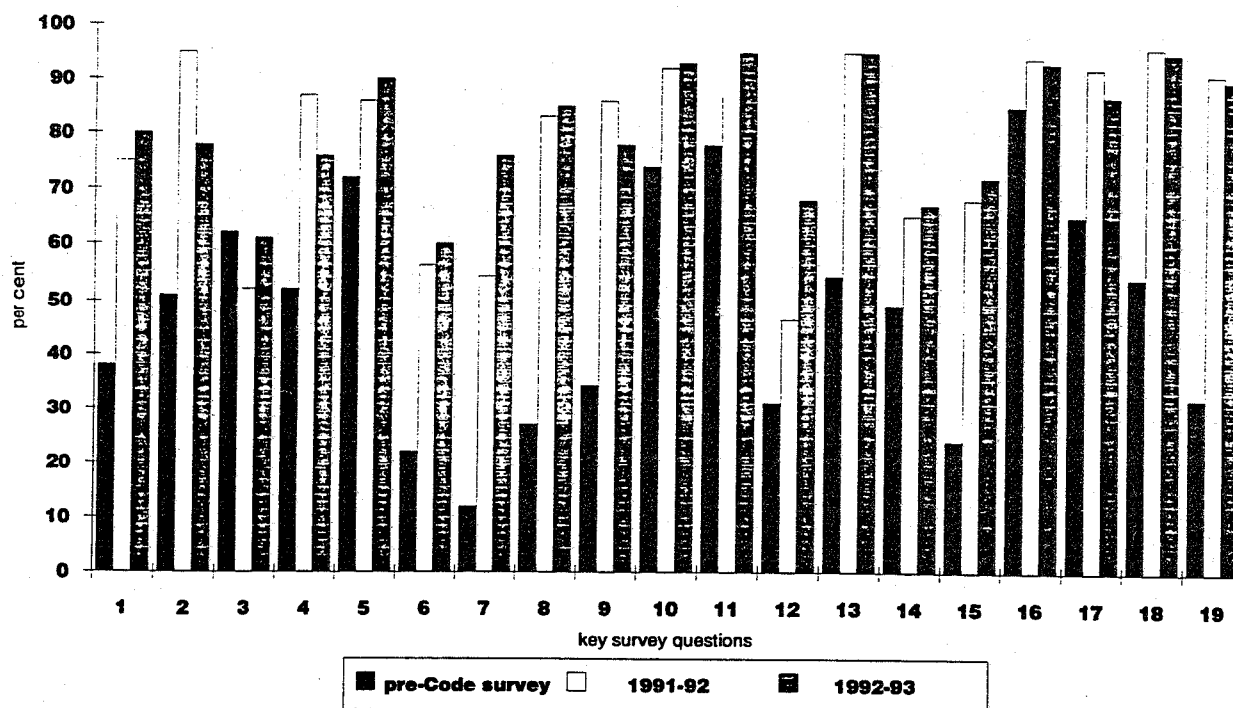


Figure 1: Comparison of pre-Code survey (mainly State forest) with post-Code surveys in 1992-92 and 1992-93 (State and private forests). Shows percentage of operations where listed key forest practice aspects were well implemented.

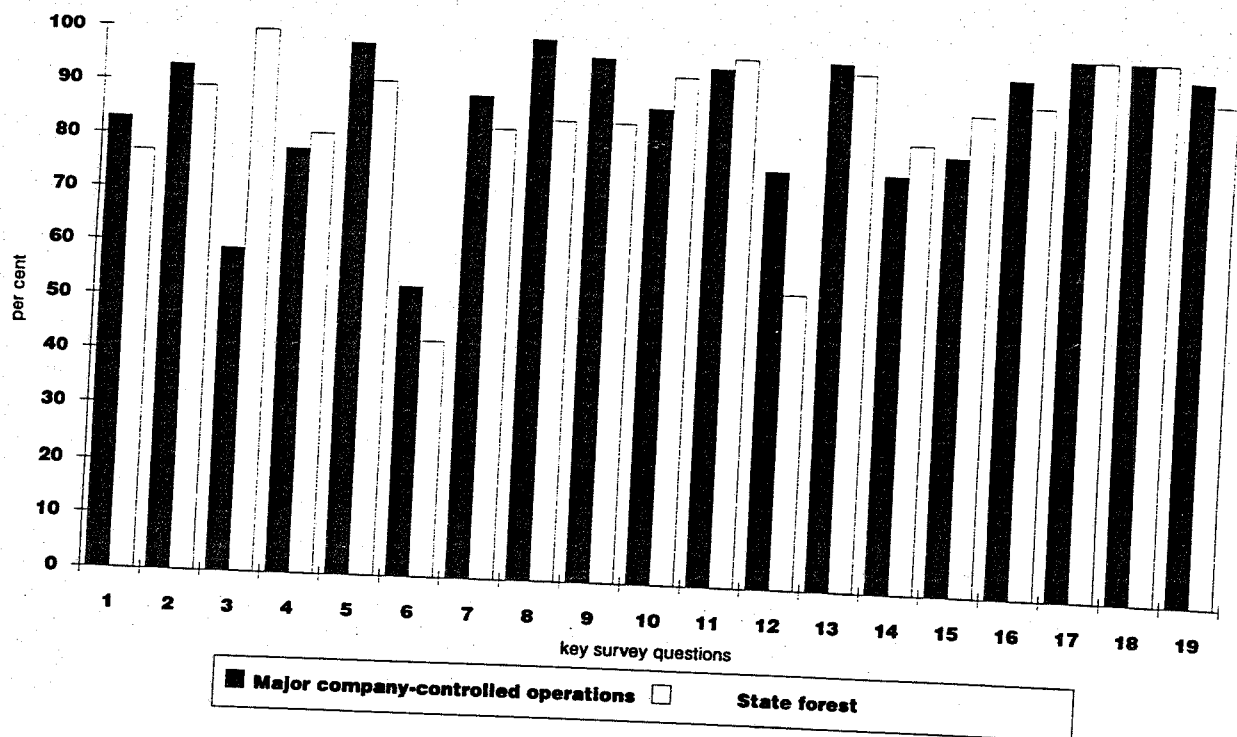


Figure 2: Comparison of Forest Practices Code application on major forest company controlled harvesting operations on privately owned forests and harvesting operations on State forest during 1992/93. Shows percentage of operations surveyed where listed forest practices were well implemented.

Conclusions:

- Forest Practices have improved considerably over the sampling period (Figure 1).
- Further improvement occurred generally in 1992/93 compared with the previous year (Figure 1). Some of the results have been very pleasing.
- Application of the Code is still variable. Many aspects are starting to reach acceptable levels, of 90 per cent or better, but some aspects surveyed (particularly use of temporary crossings and drainage of landings) need considerable improvement to be acceptable (Fig 1).
- Forest practices on major company controlled operations are now generally as good as, if not better than, on State Forest (Fig. 2).

9.3 Investigation of Public Concerns/Enquiries/Complaints

Some 60 enquiries/concerns/complaints about forest practices were received from adjoining landowners, the public, local government and industry. They were all followed up with the following results:

Tenure	A	B	C	D	E	Total	1991-92
State Forest	1	-	3	1	5	10	(9)
Company operations	-	2	3	4	2	11	(14)
Independent private property operations	2	9	16	2	10	39	(67)
Total	3	11	22	7	17	60	(90)

A = Complaints laid with Department of Public Prosecutions

B = Notices issued under the Forest Practices Act or 'making good' requested

C = Warnings given

D = Doubtful if spirit of the Forest Practices Code was breached. Otherwise resolved

E = No grounds, misunderstanding of Code

Routine inspections by the Forestry Commission Forest Practices Inspector resulted in the issue of another seven notices under the Forest Practices Act and some 18 warnings.

9.4 Prosecutions

The emphasis for achieving improvements in forest practices needs to remain on education, training, cooperation and fostering commitment to sound forest practices. Without commitment forest practices will not continue to improve.

However, formal legal complaints are laid with the Department of Public Prosecution when substantial deliberate breaches knowingly committed (and potentially provable in court) occur. Formal complaints with the DPP were laid in three cases. One had to be withdrawn for technical reasons. The remaining two are not likely to be heard until 1994.

Ways of dealing with breaches in a more effective manner are still being explored. An alternative, the training and registration of all operators and contractors and a demerit point system with suspension of registration for defined periods, has received a mixed reaction from industry.

10. Forest Practices Specialists

The general function of specialists is to provide advice to the Commission and the forest industry on what special values should be considered, how these special values can be given reasonable protection in production forestry and to provide assistance in implementing the advice adopted. As such the specialists are involved in three overlapping areas: operations, management (including inventory and site management) and research.

10.1 Operations Input

Forest Practices Code and Timber Harvesting Plan format

Advice was provided to the Chief Forest Practices Officer on amendments to the Forest Practices Code and Timber Harvesting Plan format and to Industry and Commission field staff as to the interpretation and implementation of the Forest Practices Code.

Training

- All specialists: Forest Practices Officer Training course, refresher courses and Technical Forester Trainee courses. (All courses for both industry and Forestry Commission staff).
- Flora: Course on forest botany of Eastern Tasmania (Forestry Commission and industry staff). Land Care course. Assessment of botany competency for trainee technical foresters (Forestry Commission and industry)
- Fauna: Field day for Forestry Commission and industry staff on planning for wildlife.
- Archaeology: One week course to train Forestry Commission and industry staff to undertake limited archaeological surveys.
- One seminar for senior staff on cultural resource management.
- Soils: Soils field days for Forestry Commission and industry staff at Fingal and Burnie.

Manuals

The Forest Practices Code sets out principles and basic approaches to forest practices. The resource manuals provide background and further details to aid Forest Practices Officers and area managers in decision making. Fauna, geomorphology, archaeology and botany manuals (Nature Conservation Region 7) were produced previously. A Forest Soil Conservation Manual was produced and printed during the year.

Surveys and inspections by specialists on State forest and private property.

Flora	Fauna	Geomorphology	Archaeology	Soils *
Florentine (x3)	Meadowbank	Loatta	Kent Battery (Clintock) x2	Deloraine (x7)
Boco	Gog Range	Mole Creek	Corinna Track	Scottsdale (x10)
Balfour	Togari	Picton Valley	Star of West mine	New Norfolk (x4)
Picton (x9)	Diddleum Plains	Smithton	Blue Tier	Geeveston (x3)
Dan's Hill	Scottsdale	Mount Cripps	Liffey	Burnie (x4)
Dublin Plains	Eagles nests	Florentine (x2)	Esperance	Devonport (x1)
Snug Tiers	(various locations)	Andromeda	Ormley	Triabunna (x3)
Snowy Tiers		Boco		
Meadowbank		Arm (x2)		
Liffey				
Tyne				
Diddleum				
Mt Young				
Tooms				
Various RAPs				
Wielangta				

An additional 14 coupes were assessed by archaeology trained Industry and Forestry Commission staff (C McDonald, E. Pettett, P. Bresnehan, B. Plumptre).

- * Mostly inspection for soil erodibility and landslide hazard rating for coupes considered for cable logging. Includes inspections on industrial freehold and other private land and inspections for other purposes.

10.2 Input of Specialists in Management Plans, Reviews, Reports, Inventories, Site Management etc.

Flora	Fauna	Archaeology	Geomorphology	Soils
FP Code	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
THP format	"	"	"	"
Western Tiers MP	"	"	"	"
MDC planning in FC Districts	"	"	"	"
IFM plantation development	"	"	"	"
Tasman-Forestier MP	"	"	"	"
Taskforce on quality standards	"	"	"	"
Broad River MP				SAG
Swamp Forest and Dan Hill RAP	Snowy Range Rd	Flinders Island MP	Croesus karst area draft MP	
	Black Bluff NE	Toolumbunner MP	Khubla Khan Cave MP	
WG for Forest Conservation	Guidelines for apiculture management	Mt Victoria aboriginal rock shelter MP		
Rare & threatened species DC		Loufagana MP		
Phytophthora hygiene manual (P&WL)		Black Bluff Range MP	Teepookana Reserve DMP	

MP	=	Management Plan	DMP	=	Draft Management Plan
SAG	=	Soil Advisory Group	RAP	=	Representative area for protection
WG	=	Working Group	NEP	=	National Estate Property
WHA	=	World Heritage Area	RAC	=	Resource Assessment Commission
AC	=	Advisory Committee	PWL	=	Parks and Wildlife
MDC	=	Management Decision Classification (Forestry Commission Districts)			

10.3 Research

The research work of the specialists is supervised by the Division of Silvicultural Research and Development. Details are listed in its Annual Report. The main purpose of the research is to test the effectiveness of the code provisions in integrating special values in production forestry, propose amendments if required and to build up a data base and predictive models allowing improved and more cost effective decision making and protection of special values in production forestry.

The following forest practices related research projects are in progress or have been completed (generally supervised by FPU specialists with the exception of those marked*).

Project	Personnel	Source of Funding
<i>Flora</i>		
Swamp Forest RAP Study	R. Mesibov	Internal and DPWH
Effect of steep country harvesting on vegetation	Ross Peacock	Commonwealth DPIE
Dan's Hill Reserve management	Joanne Lynch	DCF
Survey of Tasmanian Swamp Forest Communities (Blackwood swamps)	John Panell	Commonwealth DPIE & FC
Vegetation of Wielangta Unit 2	Fiona Coates	DCF
Predictive modelling (eventually providing computer maps of known and predicted distribution of plant species of high conservation significance)	Simon Orr	TFRC
* Phytophthora impact on rare and endangered species.	Phil Barker	ANP&WS
Vegetation of wildlife habitat strip (Pioneer and Tarraleah)	Fred Duncan, Mick Brown	FC
Non vascular vegetation of Tarraleah wildlife habitat strip	Jean Harman Ginteras Kantvilas	Internal

Project	Personnel	Source of Funding
<i>Fauna</i>		
Wildlife Habitat Strips (testing the value of retaining 100m wide strips for fauna conservation in production forests)	Raymond Brereton Rob Taylor	TFRC, FC
Birds in regeneration forests (recording bird populations before and after logging)	Rob Taylor Triabunna District	DPWH FC
Silvicultural systems and birds	Rob Taylor	DPIE FC
Silvicultural systems and mammals	Anne Davies	DPIE
* Impact of logging operations on fish populations and habitat	Dr P Davies <i>et al</i>	External
Rare velvet worms in Togari block	K Bonham	FC
Rare snails in Togari block	B Mesibov	FC
Nesting habitat of grey goshawk	R Brereton	FC
<i>Geomorphology</i>		
Tasmanian karst atlas (to provide and improve the data base on the distribution, character and significance of karst and karst land forms)	Kevin Kiernan Roland Eberhard	TFRC
Effect of logging on limestone caves (to examine the impact of forest management practices on karst caves).	Rolan Eberhard Kevin Kiernan	ANP&WS

Project	Personnel	Source of Funding
Landslide research (to determine the incidence of landslides in disturbed and undisturbed forest areas as an aid to predictive modelling)	Alloy Perera	DPIE
Junee River Karst Inventory (to document the karst phenomena of the Junee area and report on their management requirements)	Rolan Eberhard	FC (DCF)
Geeveston Landform inventory (to document sites of significance from an earth science conservation or geomorphic hazard perspective)	Chris Sharples	FC (DCF)
<i>Hydrology</i>		
* Impact of forest operations on water and site values as compared to agricultural activities	Tom Lynch	APPM - FC TFRC with CSIRO input and supervision
<i>Soils</i>		
* Soil mapping on State forests	Reece Hill John Grant Mike Laffan	NSCP IFMP
<i>Archaeology</i>		
Archaeological physical history of the Tasmanian timber industry project (Southern Forests completed)	Paris Kostoglou	TFRC
North Central aboriginal archaeological survey	Garry Dunett	NEAGP
Burnt area survey (for aboriginal sites, providing good ground visibility and may be used in refining predictive statements)	Ian Thomas	DCF FPU
Predictive modelling for sandstone shelters	A McConnell M Brown	TFRC CSIRO

DPIE	=	Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry & Energy
DPWH	=	Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage
IFC	=	Inland Fisheries Commission
NEGP	=	National Estate Grants Programme
NSCP	=	National Soil Conservation Programme
TFRC	=	Tasmanian Forest Research Council
IFMP	=	Intensive Forest Management Programme
ANP&WS	=	Australian Parks and Wildlife Service
DCF	=	District Conservation Fund
FC	=	Forestry Commission

11. Publications

Forest Practices Code - January 1993.

A Short History of the Timber Industry in the Wielangta State Forest

Fauna Conservation in Production Forests in Tasmania

Forest Soil Conservation Manual

Research:

See Annual Report, Division of Silvicultural Research and Development.

12. Expenditure and Source of Funds

	\$	%	\$	%
	1992-93		1991-92	
Forestry Commission Contribution				
Forest Practices Unit	396000	64	403000	
Forest Practices Officer (Inspector)	60000	10	45000	
Annual Monitoring of 15% of operations	16000	3	14000	
Total	472000	77	462000	81

Woodchip Export Industry Contribution

(contribution to specialist
research via Tasmanian
Forest Research Council)

	142000	23	105000	19
Total	614000	100	567000	100

Note for 1992-93 expenditure:

Does not include funding of research by other organisations.

Forest and Forest Industry Council (from Commonwealth Helsham grants) also funded the following during the year:

Forest Practices Officer Country Sawmillers Federation (full year)	55 000
Forest Practices Officer private property Sth (6 mths approx.)	27 000
Forest Practices Officer private property Nth (6 mths approx.)	25 000
Most of salary and costs of Soil Scientist (full year)	60 000

Total **\$ 167 000**