



# Social Security Treatment of Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA) Private Forest Reserves Program Payments

## What is it?

The Tasmanian RFA Private Forest Reserves Program is a voluntary scheme to help protect Tasmania's native forests on private land. It is run by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment. Landowners who participate in the Program may receive up-front payments and ongoing regular management payments.

## How are these payments treated for social security purposes?

The up-front payment is not income for social security purposes. However, depending on how the money is used, it may be treated as an asset under the assets test and, if invested, may be deemed to earn income under the income test.

The regular management payment is generally income for social security purposes. Components that represent reimbursement of work-related expenses are not income.

## How about the asset value of the land?

It is in your interest to notify Centrelink of any reduction in the market value of the land as a result of the covenanting agreement.

## What about tax implications?

Participating landowners may be eligible for certain tax deductions. There may also be capital gains tax implications. For more information regarding the tax treatment of these payments, please contact the Register of Environment Organisations on

(02) 6274 1467 or by calling the Australian Taxation Office on **13 2478**.

For more information concerning the social security treatment of these payments, please contact:

<b>Financial Information Service</b>	<b>13 2300*</b>
<b>Pensions</b>	<b>13 2300*</b>
<b>Appointments</b>	<b>13 1021*</b>
<b>Benefits and Allowances</b>	<b>13 2850*</b>
<b>Family Payments</b>	<b>13 6150*</b>
<b>For information in languages other than English</b>	<b>13 1202*</b>
<b>TTY Payment enquiries</b>	<b>Freecall™ 1800 810 586*</b>

Only for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment. A TTY phone is required to use this service.

## How can I find out more about the program?

To obtain more information about the program you can contact the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment or visit their website [www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au)

### Important note

While all care is taken in the preparation of information and material in this publication, no responsibility can be taken for any change in the personal circumstances of any person acting on information presented here. You are advised to contact your Centrelink Office for full details of any entitlements and services for which you may be eligible, or of how any pending changes in legislation, programs or services may affect you.

\* Calls to 13 numbers cost 25 cents from anywhere within Australia. Calls to 1800 numbers are free of charge. Calls from mobile phones and pay phones may be charged at a higher rate.