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About this report

ABARES has prepared this report under the auspices of the National Plantation Inventory (NPI). Under the NPI, ABARES has surveyed public and private plantation growers and managers to collect data on commercial plantations, established primarily for wood production, in Australia since 1993.

Australian plantation statistics is published every year. It supports strategic forest industry planning and decision-making by presenting information on total plantation area, new plantings and ownership. These updates complement two other NPI information products published by ABARES—the five-yearly comprehensive spatial stocktake of Australia’s commercial plantation estate report and the five-yearly comprehensive log supply forecast report. NPI data are subsequently reported in other national publications, including the bi-annual ABARES Australian forest and wood products statistics, the five-yearly Australia’s State of the Forests Report and the annual Australian Bureau of Statistics Year Book Australia.

In this report, plantation areas are presented by NPI region (Map 1) for softwood and hardwood plantation types, species and jurisdiction, based on data collected from private growers and grower representatives and public state and territory agencies. The survey that underpins this report collects information on the total plantation estate and newly established plantations on land not previously used for plantations. Plantations are added if they have not been previously recorded, revised if earlier data were in error and removed if the land has been converted to another use such as agriculture.

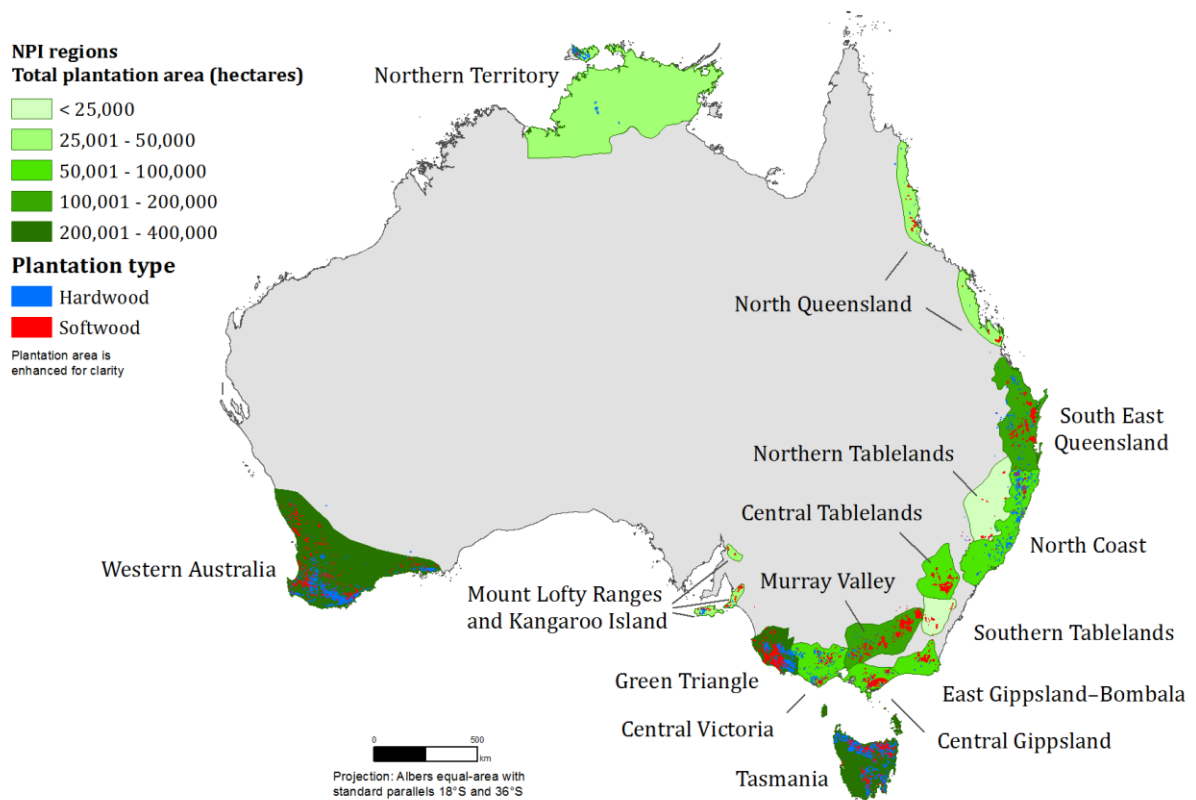
A substantial area of plantations is harvested each year and some areas are not replanted. Replanting might not take place for some time after harvesting; unless advised of a change in land use, the NPI records such fallow land as plantation. Although all care is taken to reconcile data, discrepancies may occur in area reported from year to year.

Grower information submitted to the NPI is confidential. For reporting purposes, data from individual growers and managers are aggregated within NPI regions or states and territories and are not provided individually to other parties without the consent of the data owner.

The data presented in this report do not capture all small-scale and farm forestry plantings but do include farm forestry plantings reported in Australian plantation statistics 2011 (Gavran & Parsons 2011).

In this report, 2017–18 data are compared with data from the 2007–08, 2012–13 and 2016–17 plantation reports. The totals in some tables may not tally exactly due to rounding. The term ‘ownership’ refers to tree ownership, unless otherwise stated.

Map 1 National Plantation Inventory regions (regional hubs)



Source: ABARES

Contents

About this report.....	iii
Summary	vii
Characteristics of the commercial plantation estate	1
Total plantation estate.....	1
State and territory highlights	4
New plantations	4
Replanted plantations.....	6
Plantation removal.....	8
Plantation ownership.....	8
Major plantation species.....	9
Plantations managed for sawlogs and pulplogs.....	13
Glossary	14
References	15

Tables

Table 1 Australia's plantation estate, selected years	2
Table 2 Plantation area, by state/territory, selected years	2
Table 3 Plantation area, by National Plantation Inventory region, selected years.....	3
Table 4 Plantation area, by state/territory and type, 2017–18	4
Table 5 New plantation area, by state/territory and type, selected years.....	5
Table 6 Replanted plantation area, by state/territory and type, 2017–18	7
Table 7 Plantation area, by state/territory and ownership, 2017–18	9
Table 8 Plantation ownership, selected years	9
Table 9 Major hardwood species, by National Plantation Inventory region, 2017–18.....	11
Table 10 Major softwood species, by National Plantation Inventory region, 2017–18	12

Figures

Figure 1 Total plantation area, by type, 1997–98 to 2017–18.....	1
Figure 2 New plantations, by type, 1997–98 to 2017–18.....	6
Figure 3 Area of plantations converted to another land use, by type, 2007–08 to 2017–18.....	8
Figure 4 Proportion of plantations managed for sawlogs and pulplogs, 2017–18	13

Maps

Map 1 National Plantation Inventory regions (regional hubs).....	iv
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Summary

In 2017–18 Australia's total commercial plantation area was 1,942,700 hectares, a decrease of 12,400 hectares (0.6 per cent) from 2016–17. These plantations are located within the 15 NPI regions that also contain the vast majority of regional processing facilities (regional hubs).

The total area of softwood plantations increased marginally in 2017–18 to 1,037,000 hectares, and accounted for more than 53 per cent of total commercial plantation area. The total area of hardwood plantations was 896,000 hectares, a decrease of 12,500 hectares (1.4 per cent) from 2016–17, and accounted for 46 per cent of total commercial plantation area.

In 2017–18 Victoria continued to have the largest total area of commercial plantations of Australia's states and territories (420,600 hectares), followed by New South Wales (393,200 hectares) and Western Australia (361,700 hectares).

A total of 3,150 hectares of new plantations were established in 2017–18, comprising 1,700 hectares of softwood plantations and 1,450 hectares of hardwood plantations. Around 51 per cent of the new plantations established in 2017–18 were privately owned and 49 per cent were publicly owned.

In 2017–18 a total of 62,600 hectares of plantations were replanted, comprising 26,900 hectares of replanted or coppiced hardwood plantations (43 per cent) and 35,700 hectares of replanted softwood plantations (57 per cent).

A total of 15,550 hectares of Australia's plantation estate was converted to another land use in 2017–18, comprising 13,950 hectares of hardwood plantations (90 per cent) and 1,600 hectares of softwood plantations (10 per cent). The majority of converted plantations were in Western Australia (59 per cent) and South Australia (25 per cent).

In 2017–18 a total of 1,471,700 hectares of plantations were privately owned, representing 75.8 per cent of the total plantation estate. Public plantations accounted for 20.6 per cent (400,000 hectares) and jointly owned (joint partnerships between state forest agencies and leasehold and freehold land owners) plantations represented 3.7 per cent (71,000 hectares) of the total plantation estate.

The ownership structure of plantations remained relatively unchanged between 2016–17 and 2017–18. In 2017–18 institutional investors owned 49 per cent of the total plantation area, governments owned 21 per cent, farm foresters and other private growers owned 21 per cent, managed investment schemes owned 5 per cent, and timber industry companies owned 4 per cent.

In 2017–18 the hardwood plantation estate was dominated by Tasmanian blue gum (51.1 per cent) and shining gum (26.1 per cent), both of which are managed primarily for pulplog production. The softwood plantation estate was dominated by radiata pine (74.5 per cent) and southern pines (15.1 per cent), both of which are managed for sawlog production.

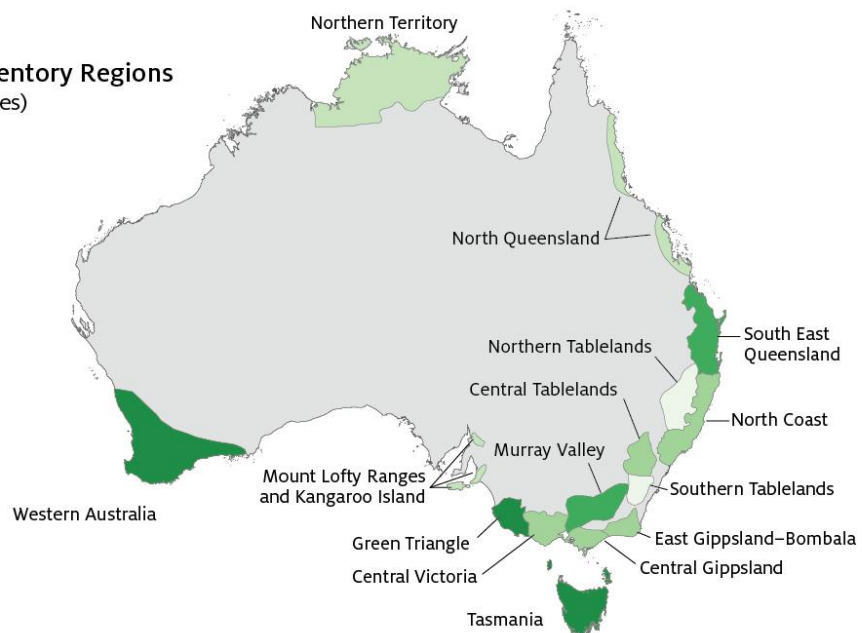
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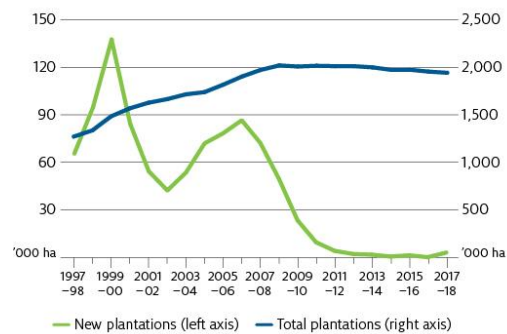
National Plantation Inventory Regions

Total plantation area (hectares)

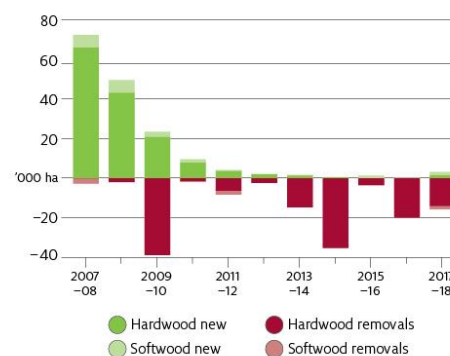
- <25,000
- 25,001–50,000
- 50,001–100,000
- 100,001–200,000
- 200,001–400,000



Total and new plantation area, 1997–98 to 2017–18



New plantations and removals, 2007–08 to 2017–18



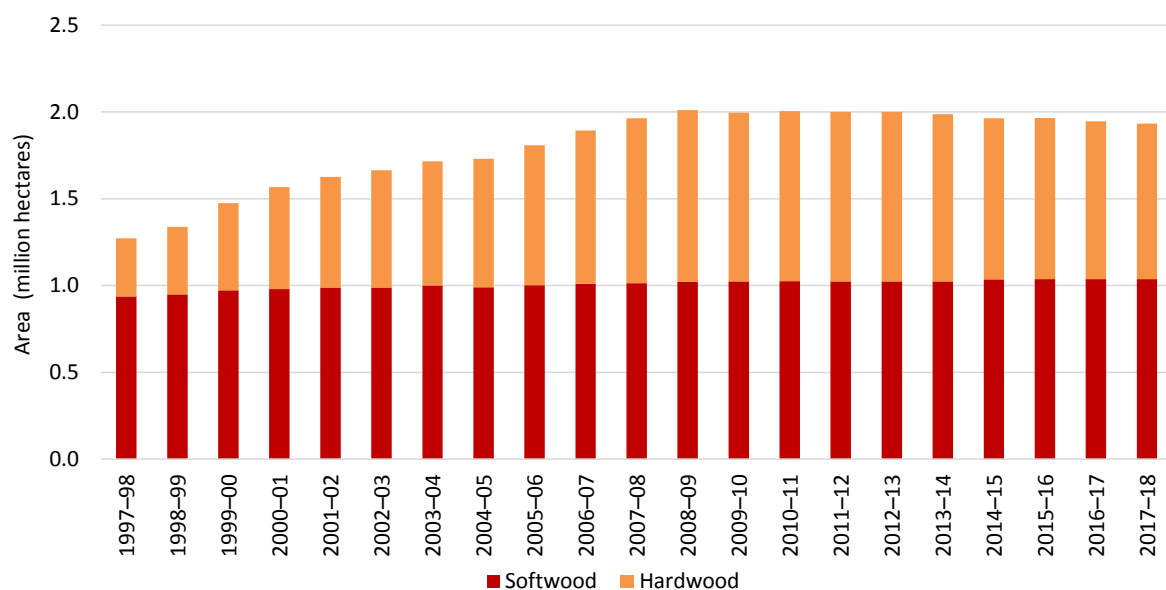
Note: Total plantation area includes other plantations.
Source: ABARES

Characteristics of the commercial plantation estate

Total plantation estate

In 2017–18 Australia's total commercial plantation area was 1,942,700 hectares, as reported by plantation growers and managers (Figure 1). Total plantation area decreased by 12,400 hectares (0.6 per cent) from 1,955,100 hectares in 2016–17. These plantations are located within the 15 NPI regions that also contain the vast majority of regional processing facilities (regional hubs).

Figure 1 Total plantation area, by type, 1997–98 to 2017–18



Note: Data for 1997–98 to 2004–05 are for calendar years representing 1997 to 2005; data for 2005–06 to 2017–18 are for financial years. 'Other' category plantations are not included.

Source: ABARES

In 2017–18 the total area of softwood plantations was 1,037,000 hectares, an increase of 100 hectares from 2016–17, and accounted for more than 53 per cent of total commercial plantation area (Table 1). The total area of hardwood plantations was 896,000 hectares, a decrease of 12,500 hectares (1.4 per cent) from 2016–17, and accounted for 46 per cent of total commercial plantation area. The 'other' category (mixed plantations and unknown species) remained unchanged at 9,700 hectares, representing less than 1 per cent of total commercial plantation area.

Between 2016–17 and 2017–18, the total commercial plantation area decreased in all states and territories except Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2). The largest decrease in total commercial plantation area occurred in Western Australia (6,200 hectares), followed by South Australia (3,700 hectares), Victoria (1,200 hectares) and New South Wales (1,100 hectares). Table 3 provides a further breakdown of plantation area by NPI region.

Table 1 Australia's plantation estate, selected years

Overview of total plantation area	2007–08 ('000 ha)	2012–13 ('000 ha)	2016–17 ('000 ha)	2017–18 ('000 ha)	Change between 2016–17 and 2017–18 (%)
Hardwood	949.5	976.4	908.5	896.0	-1.4
Softwood	1,013.8	1,023.8	1,036.9	1,037.0	0.0
Other ^a	9.3	12.3	9.7	9.7	0.0
Total	1,972.5	2,012.5	1,955.1	1,942.7	-0.6

^a Other includes mixed hardwood and softwood species and plantations for which species were not reported.

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

Table 2 Plantation area, by state/territory, selected years

State/Territory	2007–08 ('000 ha)	2012–13 ('000 ha)	2016–17 ('000 ha)	2017–18 ('000 ha)	Change between 2016–17 and 2017–18 (%)
New South Wales	370.1	392.2	394.4	393.2	-0.3
Victoria	422.1	433.5	421.7	420.6	-0.3
Queensland	250.6	233.4	230.4	230.5	0.0
South Australia	181.8	188.5	175.9	172.2	-2.1
Western Australia	416.5	402.9	367.9	361.7	-1.7
Tasmania	294.1	310.7	309.9	309.8	0.0
Northern Territory	29.5	43.5	47.5	47.4	-0.2
Australian Capital Territory	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.4	0.0

Source: ABARES

The highest reported hardwood plantation area was 990,900 hectares in 2008–09 and represented 49 per cent of the total plantation estate. Between 2008–09 and 2017–18, Australia's hardwood plantation area decreased by 10 per cent (95,000 hectares) to 896,000 hectares. The majority of this decrease occurred in Western Australia (58,300 hectares) and Queensland (28,800 hectares). The Northern Territory was a major exception, as its hardwood plantation area increased by 54 per cent (15,900 hectares) over this period. Australia's decreasing hardwood plantation area is due to plantation growers and managers returning unproductive plantation land to agriculture or to lessors on the expiration of hardwood plantation lease agreements.

Table 3 Plantation area, by National Plantation Inventory region, selected years

Plantation area by NPI region a	2007–08	2012–13	2016–17	2017–18	Change between 2016–17 and 2017–18
	('000 ha)	('000 ha)	('000 ha)	('000 ha)	(%)
Western Australia	416.5	402.9	367.9	361.7	-1.7
Northern Territory	29.5	43.5	47.5	47.4	-0.2
Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island (South Australia)	37.2	34.1	33.4	33.4	0.0
Green Triangle (South Australia/Victoria)	330.8	348.1	333.9	329.0	-1.5
North Queensland	45.0	38.4	36.6	36.6	0.0
South East Queensland	203.1	194.4	191.7	191.7	0.0
Northern Tablelands (New South Wales)	16.4	24.4	17.5	17.5	0.0
North Coast (New South Wales)	93.3	101.0	94.5	94.5	0.0
Central Tablelands (New South Wales)	81.3	82.4	87.7	87.7	0.0
Southern Tablelands (New South Wales)	22.0	22.1	22.1	22.1	0.0
Murray Valley (New South Wales/Victoria)	194.4	195.3	197.0	197.0	0.0
Central Victoria	63.0	68.8	66.9	66.9	0.0
Central Gippsland (Victoria)	98.7	95.0	91.2	91.2	0.0
East Gippsland–Bombala (Victoria/New South Wales)	47.2	51.5	57.4	56.3	-2.0
Tasmania	294.1	310.7	309.9	309.8	0.0

a NPI region locations are shown in Map 1.

Source: ABARES

State and territory highlights

In 2017–18 Victoria continued to have the largest total area of commercial plantations of Australia's states and territories (420,600 hectares), followed by New South Wales (393,200 hectares) and Western Australia (361,700 hectares) (Table 4).

Table 4 Plantation area, by state/territory and type, 2017–18

State/Territory	Hardwood (‘000 ha)	Softwood (‘000 ha)	Other (‘000 ha)	Total (‘000 ha)
New South Wales	87.1	306.0	0.1	393.2
Victoria	196.3	223.4	0.8	420.6
Queensland	34.8	195.6	0.1	230.5
South Australia	44.8	127.2	0.2	172.2
Western Australia	253.5	99.7	8.5	361.7
Tasmania	233.9	75.8	0.0	309.8
Northern Territory	45.5	1.9	0.0	47.4
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	7.4	0.0	7.4
Total	896.0	1,037.0	9.7	1,942.7

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

Western Australia accounted for the largest proportion of Australia's hardwood plantations (28 per cent), followed by Tasmania (26 per cent) and Victoria (22 per cent). The majority of softwood plantations are located in New South Wales (30 per cent), Victoria (22 per cent) and Queensland (19 per cent).

New plantations

In 2017–18 a total of 3,150 hectares of new plantations were established, comprising 1,700 hectares of softwood plantations and 1,450 hectares of hardwood plantations (Table 5). Around 51 per cent of the new plantations established in 2017–18 were privately owned and 49 per cent were publicly owned. New plantations are those established on land not previously used for plantation forestry.

The total area of new plantations established each year has changed significantly over the last two decades (Figure 2). Annual new plantation establishment has declined since 2006–07, decreasing from 86,600 hectares, and has remained below 5,000 hectares since 2011–12.

Plantation growers and managers also provided estimates of future plantation establishment under ideal conditions over the next three years. A total of 20,400 hectares of hardwood plantations and 18,900 hectares of softwood plantations was estimated to be established over the next three years.

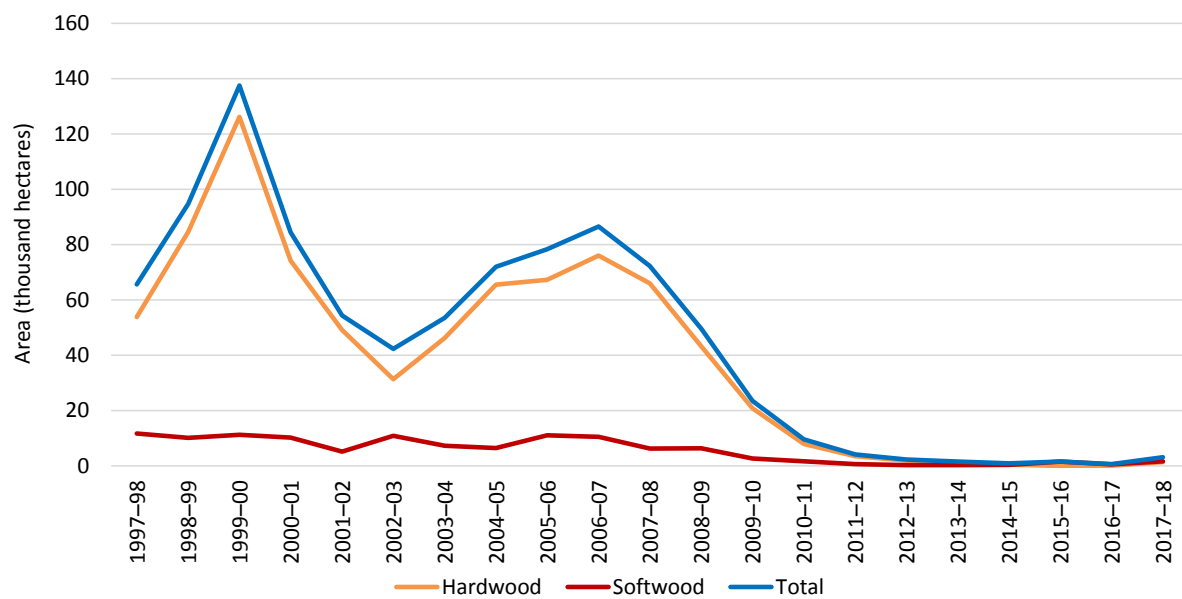
Table 5 New plantation area, by state/territory and type, selected years

State/Territory	2007–08 (’000 ha)	2012–13 (’000 ha)	2016–17 (’000 ha)	2017–18 (’000 ha)
Hardwood				
New South Wales	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Victoria	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Queensland	9.9	0.1	0.0	0.0
South Australia	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.1
Western Australia	10.3	0.1	0.1	1.4
Tasmania	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	3.6	1.7	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	66.0	2.0	0.1	1.5
Softwood				
New South Wales	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0
Victoria	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
Queensland	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
South Australia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Australia	2.5	0.0	0.5	1.6
Tasmania	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	6.3	0.3	0.6	1.7
Total				
New South Wales	12.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Victoria	10.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Queensland	10.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
South Australia	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.1
Western Australia	12.8	0.1	0.6	2.9
Tasmania	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	3.6	1.7	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	72.3	2.3	0.7	3.1

Notes: New plantations are those established on land not previously used for plantation forestry. Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

Figure 2 New plantations, by type, 1997–98 to 2017–18



Note: Data for 1997–98 to 2004–05 are for calendar years representing 1997 to 2005; data for 2005–06 to 2017–18 are for financial years.

Source: ABARES

Replanted plantations

In 2017–18 a total of 62,600 hectares of plantations were replanted (3.2 per cent of the total plantation estate), comprising 26,900 hectares of replanted or coppiced hardwood plantations (43 per cent) and 35,700 hectares of replanted softwood plantations (57 per cent) (Table 6).

In 2017–18 a total of 60,700 hectares of replanted plantations (97 per cent) achieved stocking density standards, as specified in the silvicultural guidelines for each state or territory. Almost all replanted or coppiced hardwood plantations achieved stocking density standards (99.9 per cent) and around 95 per cent of replanted softwood plantations achieved stocking density standards.

Table 6 Replanted plantation area, by state/territory and type, 2017–18

State/Territory	Replanted area (’000 ha)	Area achieving stocking density standards (’000 ha)	Proportion achieving stocking density standards (%)
Hardwood ^a			
New South Wales	0.6	0.6	100
Victoria	7.6	7.6	99.8
Queensland	0.0	na	na
South Australia	0.8	0.8	100
Western Australia	10.2	10.2	100
Tasmania	7.7	7.7	100
Northern Territory	0.0	na	na
Australia	26.9	26.9	99.9
Softwood			
New South Wales ^b	8.5	8.0	94.3
Victoria	8.8	7.5	85.1
Queensland	8.8	8.8	100
South Australia	4.9	4.8	99.2
Western Australia	2.0	2.0	100
Tasmania	2.7	2.6	97.0
Northern Territory	0.0	na	na
Australia	35.7	33.8	94.6
Total			
New South Wales ^b	8.8	8.6	97.4
Victoria	16.4	15.1	91.9
Queensland	8.8	8.8	100
South Australia	5.7	5.7	99.3
Western Australia	12.2	12.2	100
Tasmania	10.4	10.3	99.2
Northern Territory	0.0	na	na
Australia	62.6	60.7	96.9

^a Includes coppiced plantations. ^b Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

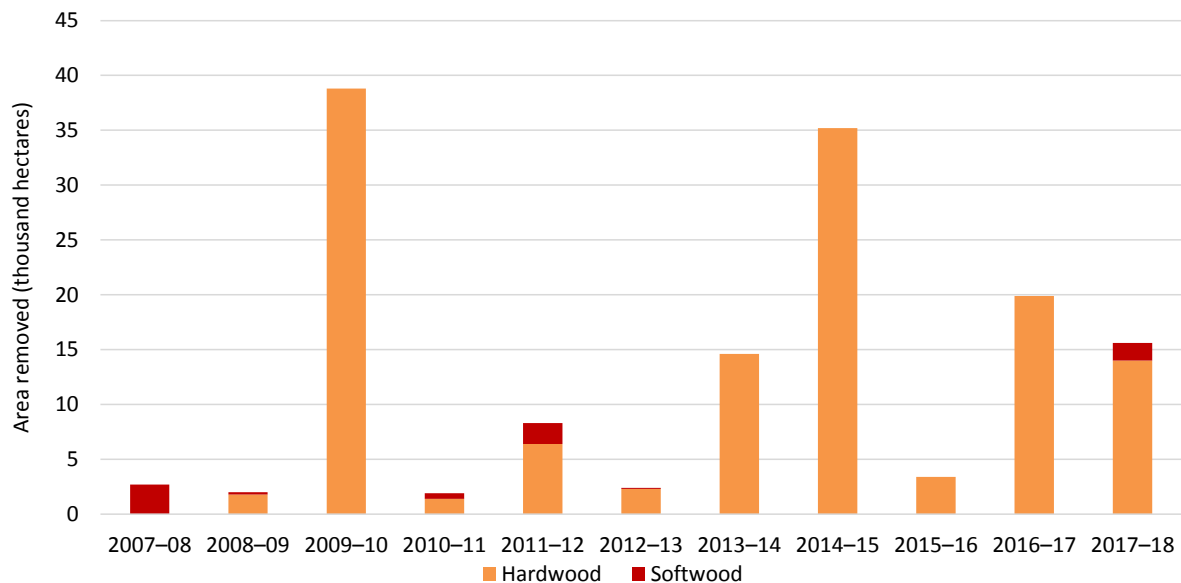
Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

Plantation removal

Plantation growers and managers provided data on the area of commercial plantations converted to another land use over the last decade (Figure 3). In 2017–18 a total of 15,550 hectares of Australia's plantation estate was converted to another land use, comprising 13,950 hectares of hardwood plantations (90 per cent) and 1,600 hectares of softwood plantations (10 per cent). The majority of converted plantations were in Western Australia (59 per cent) and South Australia (25 per cent).

Figure 3 Area of plantations converted to another land use, by type, 2007–08 to 2017–18



Source: ABARES

Over the last decade, hardwood plantations accounted for 94 per cent of the plantation area converted to another land use. The largest plantation removals occurred in 2009–10 (38,800 hectares) and 2014–15 (35,200 hectares), all from hardwood plantations. However, data for these years were sourced from comprehensive spatial stocktakes of Australia's commercial estate and include changes that were unaccounted for between spatial updates.

Plantation growers and managers also provided estimates of future plantation removals over the next three years. A total of 6,100 hectares of hardwood plantations and 1,400 hectares of softwood plantations was estimated to be converted to another land use over the next three years.

Plantation ownership

In 2017–18 a total of 1,471,700 hectares of plantations were privately owned, representing 75.8 per cent of the total plantation estate (Table 7). Public plantations accounted for 20.6 per cent (400,000 hectares) and jointly owned (joint partnerships between state forest agencies and leasehold and freehold land owners) plantations represented 3.7 per cent (71,000 hectares) of the total plantation estate.

Victoria had the largest share of Australia's total private plantations (28 per cent), New South Wales had the largest share of Australia's total public plantations (65 per cent) and Western Australia accounted for the majority of Australia's total jointly owned plantations (66 per cent).

Table 7 Plantation area, by state/territory and ownership, 2017–18

State/Territory	Unit	Private	Public	Joint a	Total
New South Wales	'000 ha	123.6	261.8	7.9	393.2
Victoria	'000 ha	418.0	2.5	0.1	420.6
Queensland	'000 ha	230.4	0.1	0.0	230.5
South Australia	'000 ha	156.9	15.3	0.0	172.2
Western Australia	'000 ha	237.0	77.8	46.9	361.7
Tasmania	'000 ha	258.4	35.1	16.2	309.8
Northern Territory	'000 ha	47.4	0.0	0.0	47.4
Australian Capital Territory	'000 ha	0.0	7.4	0.0	7.4
Total	'000 ha	1,471.7	400.0	71.0	1,942.7
Proportion of ownership	%	75.8	20.6	3.7	100

a Includes some small areas for which ownership details were not reported.

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

The ownership structure of plantations remained relatively unchanged between 2016–17 and 2017–18. In 2017–18 institutional investors owned 49 per cent of the total plantation area, governments owned 21 per cent, farm foresters and other private growers owned 21 per cent, managed investment schemes owned 5 per cent, and timber industry companies owned 4 per cent (Table 8).

Table 8 Plantation ownership, selected years

Plantation owner	2007–08 (%)	2012–13 (%)	2016–17 (%)	2017–18 (%)
Institutional investors	11	40	49	49
Governments	9	13	21	21
Farm foresters and other private owners	9	8	21	21
Managed investment schemes	34	20	5	5
Timber industry companies	37	19	4	4

Note: Joint venture plantations are not included.

Source: ABARES

Major plantation species

Hardwood plantation species

In 2017–18 the hardwood plantation estate was dominated by Tasmanian blue gum (51.1 per cent) and shining gum (26.1 per cent), both of which are managed primarily for pulplog production (Table 9). These proportions are similar to those reported in previous years.

Most Tasmanian blue gum plantations are located in the Western Australia (50 per cent) and Green Triangle (South Australia/Victoria) (32 per cent) NPI regions. Most shining gum plantations are in the Tasmania NPI region (89 per cent).

Other hardwood plantation species include Dunn's white gum, which is managed primarily for pulplog production in the North Coast (New South Wales) (59 per cent) and South East Queensland (41 per cent) NPI regions (Table 9). Most blackbutt and flooded gum plantations are in the North Coast (New South Wales) NPI region (93 per cent) and most spotted gum plantations are in the North Coast (New South Wales) (50 per cent) and South East Queensland (43 per cent) NPI regions. Blackbutt, flooded gum and spotted gum are all managed primarily for sawlog production.

Softwood plantation species

In 2017–18 the softwood plantation estate was dominated by radiata pine (74.5 per cent) and southern pines (15.1 per cent), both of which are managed for sawlog production (Table 10). These proportions are similar to those reported in previous years.

Most radiata pine plantations are in the Murray Valley (New South Wales/Victoria) (24 per cent), Green Triangle (South Australia/Victoria) (23 per cent), Central Tablelands (New South Wales) (11 per cent) and Tasmania (10 per cent) NPI regions. Most southern pine plantations are in the South East Queensland NPI region (74 per cent). Other regionally important softwood species are maritime pine in the Western Australia NPI region and hoop pine in the South East Queensland NPI region.

Table 9 Major hardwood species, by National Plantation Inventory region, 2017–18

NPI region a	Unit	Tasmanian blue gum	Shining gum	Dunn's white gum	Blackbutt/ flooded gum	Spotted gum	Other eucalypts	Other species	Acacia species	Total
Western Australia	'000 ha	228.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1	22.3	1.1	0.0	253.5
Northern Territory	'000 ha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.4	31.1	45.5
Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island (South Australia)	'000 ha	13.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	14.6
Green Triangle (South Australia/Victoria)	'000 ha	144.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.5	0.6	0.0	149.5
North Queensland	'000 ha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.8	0.0	4.9
South East Queensland	'000 ha	0.0	0.0	12.1	1.4	8.6	5.9	1.7	0.1	29.8
Northern Tablelands (New South Wales)	'000 ha	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.3
North Coast (New South Wales)	'000 ha	0.1	3.1	17.4	23.4	9.9	25.0	0.6	0.0	79.6
Central Tablelands (New South Wales)	'000 ha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Southern Tablelands (New South Wales)	'000 ha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4
Murray Valley (New South Wales/Victoria)	'000 ha	6.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	7.3
Central Victoria	'000 ha	30.8	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.1	0.0	36.8
Central Gippsland (Victoria)	'000 ha	13.7	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	0.0	29.2
East Gippsland–Bombala (Victoria/New South Wales)	'000 ha	0.6	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.2	0.0	8.7
Tasmania	'000 ha	19.1	208.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	5.7	0.0	233.9
Total	'000 ha	457.4	233.6	29.5	25.1	19.9	69.6	29.3	31.4	896.0
Proportion of hardwood species	%	51.1	26.1	3.3	2.8	2.2	7.8	3.3	3.5	100

a NPI region locations are shown in Map 1.

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

Table 10 Major softwood species, by National Plantation Inventory region, 2017–18

NPI region a	Unit	Radiata pine	Southern pines	Hoop pine	Maritime pine	Other pines	Other species	Total
Western Australia	'000 ha	57.4	0.0	0.0	41.4	0.3	0.5	99.7
Northern Territory	'000 ha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.9
Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island (South Australia)	'000 ha	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	18.7
Green Triangle (South Australia/Victoria)	'000 ha	174.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	179.4
North Queensland	'000 ha	0.0	29.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	31.8
South East Queensland	'000 ha	0.8	115.8	43.5	0.0	1.0	0.7	161.9
Northern Tablelands (New South Wales)	'000 ha	13.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.2	15.2
North Coast (New South Wales)	'000 ha	0.3	11.0	0.6	0.0	2.5	0.4	14.8
Central Tablelands (New South Wales)	'000 ha	84.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	87.7
Southern Tablelands (New South Wales)	'000 ha	21.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.7
Murray Valley (New South Wales/Victoria)	'000 ha	187.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.8	0.5	189.7
Central Victoria	'000 ha	29.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	30.0
Central Gippsland (Victoria)	'000 ha	61.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	61.3
East Gippsland–Bombala (Victoria/New South Wales)	'000 ha	47.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	47.5
Tasmania	'000 ha	75.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	75.8
Total	'000 ha	772.4	156.4	45.1	41.8	9.5	11.9	1,037.0
Proportion of softwood species	%	74.5	15.1	4.4	4.0	0.9	1.1	100

a NPI region locations are shown in Map 1.

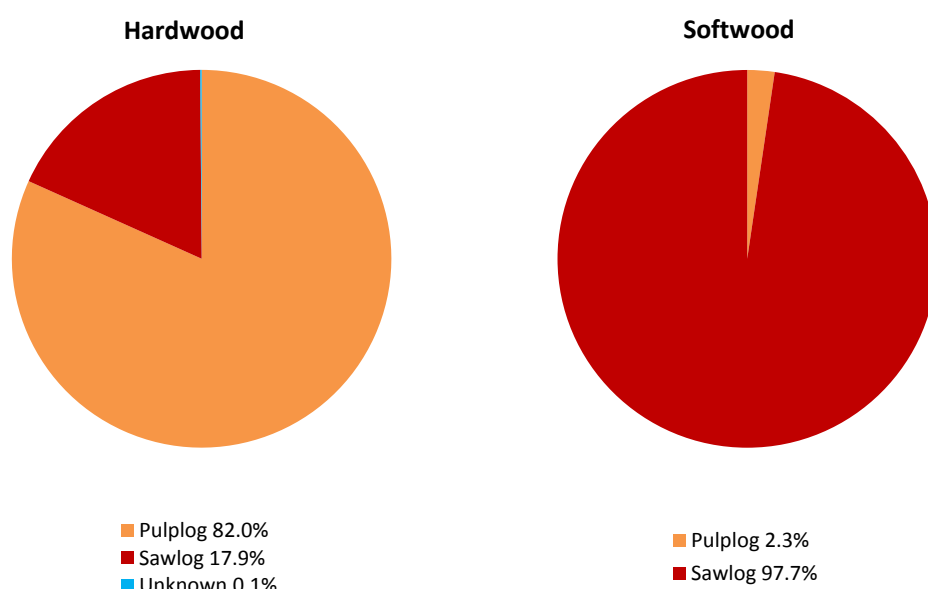
Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES

Plantations managed for sawlogs and pulplogs

In 2017–18 almost all of Australia’s softwood plantations (97.7 per cent) were managed primarily to produce sawlogs for sawnwood—for products such as building and construction materials (Figure 4). Softwood pulplogs produced from thinnings and low-quality parts of the stem are used to produce engineered wood products, landscaping products and paper products.

Figure 4 Proportion of plantations managed for sawlogs and pulplogs, 2017–18



Note: Unknown comprises plantation area where main products could not be ascertained.

Source: ABARES

In 2017–18 the majority of Australian hardwood plantations (82 per cent) were managed primarily to produce pulplogs for products such as woodchips and paper (Figure 4). In 2017–18 around 18 per cent of hardwood plantations were managed to produce sawlogs, mainly from the public plantation estate to supplement native forest sawlog production—for products such as flooring and structural timbers.

Glossary

Term	Definition
blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>
Dunn's white gum	<i>Eucalyptus dunnii</i>
flooded gum	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>
hoop pine	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>
maritime pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>
radiata pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
shining gum	<i>Eucalyptus nitens</i>
southern pines	<i>Pinus caribaea</i> , <i>Pinus elliottii</i>
spotted gum	<i>Corymbia species</i>
Tasmanian blue gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>

References

Gavran, M & Parsons, M 2011, [Australian plantation statistics 2011](#), Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, August.