

# FACT SHEET

## *Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2024*

The Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2024 amends the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the *Private Forests Act 1994* to improve governance and administrative effectiveness.

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 forest 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  - removing the outdated reference to a Stakeholder Minister in the *Private Forests Act 1994*;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  - replacing outdated references to repealed legislation;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 These functions were drafted when the Act was first introduced in 1994 and some are now obsolete and/or outdated and will be updated by the Bill.