

TASMANIA FORESTRY HUB UPDATE

HUB NEWS

The past six months have seen the Hub complete two key projects and begin the development of key new initiatives for 2024. The Steering Committee, with a new Chair and General Manager, participated in a Strategic Planning day in August and will this year be consulting and collaborating with our stakeholders from across industry.

At the November Steering Committee Meeting, Dr Dean Williams, from UTAS, provided an update on [AFWI](#) and how it will provide knowledge and support to the Australian forest industry. Dr Anna Carew, from RMCG, outlined the Career Mapping Project and presented the key outcomes from the now released report.

We have an interesting and diverse work program for this year and will be focused on working with our stakeholders to support the Hub vision of growing a sustainable and innovative forest industry.



SILVICULTURAL REPORT

A Project Summary Report on silvicultural interventions to improve short term wood production from Australian forests complements the previously released silvicultural reports.

This summary highlights actions that the whole of industry can take to provide advocacy support to generate policy and funding outcomes through Government incentives and positions that:

- Address shortfalls in the ERF framework for participation of hardwood plantations and regrowth native forests.
- Bridge the cost gap for interventions which deliver a shift to long rotation planation and additional forest health outcomes.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



CAREER MAPPING PROJECT REPORT

We are excited to release this report. This project used both data and industry intelligence to map high priority jobs and the skills and knowledge required to do these jobs.

The 12 high priority roles were also those that were identified as being hard to fill and experiencing future growth.

Industry participants from across a wide range of sectors completed a survey, with some also undertaking an interview to ensure the report was representative of their perspectives.

When asked about how roles and work in the sector may change over the next five to ten years, six themes were identified as key drivers of change:

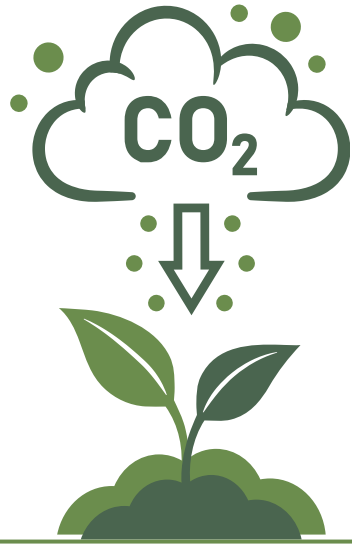
- Technologies will change how we grow, assess and manage trees and forests.
- Technologies will change how we harvest and haul.
- Artificial intelligence and big data will change how we work and job roles.
- We need to develop staff, and adapt for future uses of forest biomass.
- Possible changes in native forest harvesting and manual tree felling may impact the workforce.
- Diversification of revenue sources from forests requires new skills (e.g. carbon and emissions management, carbon accounting, natural capital accounting, natural values, biodiversity).

Workforce continues to be a key priority for the Tasmania Forestry Hub, and future work will respond to recommendations from this and previous reports and those from the yet to be released [Forest Industry Training Program Scoping Study](#) from the Australian Government.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



PROJECTS FOR 2024



A Hub priority project for this year is focused on carbon and forestry and improving the understanding of where we are now and what the priorities are for future work in Tasmania.

This will include an assessment of the carbon activities and projects being undertaken by various stakeholders within Tasmania and interstate and bring forest industry stakeholders together at a facilitated workshop.

A second key priority project is a case study of commercial buildings using wood. Previous reports have highlighted that there is a demand for wood in building and opportunities for Tasmania to meet this demand.

By investigating the use and supply of timber in the built environment through both research and in a case study, the Hub can identify future policy, research, supply chain and infrastructure opportunities to support increased use of Tasmanian grown and manufactured timber products.



These projects are in their planning stages and we would welcome engagement and input from forest industry stakeholders.

Contact Tracey.Taylor@tffpn.com.au or 0499 623 971

The Hub Steering Committee is comprised of the following industry representatives: Steve Whiteley (Chair); Shawn Britton (Deputy Chair); Darren Davis (Treasurer); Owen Hoffmann; Dr Elizabeth Pietrzykowski; Scott Freeman and Andrew Morgan.