

## Comprehensive survey provides accurate figures on forestry, jobs and spending in Tasmania

A new report to be released tomorrow (Friday 27 June 2008) by the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry will provide the Tasmanian community with more accurate information about the forest industry than was previously available.

The report, *Forestry, jobs and spending: forest industry employment and expenditure in Tasmania, 2005-06*, provides a detailed picture of the Tasmanian forest industry, including the number and types of businesses in the industry, and the employment and spending generated by the industry.

Author Dr Jacki Schirmer today said that the report provides a comprehensive understanding of where forestry jobs are located in Tasmania and the types of employment generated by the industry.

“Figures given in the report are based on a comprehensive survey of the industry, which for the first time included the many small contracting businesses that undertake a considerable amount of work in forestry in Tasmania,” said Dr Schirmer.

**Dr Schirmer will present these findings at a public seminar tomorrow, Friday 27 June, at 12:30pm.**

The report is the result of a survey of Tasmanian forestry businesses which will be repeated later this year and again in 2010.

### Key findings of the report include that:

- Total expenditure by the Tasmanian forest industry in 2005-06 was between \$1.42-1.6 billion.
- Expenditure and employment by the forest industry is highest in the NRM North region, with 41% of employment and expenditure by the forest industry occurring in this region.
- The Tasmanian forestry industry in 2006 involved more than 500 businesses, including over 50 forest growers and processing businesses, and over 400 businesses involved in contracting work for the industry.
- 6,300 people were employed in the Tasmanian forest industry in 2005-06. This equated to 5,870 full-time equivalent employees when part-time and casual employment was taken into account. This represented 3% of Tasmania’s employed labour force in August 2006.

- The Tasmanian local government areas with the highest proportion of their workforce employed in forestry are Derwent Valley (32% of the labour force works in forestry), Dorset (23%), Kentish (19%), Central Highlands (13%), Huon Valley (9%), Georgetown (9%), Glamorgan-Spring Bay (8.5%), and Circular Head (7.5%). In all other local government areas, less than 6% of employment is directly dependent on the forest industry.
- Hobart and Launceston are the local government areas with the highest number of forestry workers, with over 760 forest industry workers working in Hobart and 1,150 in Launceston. Because of the large workforce in these cities, forest industry workers make up 1% of the Hobart workforce and 3% of the Launceston workforce.
- In general, the forest industry has a higher proportion of full-time employment than the Tasmanian workforce as a whole, and a lower proportion of part-time and casual employment.
- The forest industry has a much higher proportion of male workers and lower proportion of female workers than the Tasmanian average. In August 2006, 88% of forest industry workers were male and 12% were female
- Forest industry workers are younger than the average for the Tasmanian workforce

### **Public seminar Friday 27 June**

Dr Schirmer will present these findings at 12:30pm Friday 27 June at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania Sandy Bay Campus. All members of the public are invited. Dr Schirmer will be available to speak with the media following the seminar, at 1:30pm.

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Pictures available upon request.