

FACT SHEET

Forest (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2023

The *Forest (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2023* amends the *Forest Practices Act 1985* (the Act) and the *Private Forest Act 1994* to improve governance and administrative effectiveness and provide further clarification on the intent of the Act.

The Bill:

- Provides for red tape reduction and improves the efficiency of the private timber reserve application process in the *Forest Practices Act 1985* by:
 - removing the requirement to go to Executive Council to have a private timber reserve declared;
 - removing the compensation provisions for refused private timber reserve applications; and
 - providing for a more streamlined application process for minor boundary extensions to private timber reserves.
- Provides for a fairer and more equitable private forests service levy in the *Private Forests Act 1994* by:
 - removing the requirement to pay the levy on first rotation plantings on areas of previously cleared land; and
 - giving the Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) Board the option of waiving the levy under special circumstances.
- Modernises and clarifies other aspects of the legislation relating to private forests and PFT by:
 - clarifying and expanding the definition of forestry rights defined in the *Forest Practices Act 1985*;
 - removing the outdated reference to a Stakeholder Minister in the *Private Forests Act 1994*;
 - modernising the process for passing PFT Board resolutions without meetings in the *Private Forests Act 1994*;
 - replacing outdated references to repealed legislation;
 - removing the requirement to prepare quarterly reports to the Minister, Annual Reports will remain; and
 - modernising and updating PFT legislated functions. – Section 6(1) of the *Private Forests Act 1994* describes PFT's 13 functions. These functions were drafted when the Act was first introduced in 1994 and some are now obsolete and/or outdated and will be updated by the Bill.