

Pine forests and timber in Bombala

Pine plantations and timber production

The pine forests around Bombala are popular destinations for camping, mountain biking, four wheel driving, trail biking, fossicking and more, but they also support a valuable industry that produces sustainable timber for Australian homes and businesses and thousands of regional jobs.

The forest and wood products industries employ more than 73,000 Australians, including 22,000 people in NSW. In Bombala, almost 200 people are directly employed in the forestry sector.

Forestry Corporation of NSW is Australia's largest grower of plantation pine, producing enough timber to construct a quarter of all the houses built in Australia each year. Of the 220,000 hectares of plantation managed by Forestry Corporation, 33,000 hectares of radiata pine plantations are in the Bombala area.

Timber is one of the most renewable resources available and pine plantations are essentially a slow-growing agricultural crop, needing roughly 35 years to mature between planting and final harvest.



Each year, plantations around Bombala produce more than 500,000 logs, producing local jobs in activities like harvesting.



Roughly 1,200 hectares of pine plantations are replanted in the Bombala area each winter. Seedlings are planted by hand and an experienced planter can get about 2,000 seedlings into the ground in one day.

Growing a pine plantation

Every year, Forestry Corporation selects seeds from specialist tree breeders and sows them in its custom-built nursery at Tumut, where they are nurtured for around seven months. Each winter, the nursery dispatches millions of seedlings to be planted in harvested pine plantations across NSW. Roughly 1,200 hectares of pine plantations are replanted in the Bombala area each winter.

Pine seedlings are planted during winter because they are dormant during the cooler months, which means they can be transported more easily and planted in the ground in time for their spring growth period.

During the life of a pine plantation, smaller and weaker trees are removed or 'thinned' to allow the remaining trees more space, light and water to grow.

The smaller, younger trees usually produce pulpwood, which is processed to make items such as paper products and particleboard. As the trees mature, each tree can produce a range of different products. For example, the strong solid bottom half of the trunk is usually ideal for house frames and furniture while the narrower sections towards the top are generally used to create products like particleboard and paper products.

The remaining trees are harvested after 30–35 years and these trees will mainly produce timber used for house construction and furniture. The typical radiata pine tree in Bombala may grow up to 33 metres tall and half a metre across at chest height when harvested at about age 35.

The pine industry in Bombala

Pine plantations were first established around Bombala in 1927 to meet Australia’s growing demand for softwood timbers and these plantations continue to supply wood and wood products today.

There are three major components of the softwood timber industry and Bombala is fortunate in that all three of these take place right here in the local area. The industry involves:

1. Growing and management

Forestry Corporation manages around 33,000 hectares of plantation in Bombala. Management involves planting, growing, maintaining, and protecting plantations over a 35 year rotation before the trees are harvested and the cycle begins again.

2. Harvesting and haulage

The harvesting and haulage of logs is the critical step that converts standing trees into log products that are delivered to the mill for further processing.

3. Processing of products

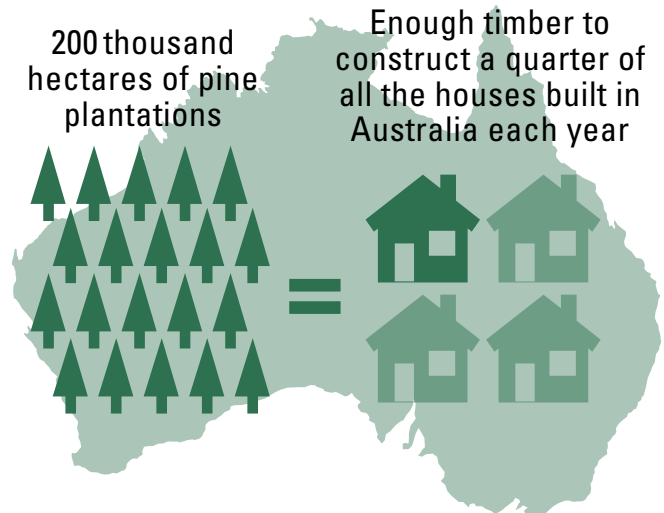
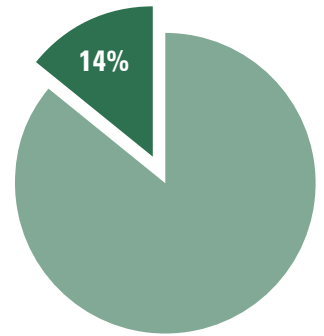
At the mill, logs are processed and then distributed to the different markets according to the particular product. In Bombala the Donghwa mill takes approximately 250,000 tonnes of sawlogs a year. Other sawlogs are sent to Canberra for processing into tile battens, and pulpwood is transported to Tumut for manufacturing into packing material. Excess pulpwood may also be exported

Each year, over 500,000 tonnes of logs are produced from local plantations and this range of activities to manage, harvest and process them involves close to 200 jobs, which means employment for a large portion of the families in the local area. In addition, many local jobs are provided through the support industries associated with the timber industry.

To find out more, visit www.forestrycorporation.com.au

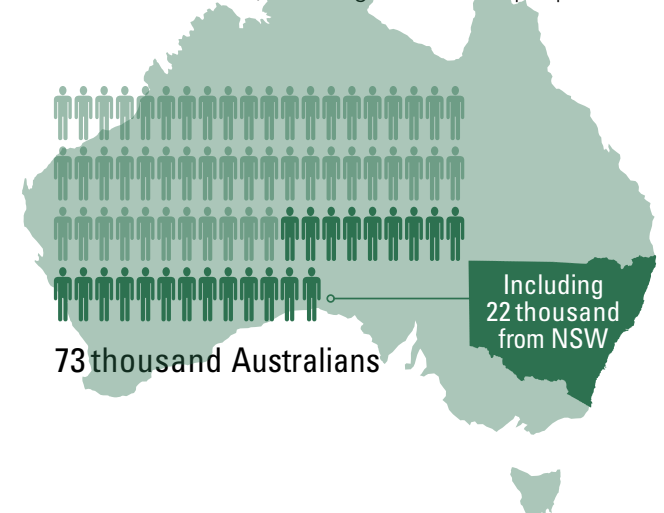
Meeting Australia’s timber needs

Forestry Corporation produces 14 per cent of all timber produced in Australia each year and is Australia’s largest grower of plantation pine.



Sustainable timber sustains Australian jobs

The forest and wood products industries employ more than 73 thousand Australians, including 22 thousand people in NSW.



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