

# Workforce, Diversity, & Inclusion

What does this mean for Tasmania's Forest Industry?



Tracey Taylor | Manager, Workforce & Diversity 16 March 2022



# Agenda

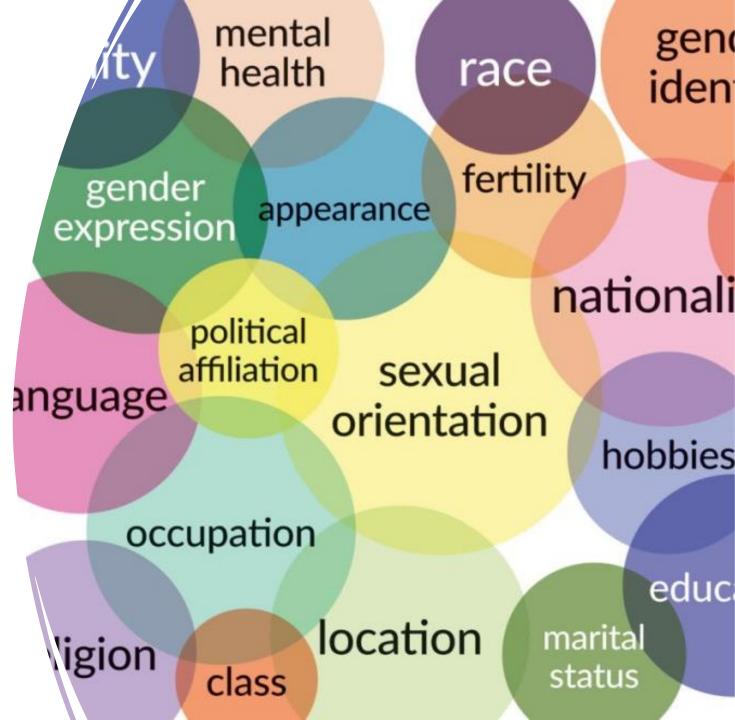
- Definitions
- Workforce Implementation Plan and Diversity Action Plan
- Desktop analysis
- Stakeholder consultation
- Key themes
- Workforce and diversity are universal issues
- Questions

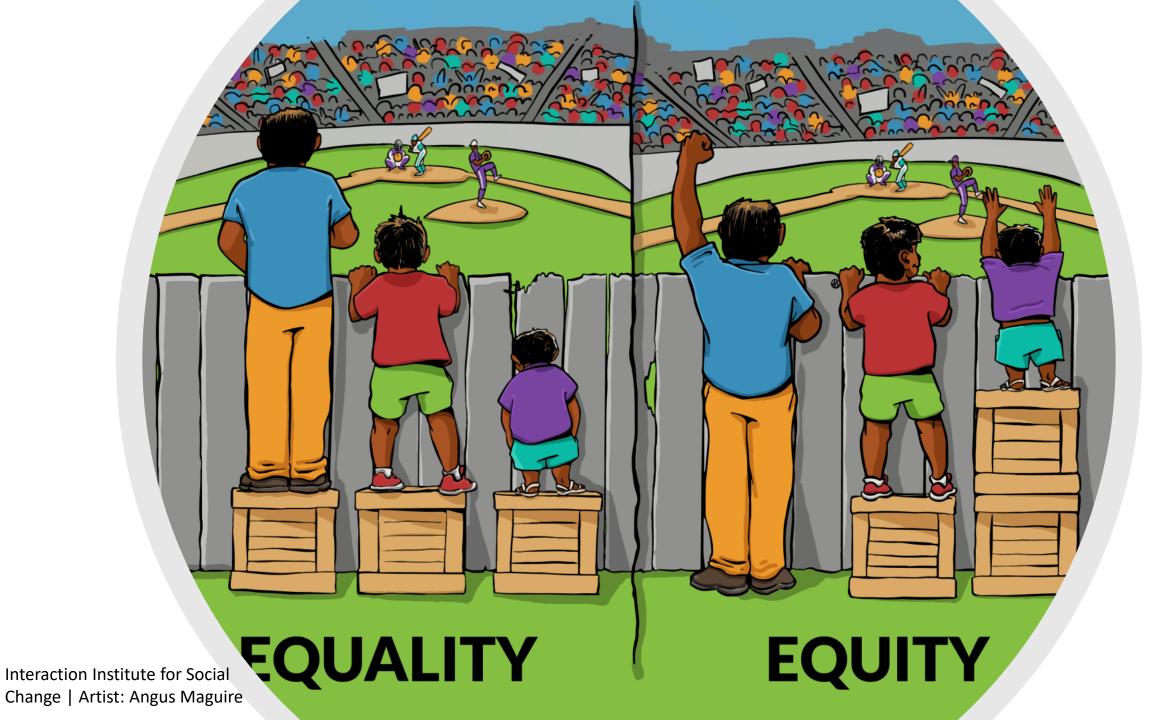
**Diversity** is about a rich mix of differences

**Inclusion** is about each person feeling valued and connected

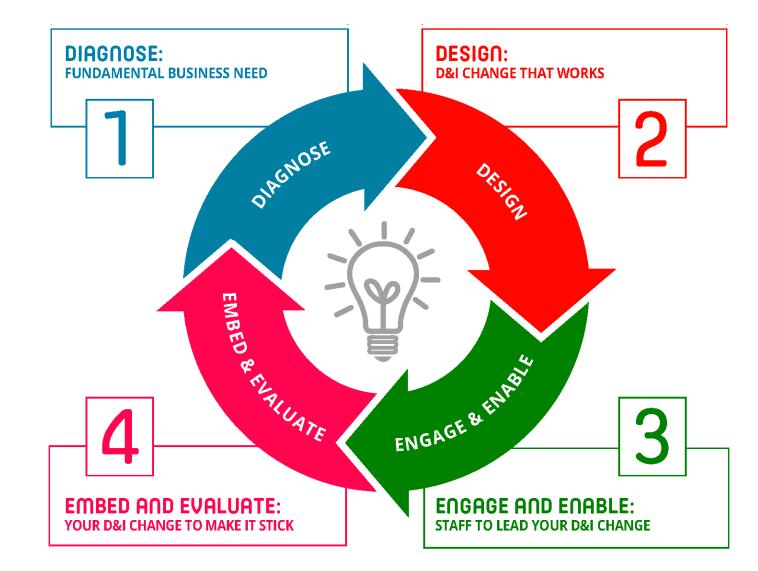
Intersectionality acknowledges that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and oppression

Definitions





## Diversity Council Australia Model



Diversity Council Australia (Russell, G., O'Leary, J. and Rozsnyoi, J.) *Change At Work: Designing Diversity and Inclusion Differently to Achieve Organisational Change*, Diversity Council Australia, 2019.

Workforce & Diversity Organisational Change Leadership

# Workforce Plan

- One Voice Leadership, Collaboration, and Coordination
- 4 key goals & actions over 5 years
  - 1. Career pathways mapped and supported
  - 2. Relevant education and training
  - 3. Employee and workplace diversity
  - 4. Promotion, attraction and retention

RMCG

TASMANIAN FORESTS & FOREST PRODUCTS NETWORK

AUGUST 2021

Tasmanian forest industry workforce development and implementation plan (2021 to 2025)

Final V2

Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network (TFFPN)

Developed with support from the Tasmanian Training and Skills Development Service, a service funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments to support the rebuilding and reskilling of the Tasmanian forest and timber industry.

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# Diversity Action Plan

- Understand the challenges and opportunities
- Inform and encourage employers on diversity
- Targeted actions to drive diversity

# Desktop Analysis

- 10 plans across sectors, nationally and internationally -
  - Vision statement
  - Aligned with other plans
  - Industry owned and supported
  - Themes and goals
  - How to implement
  - Governance

# Stakeholder consultation



## External Stakeholder Consultation

Qualitative and ongoing

12 discussions / 4 diversity dimensions

Young people, women, CALD and Aboriginal

Perceptions of the industry

Challenges and opportunities

External Stakeholder Surveys

# Perception of forestry







Negative community perceptions

Limited understanding of forestry careers Limited understanding of training pathways

Understanding increased by connection and exposure

## Attraction & Recruitment

## Challenges

- Confusing entry points
- Advertising language
- Recruitment processes
- Lack of networks
- Lack of confidence
- Literacy and numeracy
- Flexibility
- Transport

## Opportunities

- Industry exposure opportunities
- Clearly defined entry points and pathways - traineeships
- Industry-wide, inclusive recruitment
- Partnerships with stakeholders

"Two biggest influencers are parents and teachers on a young person's career decisions."

## Retention

## Challenges

- Non-inclusive culture
- Literacy and numeracy
- Flexibility
- Gender pay gap
- Self-doubt

## **Opportunities**

- Cultural awareness and acknowledgement
- Comprehensive induction
- Post placement support
- Authentic mentoring programs
- Skilled managers
- Flexibility in work
- Traineeships

"Diverse workplaces create and support diversity."

## Advancement

## Challenges

- Family responsibilities
- Expectation of long work hours
- Lack of confidence in ability
- Gender pay gap

## **Opportunities**

- Equity in training and promotion
- Normalise and celebrate diversity
- Aspirational and diversity in leadership and decision-making

"Need to look at equity as a pose to equality to advance some of the diverse groups."

External Stakeholder Surveys

# Some thoughts...

Perceptions on both sides improved by education and awareness

Celebrate diversity and inclusion every day

"Not expecting disadvantaged people or minorities to meet the same standard of behaviour or achievement set for most people."

• Urban Dictionary: soft bigotry of low expectations

## Forest Industry Stakeholder Consultation







Quantitative & qualitative

Two surveys

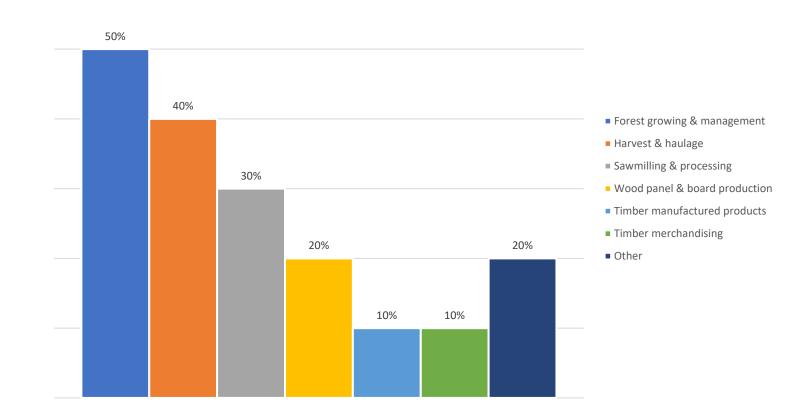
Perceptions of diversity across industry & businesses

Not statistically valid

#### Forest Industry Surveys

# Employer Response Demographics

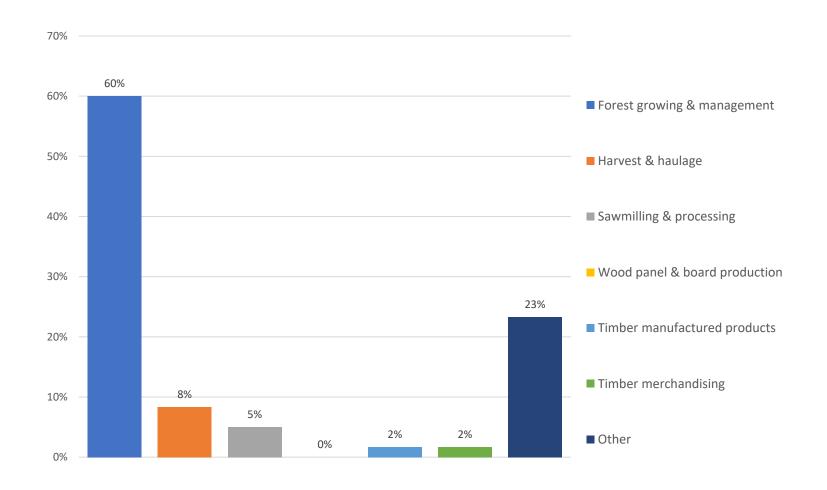
- 10 responses
- 25% response rate
- 5 to 200 employees
- 776 employees
- Other includes
  - Training
  - Log export



#### Forest Industry Surveys

## Employee Response Demographics

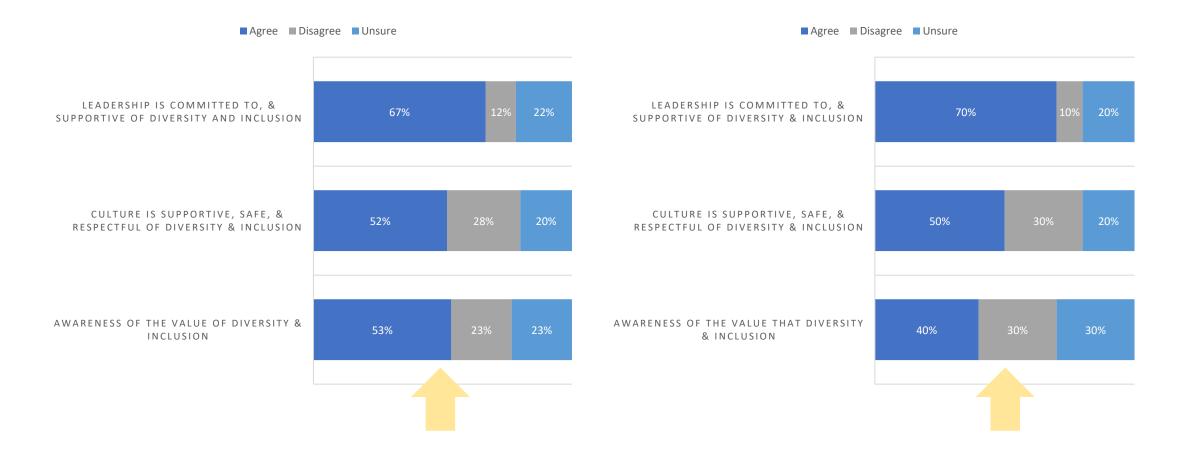
- 60 responses
- 6% response rate
- Other includes
  - Urban forestry
  - Research
  - Technical services
  - Fire management
  - Sales



## Industry Diversity and Inclusion

#### **Employees believe...**

#### **Employers believe...**

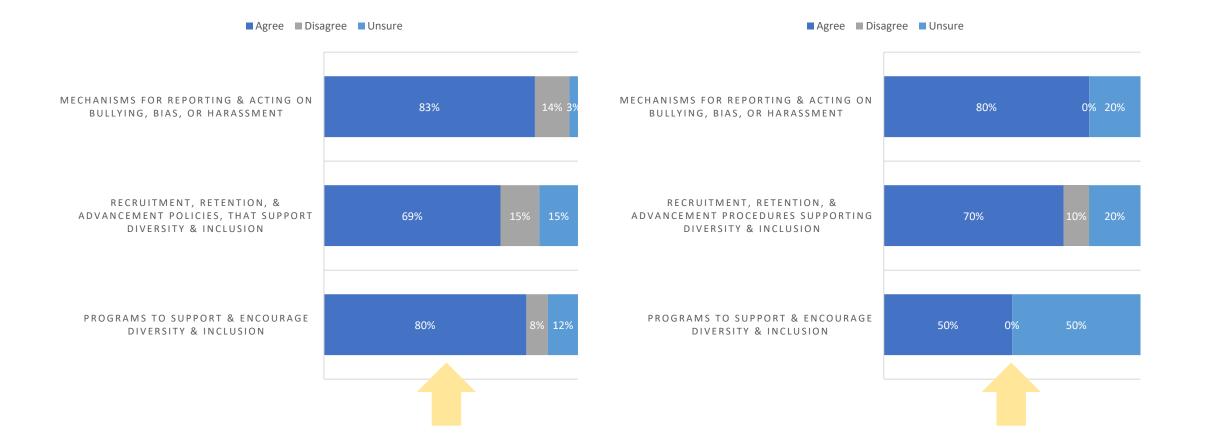


Forest Industry Surveys

## Organisational Diversity and Inclusion

### **Employees believe there are...**

#### **Employers believe there are...**



### Industry Diversity

#### EMPLOYEES

Agree Disagree Unsure



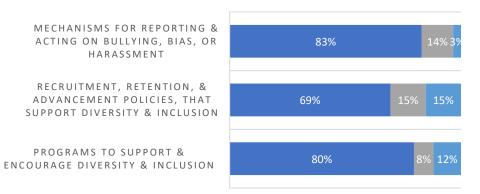
#### EMPLOYERS



### **Organisational Diversity**

#### **EMPLOYEES**

#### ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Unsure



#### **EMPLOYEES**



## Agree Disagree Unsure

## Challenges

- Attracting and retaining diverse workforce
- Stereotype of industry as 'male dominated'
- Increasingly difficult to recruit highly skilled employees
- Smaller businesses may not have capacity to drive diversity
- Attracting women to non-traditional roles
- Educating the sector on inclusiveness

"It is hard for the industry to be seen as a whole with a broad range of businesses all working on different metrics."

## Opportunities

- Broadening industry appeal as an exciting career
- Education on diversity and inclusion within workplaces
- Highlighting diverse & inclusive workplaces internally and externally
  - Sharing stories of those less represented
- Promoting industry role models
- Traineeship pathways developed and promoted

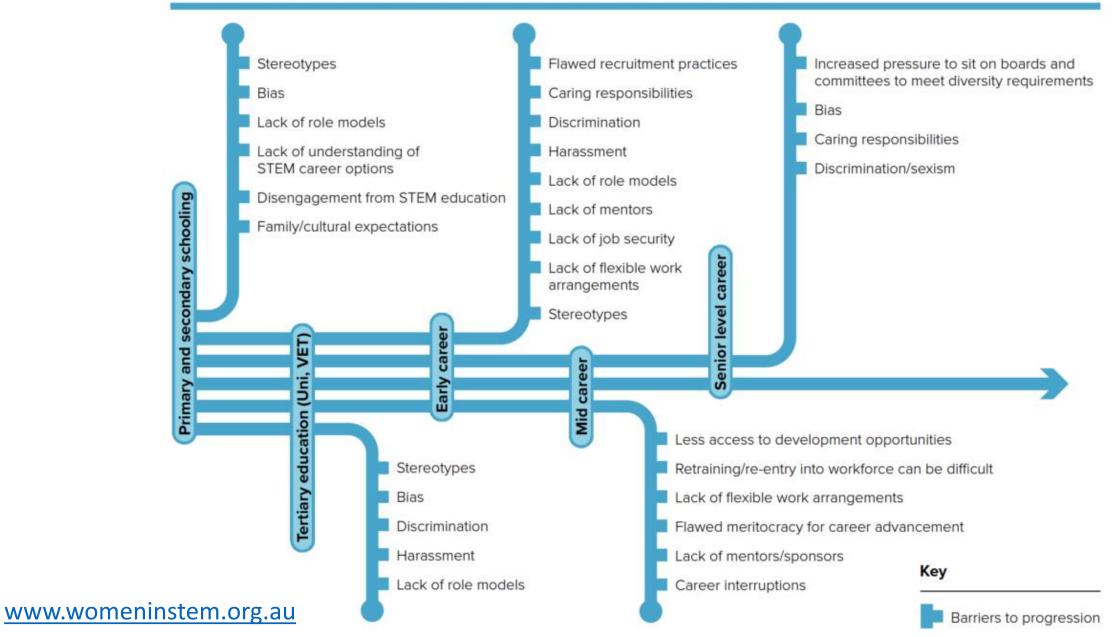
"Ensure the right people with the right skills and empathy are employed who can nurture the inclusion process."

# Key Themes

- Industry exposure activities to improve perception
- Defined key entry points & pathways Traineeships??
- Industry-wide attraction & recruitment
- Partnerships with stakeholder groups to support inclusion
- Induction & mentoring programs
- Training of managers
- Equity, particularly in advancement opportunities



## **CAREER PROGRESSION PIPELINE**





#### Labour Market Data Dashboard

Jan-22

3.8

4.2

Labour market summary table

Change

-25.4

-19.8

Unemployed persons

Mar-20

13.6

723.2

Tasmania

Unemployment rate

Mar-20

5.0

5.3

Participation rate

Mar-20

61.0

65.9

Jan-22

60.0

66.2

Youth unemployment rate

Mar-20

10.7

11.6

Jan-22

10.2

9.0

#### https://labourmarketinsights.gov.au/

#### Data current as at 24 February 2022

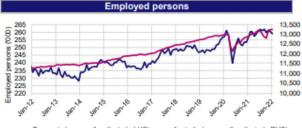
Refer to source notes for data reference periods

This Labour Market Data Dashboard provides a summary of the key indicators for the Tasmanian labour market. Dashboards for Australia and Employment Regions are also available.

Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, Jan-22

Tasmania

Australia



Jan-22

259.1

13.255.0

Employed persons

Mar-20

258.0

12,995.5

Change

0.4

2.0

10.2

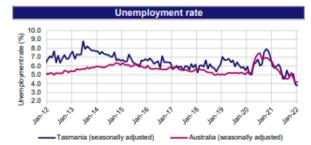
580.0

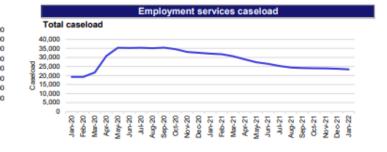
Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, Jan-22



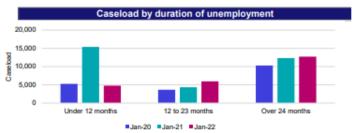


Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, Detailed, four guarter average data, Nov-21 guarter





Change in employment services caseload		
	Tasmania	Australia
Total caseload - Feb 2020	19,193	633,318
Total caseload - Jan 2022	23,418	879,440
Change (Feb 2020 to Jan 2022)	4,225	1246,122
Change (Feb 2020 to Jan 2022) (%)	<b>A</b> 22%	<b>1</b> 39%



Source: Department of Education, Skills and Employment, caseload data, Jan-22. Caseload total refers to jobactive participants.



Online job advertisements

3,030 Change over the month -0.9% (or -30 job advertisements) Change since March-20 185.3% (or 1,970 job advertisements)

Source: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, Jan-22

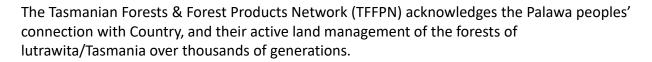


Source: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, Jan-22



Source: National Skills Commission, Recruitment Experiences and Outlook Survey, Tasmania, Jan-22. Due to small sample size data should be treated with caution. Results for January-21, April-21, December-21 and January-22 are imputed due to insufficient data for this period.

# WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE



We acknowledge the Palawa and Pakana peoples, as the Traditional Owners and spiritual custodians of the land on which our sector operates, and we pay our respects to their leaders.

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TASMANIAN FORESTS & FOREST PRODUCTS

**NETWORK** 

THE TFFPN RECOGNISES ITS VALUED PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



