

Forest practices plan fee

What is the application fee for forest practices plans?

All applicants for a forest practices plan must pay a fee when the application is submitted to the Forest Practices Authority (usually via a Forest Practices Officer) with the signature(s) of the applicant(s) and landowner(s). The fee is payable whether the plan is subsequently certified or not.

The current fee structure has been designed to:

- relate the fee to forest practices plan activity ie. it is not a flat fee per year;
- apply equitably to all forest practices plan applicants;
- link the fee paid to the area and complexity of the forest practices plan; and
- be relatively simple to calculate.

Why do I need to pay the application fee?

The application fee is a legal requirement under s.18 of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. The forest practices system, as described in Schedule 7 of the Act, is designed to be '*as far as possible self-funding*'. The forest practices plan fee is the FPA's main source of 'self-funding' and is used to deliver services to support Forest Practices Officers and planners. These services include:

- training Forest Practices Officers and others in the skills necessary to prepare plans;
- developing and maintaining the planning tools used by planners in developing forest practices plans;
- providing advice and services during forest practices plan preparation; and
- conducting research and monitoring to inform the development of the forest practices system.

How much is the application fee?

Schedule 1 of the *Forest Practices Regulations 2017* prescribes the application fee for forest practices plans, with simpler plans requiring a lower fee than more complex plans. This structure is intended to reflect the higher costs of assessment and advice from the FPA for more intensive forms of forest management e.g. clearfall and conversion of native forest.

The cost of the forest practices plan application fee can be estimated prior to being submitted to the FPA by checking the Forest Practices Plan Fee Estimator, available on the FPA's website. Landowners and forest practices plan applicants are encouraged to request information about the fee from the Forest Practices Officer whom they have contracted to prepare the forest practices plan, as the process for estimating the fee can be complex.

How do I pay the application fee?

The FPA invoices the applicant for each forest practices plan and payment must be made within 30 days. There is no refund for forest practices plans that are subsequently refused certification.

What other fees are associated with submitting a forest practices plan?

Applicants may also be invoiced by Private Forests Tasmania for a Private Forest Service Levy of \$15.00 per hectare of private land. For more information on this levy, please contact Private Forests Tasmania on 03 6777 2720. This levy is separate from the forest practices plan application fee and is not available to the FPA. ***For more information on the process of applying for a forest practices plan please refer to the document available on the FPA's website: Forest practices plans: information for landholders and applicants.***