



Working in Forests

Plantation forestry is a strongly growing and sustainable part of South Australia's economy. Forestry and forest products industries employ about 9,000 South Australians. Australia-wide, forest-based industries employ about 83,000 people.

Employment opportunities within the forestry sector can be grouped into two main categories - general and professional:

- 1) General:** Forest Construction Worker, Log Measurer, Forest Technician, Clerical Officer. These positions generally do not need any special qualifications, although some previous work experience, and/or being able to use forestry equipment, would be an advantage. Training for these positions is provided on the job.
- 2) Professional:** Foresters, Forest Rangers or Researchers usually need a certificate or degree from a College of TAFE or University. Many companies give preference to members of an industry association (*e.g. Institute of Foresters of Australia*).
- 3) Traineeships:** Traineeships are sometimes available that allow trainees to gain experience and knowledge while they are working.

Forestry-based industries are equal opportunity employers. Positions are open to all, regardless of gender, race, beliefs or age (*although there are minimum age restrictions for some traineeships*).

Some examples of forestry jobs:

Forest Maintenance Workers - carry out the general duties associated with the establishment, maintenance, tending and protection of forests. The work calls for the operation of a wide range of machinery and vehicles, as well as manual skills. Duties include:

- ☛ Regeneration and noxious weed control.
- ☛ Preparing sites for planting.

- ☛ Raising seedlings and tending young trees in a forest nursery.
- ☛ Planting of trees.
- ☛ Applying herbicides and fertilisers (*by hand or knapsack spray*).
- ☛ Pruning trees (*using pruners or chainsaws*).
- ☛ Fire watching and fire fighting.
- ☛ Maintenance jobs (*e.g. fencing, road maintenance*).
- ☛ Tree selection for thinning operations and measurement of logs.

Forestry Technicians - responsible for the data collection used in the management of forest resources. Duties include:

- ☛ Setting up field trials and experiments.
- ☛ Collecting and preliminary processing of data from trials and experiments.
- ☛ Measuring trees for the forest data inventory.
- ☛ Fire control duties.
- ☛ Monitoring pest and disease outbreaks.
- ☛ Supervision of other technicians and forest workers.



A forester recording important information.



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Entry requirements for these positions include a minimum of four years secondary education, with some science and mathematics units.

Foresters - establish and manage forests to ensure a continuing supply of forest products. Their duties include:

- 🌲 Formulating forest working plans.
- 🌲 Conducting research.
- 🌲 Developing and managing forest fire control.
- 🌲 Organising and controlling harvest operations.
- 🌲 Ensuring that forest management is sustainable.
- 🌲 Advising government and private owners on forest policy and practice.
- 🌲 Management and supervision of staff.

A university degree in forestry (*or equivalent*) is required. The Bachelor of Science (*Forestry*) is offered by various universities, including the Australian National University, Canberra and Southern Cross University.

Forest Rangers - assist in the management of plantation and native forest reserves. A university degree in forestry or natural resource management (*or equivalent*) is required. Their duties include:

- 🌲 Managing recreational activities in forests.
- 🌲 Conducting law enforcement.
- 🌲 Providing education and information about forestry to the public.
- 🌲 Organising and controlling recreation facility construction and maintenance.
- 🌲 Protection and rehabilitation of native forests.



A forester inspecting a log.

The University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia offer courses in natural resource management.

Find Out More

National Forest Education and Awareness Network -
www.australianforests.org.au/forestindustries/careers.htm