

Policy No. 36: Private Timber Reserves

POLICY MANUAL

Policy No. 36**Private Timber Reserves****Purpose**

The purpose of this Policy is to establish the assessment framework for referrals of Private Timber Reserve applications.

Department

Development and Regulatory Services

Author

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Council Meeting Date

9 September 2025

Minute Number

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Next Review Date

September 2029

POLICY

1. Definitions

Private Timber Reserve

Means a private timber reserve established under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

Forest Practices Authority

Means the body corporate that oversees the administration of private timber reserves by Private Forests Tasmania.

Planning Scheme

Means the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Meander Valley.

2. Objective

To establish a process for determining if the Council objects to an application for a Private Timber Reserve referred to it by the Forest Practices Authority.

3. Scope

This Policy is to apply to the Council and its employees in assessing and considering applications for Private Timber Reserves under the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

4. Policy

It is policy that the Delegated Assessment Group will undertake a preliminary assessment of the application for a Private Timber Reserve referred to Council by the Forest Practices Authority.

In undertaking the assessment, the Delegated Assessment Group will consider:

- the location of the proposal relative to:
 - Karst High Sensitivity areas;
 - water catchment areas;
 - sensitive agricultural activities; and/or
 - priority and threatened species habitat.
- the relevant provisions of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Meander Valley.
- the following provisions of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* whereby an application for a declaration of land as a private timber reserve shall be refused if the Authority is satisfied that:
 - section 8(2)b, ie. the land is not suitable for declaration as a private timber reserve; or
 - section 8(2)d, ie. by virtue of the operation of any Act, the owner of the land is prohibited from establishing forests, or growing or harvesting timber, on the land; or
 - section 8(2)e, ie. it would not be in the public interest to grant the application.
- Community submissions received.
- The Delegated Assessment Group will determine if an objection against the proposal should be lodged.
- If it is determined that an objection should be lodged, the Delegated Assessment Group will:
 1. lodge an objection with the Forest Practices Authority if a formal decision of Council cannot be made within the statutory notification period.
 2. prepare a report for formal consideration by Council. Council will decide if it will proceed with the objection.

5. Legislation and Related Standards

The Forest Practices Act 1985

Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Meander Valley

6. Responsibility

Responsibility for the operation of this Policy rests with the Director Development and Regulatory Services.