

# Forests – all about wood

## Sustainable timber

NSW has over 26 million hectares of forest covering about 33% of the state. This is about eight football fields (four hectares) of forest for each person in NSW. More than 2 million hectares is State forest – a form of public land managed by Forests NSW.

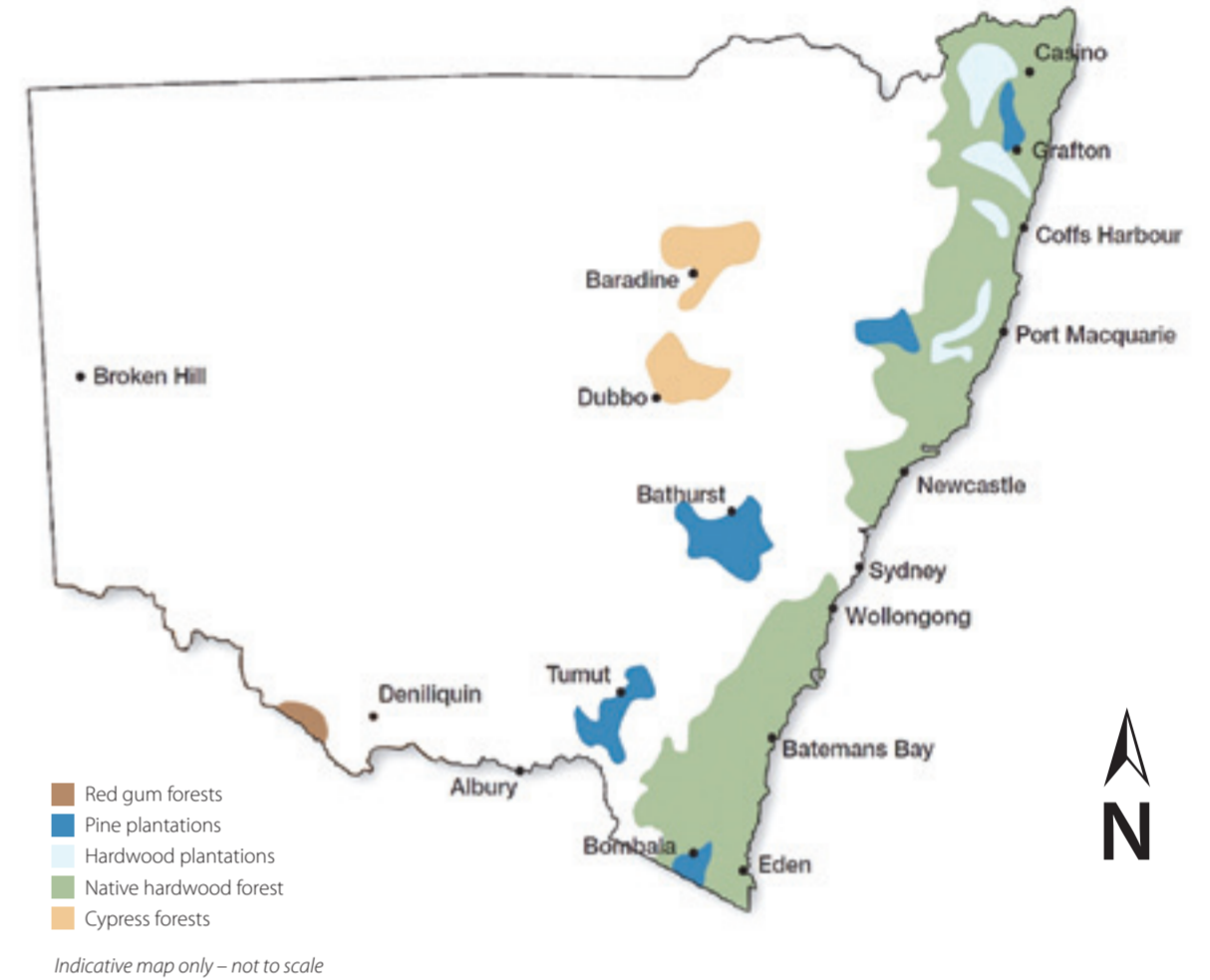
State forests are managed to balance the ways people use forests for timber production and recreation with the conservation of unique forest features like wildlife, clean water and cultural heritage sites.

Timber from NSW State forests is certified as sustainable to the Australian Forestry Standard AS 4708:2007 (AFS). This provides consumers with assurance that the forest and wood products they are purchasing are from forests that are managed to the highest possible standards.

## Soft or Hard?

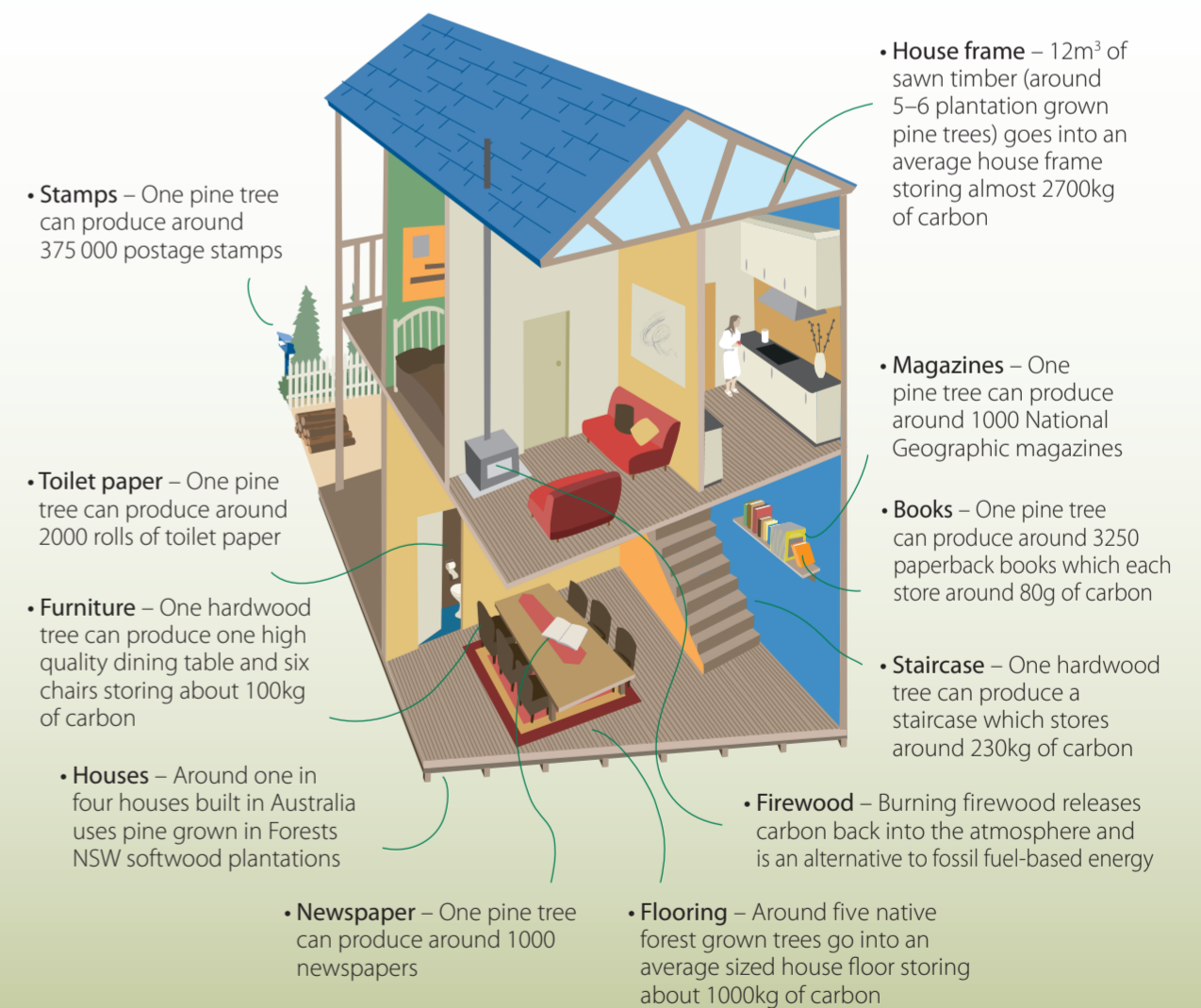
Softwood and hardwood are terms that refer to the water-conducting cells in a living tree from which timber comes, and not to the hardness or softness of the wood itself. You can see the differences between the different cells when you look at wood samples through a microscope.

## Key forest areas in NSW



## What's in a house?

Wood is a natural, renewable material that we use in our lives everyday. Growing trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store the carbon so efficiently that half the dry weight of a tree is carbon. The carbon remains locked up in the wood even when it is used for building products or furniture.

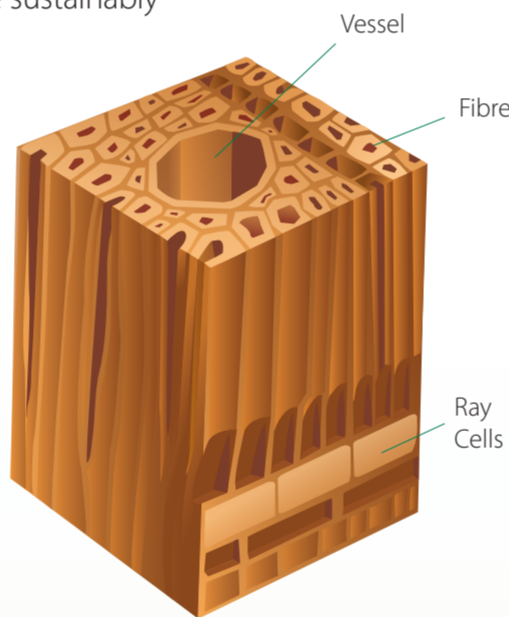


### Hardwood

Coastal blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*)

Coastal blackbutt is a large native hardwood species growing in abundance along the coast of NSW and Queensland. Coastal blackbutt is one of over 50 native commercial eucalypts that are sustainably managed on State forests.

Coastal blackbutt timber has a broad range of uses including flooring, decking, veneer, joinery, and poles and is also a major timber in structural building applications. The attractive wood properties and diverse range of applications make coastal blackbutt a preferred species in coastal hardwood plantations.

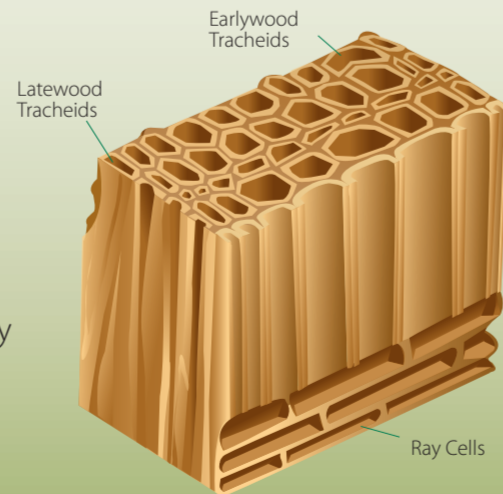


### Softwood

Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*)

Radiata pine is the most widely-grown exotic species in the world. Radiata pine is the major timber in structural building applications and has a broad range of uses including structural sawn-timber, treated decking, flooring, paper, engineered board products, treated sleepers and fencing. The universal wood properties, long history and diverse range of applications make radiata pine the preferred softwood plantation species in south eastern Australia.

Forests NSW is the largest producer of plantation-grown radiata pine in Australia, selling enough timber to construct about a quarter of the houses built in Australia each year. A very large world-class forest growing and timber processing industry is based around radiata pine, underpinning many regional economies and employment in south eastern Australia.



- RESIDUE** firewood
- PULPWOOD** paper products, hardwood/masonite
- LOW QUALITY SAWLOG** fencing and landscaping, pallets, railway sleepers
- HIGH QUALITY SAWLOG** veneer - formply, overlay flooring, furniture, benchtops piles - wharf piers girders - bridge and railway timbers large sawlogs - structural beams, lintels, house framing, flooring, joinery and furniture, decking and panelling poles - telegraph poles
- PULPWOOD** paper products hardwood/masonite



- RESIDUE**
- PULPWOOD** reconstituted timbers (medium density fibreboard, particleboard, oriented strand board), paper products, other preserved timbers
- UNPRUNED SAWLOG** house framing, decking and panelling, flooring, joinery and furniture
- PRUNED SAWLOG** large sawlog - feature grade joinery and furniture, bearers and joists, select flooring veneer - furniture, benchtops

## A log in time...

1788 Half of NSW is forested when the First Fleet arrives. New settlers need timber for homes and clear forests for farming	1820 Timber cutting licences are issued by the government to persons of good character	1870's Areas of forest are set aside by the government for future timber production	1880 Miners cottage, Lithgow	1881 Post Henry Kendall is appointed Inspector of Forests	1888 Wages for sawyers and mill workers for an eight hour day, 55 days a week is one pound, 10 shillings and eight pence. Today this would equal less than \$4 an hour	Early 1900's Timber cutters	1909 The Department of Forestry is established	1916 The Forestry Act is passed and the Forestry Commission is established. Under the Act, the Commission is responsible for the management of State forests, Timber Reserves and some Crown land	1950's A building boom begins as World War II ends in 1945 and soldiers return	1960's Scientific research is used to draw up management plans for forests	1999 NSW first Regional Forest Agreement or 20-year plan for the conservation and sustainable management of native forests is completed	2006 Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management plans published. These describe how Forests NSW will provide for uses such as timber supply and recreation while maintaining ecological processes and environmental values. Forests NSW achieved certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS)		
Pre 1788 Aboriginal people skillfully practice forest management, using fire for hunting and to stimulate new growth	1800 Shipbuilding, Sydney Cove	1869 83 sawmills in NSW	1879 Australia's first national park, the Royal National Park in Sydney, is established	1880's The first Forestry Commission nursery opens near Gosford. Seedling production begins and plantations are established	1882 1.4 million hectares of forest in reserve for future timber production	1889 A sawmill near Bombala powered by a water wheel	Early 1900's Timber inspectors	1913 Longworth's tramway near Laurieton which is opened for horse traction in 1913, and steam engines in 1916	1939 World War II places heavy demands on the States' forests. Timber is needed for planes, ships, rifles and building projects	1951 1360 sawmills in NSW	1970's - 1980's Public perception of forests begin to change. More than just a source of timber, State forests are also seen to contain a rich variety of plants and animals, clean water and air, and recreation sites	2004 Forests NSW is established as a public trading enterprise within NSW Department of Primary Industries. 311 sawmills in NSW	Today Keeping forests healthy and productive for now and the future is a complex and challenging task. The United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of Forests celebrating the central role forests play in our lives	