

## Department's shared vision

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In 2022, Minister Hackett announced the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's "A Shared National Vision for Trees and Forests in Ireland until 2050". It outlines the Department's view on the future of forestry in Ireland, based on stakeholder consultation. It provides an insight in what will follow in the new Forest Strategy, to be announced in 2023 and is based on the work of Project Woodland which she established in February 2019. Titled "The right trees in the right places for the right reasons with the right management – supporting a sustainable and thriving economy and society and a healthy environment," the following is the "Shared Vision" in full.

"By 2050, Ireland's forests and woodlands will be seen as a symbol of the transformational social, economic and environmental changes that were needed to address the climate, biodiversity, housing and health emergencies of the 2020s. A much larger and more diverse forest footprint is being successfully managed to balance and deliver multiple objectives and benefits for climate, nature, water quality, wood production, people, the wider economy and rural communities.

It forms a valuable, compatible element of the farming enterprise and is co-existing in harmony with urban and other landscapes and valued highly by citizens. It is also supporting a thriving and growing forest sector, long term quality employment for a sustainable workforce, ecosystem services and public, educational and recreational amenities.

There is a nationwide awareness and understanding of the multiple benefits of forests. Forestry is at the centre of the circular and green economy with Irish grown timber the material of choice for the substitution of carbon intensive building products for new Irish homes.

Forestry is providing a profitable diversification option for farmers, with people living in rural, urban and suburban communities feeling a sense of connection and pride in their local forests and woodlands, and the many benefits that they provide. Legacy environmental issues associated with past forestry practices are being successfully addressed, building on improvements already made through enhanced sustainable forest management practices."

*Department of Agriculture, Food  
and the Marine. September 2022*

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