

Media Release

26 November 2025



Dean Kearney appointed Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Timber Tasmania

The Board of Sustainable Timber Tasmania has announced the appointment of Mr. Dean Kearney as its new Chief Executive Officer, following a national search process.

Mr. Kearney joins Sustainable Timber Tasmania with more than two decades of experience in Australian public forestry, including his recent role as Executive Director of Forestry at the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and his previous position as Manager, Environment and Sustainability at the Forestry Corporation of New South Wales. He will formally commence in the role in early January 2026.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania Chair Rob de Fégely AM said the appointment represents both renewal and continuity for the organisation.

"Dean brings deep operational knowledge, a steady leadership style, and a strong commitment to sustainability."

"He understands that forestry in Tasmania is about balance – using and caring for forests so they remain healthy, productive, and resilient for future generations."

"The Board looks forward to working with Dean to strengthen our stewardship role, support our people, and continue building community confidence in sustainable forestry."

Mr. Kearney said he was honoured to join Sustainable Timber Tasmania at a pivotal moment for Tasmania's forestry sector.

"Sustainable Timber Tasmania is known nationally for its expertise and its people."

"I'm looking forward to spending time in the forests and with our staff, listening and learning from those who know these landscapes best."

"Tasmania's forests are among the most diverse and carefully managed in the country, and I'm genuinely optimistic about the future. I'm committed to building on that strength – ensuring they continue to deliver value for the community, economy, and environment."

Mr Kearney began his forestry career in research and plantation management before progressing through senior operational and strategic planning roles across New South Wales. His work has focused on forest resource management, sustainability, and stakeholder engagement.

His recent executive leadership role within the NSW Government has equipped him with strong experience working across complex policy, regulatory and operational environments.

Mr. de Fégely thanked Acting CEO Greg Hickey for his leadership during the transition period and acknowledged the professionalism of Sustainable Timber Tasmania's staff.

"Our people remain the heart of this organisation. Their knowledge and commitment underpin everything we do."

For more information please contact (03) 6169 2869 or email media@sttas.com.au

Image 1 – Head shot, Dean Kearney