

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, Parliament Square Building, Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7770 | Email: Minister.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au



Craig Garland
Member for Braddon
C/o email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Garland,

Thank you for your constituent question and please pass on my thanks to Graham from Wynyard for his question and for his long working life in forestry.

Riparian or streamside protections in Tasmania are set out in the Forest Practices Code, which applies to all forestry activities carried out under the forest practices system.

The Code includes specific provisions to protect streams and waterways. These protections are mainly delivered using streamside reserves. A streamside reserve is defined as all land within a set distance from the banks of a watercourse, lake, artificial storage or tidal waters.

The width of a streamside reserve is not one-size-fits-all. It depends on how the stream is classified. Larger or more significant streams have wider reserves, while smaller or intermittent streams have narrower ones. These classifications and the minimum reserve widths are clearly set out in the Forest Practices Code.

In most cases, streamside reserves are retained to protect water quality, stream stability, habitat values and downstream users. However, the Code recognises that forestry operations do not always fit neatly into straight lines. Under clearly specified conditions, some trees may be selectively harvested within a streamside reserve. The Code strictly controls when and how this can occur to ensure the purpose of the reserve is not compromised.

Anyone needing practical guidance on how streamside reserves apply can seek advice directly from a Forest Practices Officer or from the Forest Practices Authority. They can assist with interpretation of stream classifications, reserve widths and allowable activities.

These rules are well established and form a core part of Tasmania's forest practices system, balancing sustainable forestry with strong protection for waterways.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Felix Ellis".

Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

5/5/2026