14 December 2017

Dr Peter Volker  
Chief Forest Practices Officer & Director  
Forest Practices Authority  
30 Patrick Street  
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Recipient Email: peter.volker@fpa.tas.gov.au

Dear Dr Peter Volker,

Looking back – looking forward  
30 years of Tasmania’s forest practices system

Thank you for choosing Conference Design to partner with the Forest Practices Authority for the delivery of the 2017 Forest Practices Authority Conference.

I am pleased to submit the following post conference report to the committee.

This report covers key areas including registrations, finance, conference program and content and post conference feedback results.

115 people attended the conference.  
This included 102 full registrations and 13 day registrations.

77 delegates attended the conference dinner on the Monday evening.

38 delegates attended the Derwent Valley Field Tour on Wednesday.

The conference program included 30 presentations and small group discussions.

We believe the conference was very successful when considering the planning process, overall attendance and the level of delegate satisfaction and engagement.

We look forward to continuing our successful partnership into the future.

Yours sincerely,

E Hafner

Liz Hafner  
Conference Manager  
Conference Design Pty Ltd  
liz@conferencedesign.com.au
Overview

The Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority hosted a two-day conference at Wrest Point, Tasmania from 20 – 21 November 2017. The conference was a reflection of the last 30 years of the Tasmanian forest practices system and an opportunity to consider directions in forest practices regulation in Tasmania and elsewhere.

Dr Peter Volker and Ms Chris Grove were the drivers behind the conference and worked tirelessly in developing an interesting and lively conference program. Marketing for the event was managed by Chris through the Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority database.

Drawcard invited speakers, Professor Ben Cashore from Yale University and Professor Peter Kanowski from the Australian National University assisted in attracting delegates to the conference and their presentations were well received by the delegates.

A total of 115 delegates attended the conference, with many of these delegates also attending the conference dinner which was held at the Buckingham Rowing Club on Monday 20 November. A post conference field tour was held on Wednesday 22 November and was well attended with 38 delegates participating in the full day tour to the Derwent Valley.

Overall feedback from the conference was very positive. Congratulations to the committee for delivering a wonderful conference.

Website

With guidance and input from the committee we believe a very successful website was delivered for the conference which provided a comprehensive source of planning and attendance information for delegates in the lead up to the conference.
Registrations

Complimentary registrations were offered to employees of FPA or those presenting at the conference. Both an early bird and standard registration rate was offered for all other attendees.

Below is a breakdown of the registration categories.
Conference Dinner

A conference dinner was held on Monday 20 November 2017. 77 delegates attended the dinner held at the Buckingham Rowing Club which is located a short 20 minute drive from Wrest Point. Delegates travelled via coach or self-drove to the venue. Delegates enjoyed a three course dinner catered for by Olive Tree Catering. The evening celebrated the awards for long service to the Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority and a presentation titled, World class forest practices through simplicity and education was provided by Evan Rolley, First CFPO & FPA Board Member. The dinner was a very successful evening and provided delegates with a relaxed casual environment to network.

Field Tour

An optional field tour to the Derwent Valley was held on Wednesday 22 November 2017. 38 delegates participated in the field tour which was hosted by FPA staff and forest owners/managers.

The full day tour departed from Wrest Point and included various site visits, including Tyenna Native Forest Coupe and Plantation Settlement Couple, Devil Den, Briggs Squeeze and a Cave.

Delegate feedback from the field tour has been very positive.
Conference Survey Results
1. Did you attend the conference as a:

- 72% Full Registration
- 18% Presenter
- 10% FPA Staff Member

2. How did you hear about the conference?

- 49% Association Website
- 33% Member Newsletter/Email
- 13% Word of Mouth
- 5% Other

3. Please rate the quality of the general Conference information online (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

- 50% 5 = Very Good
- 22% 4
- 28% 3
- 2% 2
- 0% 1 = Poor

- Additional Information:
  I could only attend Monday but it was excellent
4. Please rate the quality of the Conference program information online (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

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Additional Information:
- Earlier details of the field trip timing would have been beneficial for booking flights.

5. Please rate the registration process (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

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<td>5</td>
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Additional Information:
- Difficult to get invoice generated, which is an essential requirement for most government sector organisations.
- Some confusion in following registration prompts
- Lower score because I couldn't actually register on line. It kicked me off at a certain point
- Easy, with pleasant people at the registration desk
6. Please rate the registration cost (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Registration Cost Chart](chart)

**Additional Information:**
- Possibly on high side for retired FPO’s
- Everything is expensive when it comes out of your pocket :-)  

7. Please rate the overall quality of the plenary sessions (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Plenary Sessions Chart](chart)

**Additional Feedback:**
- Fantastic speakers, very interesting and diverse content
- Presentations assumed knowledge of acronyms which were not explained.
- Most presenters were excellent. Some became too personal
- Really great generally, there were a couple of presentations that didn’t seem to add much to the overall
- Very well conducted and chaired
- Was ran very well with most presenters finishing on time
8. Please rate the quality of the small group discussion session (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

Additional Feedback:

- Conference time limited for forum discussion. Only presentation of discussion group
- The discussion session was very engaging but we ran out of time for the overarching discussion session after the small group sessions
- Great forum to meet others - could have bought the timing forward in the conference and then revisited the session at the end
- A bit rushed given that this was the opportunity for the great unwashed to have their say.
- Needed more time to discuss results
- Didn't find these particularly useful/ worthwhile. Not a bad idea but just needed more structure and the group leaders needed to guide the conversation more
- A great opportunity for a lot of ideas to come out. It would have been good with more time for general discussion
- Most of the presenters were poorly chosen and were poorly prepared. One in particular (cultural heritage) was totally out of date and she dominated the session in an unduly critical manner in order to promote her own services
- Group discussions needed to be aimed more at FPOs
- Not enough time and I felt that the questions were orchestrated. Did the FPA have its own agenda?
- I didn't make this session but was told it went very well
9. How relevant were the session presentations to you (1 = Not relevant, 3 = Somewhat relevant, 5 = Very relevant)

![Presentation Relevance Chart]

**Additional Feedback:**
- Was good to focus comprehensively on the subject of forest regulation. I particularly enjoyed some of the "left-field" presentations such as Colin McCulloch's contractor perspective and Professor Gale's tetra-valuation perspective
- Interested to see how Australian system compares with ours in NZ
- Needed more looking forward than back
- Really good to see multiple different perspectives and points of view
- I thought that there was a very good range of sessions and many stimulating presentations
- Monday was excellent
- Non-relevant presentations were still interesting to listen to
- Very diverse and interesting.

10. Should there be more or less discussion time?

![Discussion Time Chart]

**Additional Feedback:**
- The timing for discussion after each session was good (usually 3-5 questions) but we did run out of time for the group discussion at the end of the conference
- Great stimulated conversations were stifled by minimal discussion time
Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority Conference Survey Results 2017

- I think the planned schedule was adequate, just a shame we ran out of time and were rushed at the end - so maybe need to allow a little bit extra time
- Good amount of discussion for most sessions and lots of time for talking at breaks, lunch etc. It would have been good if a bit more time was available for general discussion after panel session
- Time planned was ok, but impacted by not keeping to time in final session
- Delegates attended to make a contribution - I felt this was a secondary consideration. Their knowledge and experience was not used as effectively as it could have been
- I noticed in some discussion sessions there were quite a few people who didn't get a chance to ask a question

11. Please rate the Government House Reception (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government House Reception</th>
<th>1 = Poor</th>
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<th>3</th>
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<th>5 = Very Good</th>
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Additional Feedback:
- Really appreciated this opportunity
- Staff were great to chat to. Thanks to Taroona High too, great young kids showcasing their talents (with a few proud Mum's watching on)
- Brilliant. A fantastic highlight to have the reception there with the Taroona band - and to see the magnificent use of timber in the building
- Loved it!
- Like the information on the history of the building and the music from Taroona high school students
12. Please rate the catering at Government House (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Government House Catering Chart]

13. Please rate the overall conference dinner experience (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Conference Dinner Experience Chart]

**Additional Feedback:**

- Excellent informal venue, outdoor balcony
- Good layout, wonderful location
- Great venue on such a beautiful evening. Table decorations were simple but effective!!! Could possibly have finished half hour earlier
- A bit of a disappointment. A bit like an old boys club
14. Please rate the catering at the conference dinner (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

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<td>4</td>
<td>21%</td>
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**Conference Dinner Catering**

**Additional Feedback:**
- Excellent food
- Excellent food, prompt service, however a few tables were left a plate or two short when serving was done. Had to ask for more servings to complete the table quota :-(
- Catering people were great. The food was excellent - generous amount and cooked perfectly - and served efficiently.

15. Did you participate in the field tour?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>74%</td>
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**Field Tour Attendance**

**Additional Feedback – why did you not attend:**
- Work commitments. wish i could!
- Know the area and issues all too well
- Other prior commitment
- Time constraints and other work commitments
16. Please rate the sites visited on the field tour (Of some interest, Worthwhile, Valuable and Interesting)

![Field Tour Sites Rating Graph]

Additional Feedback:
- Lots of successes seen, would be interesting to see some challenging compliance issues
- Quite a long drive to The Settlement but the work undertaken was very interesting and justified the trip
- Terrific field trip - great sites and discussion. Could have been more commentary on bus as we travelled up to Florentine valley - especially for non-Tasmanian people who hadn't visited this area before
- Would have been good to see harvesting operations in action.

17. Please rate overall organisation of the conference (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Conference Organisation Graph]

Additional Feedback:
- Organisation was excellent
- Maybe if there had been a month more lead time (a few more people (especially field practitioners) would have attended
- Very well organised - Including dealing with last minute changes and queries - well done!!
- The sound guy servicing the conference (Damian ? I think) needs to be commended for his service to keeping the audio and visual running so smoothly. Well done to him
- Well organised and supportive
18. Please rate the catering at Wrest Point (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Conference Catering Chart]

Additional Feedback:
- Liked the fresh fruit option at breaks, excellent access to outdoor areas
- Prefer plainer fare!
- Great gluten free options - thank you
- There was good catering for special diet needs
- Limited water available or hard to find at the breakout lunch/morning/afternoon tea room

19. Please rate your overall conference satisfaction (1 = Poor, 5 = Very Good)

![Conference Satisfaction Chart]

Additional Feedback:
- A very positive feel to conference – with regard to venue, presentations, organisation, social functions and field trip. Excellent presentations and discussion and a lot of useful information and comments for FPA to consider as they move forward
Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority Conference Survey Results
2017

20. Did you find the conference relevant to you? (1 = Not relevant, 3 = Somewhat relevant, 5 = Very relevant)

- 2% 1 = Not relevant
- 5% 2
- 18% 3 = Somewhat relevant
- 40% 4
- 35% 5 = Very relevant

Additional Feedback:
- Appreciated the networking opportunities
- Disappointing we were not advised how the workshop information will be used
- Topics covered not really in my area of professional work scope
- Great networking

21. Based on this conference, would you attend a future FPA Conference?

- 92% Yes
- 8% No

Additional Information:
- If it was on the same agenda as a FPO I don't think it would be worth attending
- Now I have knowledge of the system, future conferences would be of less value
- Not required that often
- Maybe
- I only attended 1 of 3 days but will ensure that all days are attended next time
22. What was your favourite aspect of the conference?

- A real in-depth look at forest regulation from local, national and international perspectives
- All aspects favourable. I guess the most important is that there were good presentations and discussion at the venue and in the field
- Catching up with past work colleges
- Colin McCulloch's presentation!!
- Feedback, discussion from participants
- Field trip
- Forward looking sections
- Group sessions
- Hearing from technical experts from govt and industry reps
- Hearing the different viewpoints of all stakeholders and having a question time
- I like the concept of looking back and forward and the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of things to come
- Interstate delegate discussions
- Network opportunity
- Networking
- Networking and seeing old faces, location!
- Networking, Workshops and of course the visit to Govt house.
- Opportunity to network
- Panel discussions
- Panel question time after each session.
- Positive attitude with regard to moving forward
- Range of presenters offering difference aspects and opinions
- Range of presenters, informal discussion.
- Stakeholder presentations - how the FPS affects them
- The general content and catching up with old colleagues
- The speakers
- The two academic speakers
- Understanding regulation and implementation, and professional contacts

22. What was the least favourite aspect of the conference?

- Amount of self-congratulation by FPA
- crowded seating at Wrest Point conference venue
- day 1
- Fred Gales uncontested theories !
- Little bit rushed towards the end
- Looking back too much
- Maybe too many presenters
- looking back too much and perhaps too much patting on back. A lot of repetitive information presented.
Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority Conference Survey Results
2017

- No least favourite aspect. But if you want a point for future improvement - it was hard to find the conference site when you entered the building from any entrance other than the main one.
- Presenters using their time to push their agenda, at times it was political, a general backslapping session for some people
- It had very little on the FPO's who are the middle men the implement everything to the contractors and train the contractors on the ground as part of the companies cost.
- WHY was there such a low attendance of FPO's present?????
- Running out of time for the final session (needed an extra 30 mins to have a perfect end)
- Rushed at end of conference
- Rushing the last session summing up discussion groups output
- Shorter meal breaks
- The looking back sessions were the least useful
- The lack of attendance from on ground practitioners of the FPC
- Too much 'sit and listen' on day 1
- Uncomfortable seats
- Wrest Point.

23. Future conference suggestions:

- A bit more lead time so that more people have opportunity to attend.
- Ask presenters to take into account that attendees may not have knowledge of the Tasmanian system and its acronyms.
- Less time on the past 30 but more on what could be in the next 5-10-20-30yrs.
- More time for questions allocated from the floor to the presenters. Overall fantastic effort by the organisers
- Need more active FPOs. The small group discussions around improving our system were good but a lot of delegates are not actively in the Tas system or not actively applying the code in their role.
- I found that some of the suggestions coming from our group were unnecessary and they didn’t fully understand the system.
- These sessions were really good questions and should be included at the next compulsory FPO refresher.
- Please keep Casino as a venue as it is so easy to get to and there is ample free parking
- probably some early footage of forestry activities -- then and now type of thing?
- Seek to engage the delegates more - otherwise it becomes a talk fest
- Target a broader audience within the forest industry
- The lack of forest contractors and FPO representation was an major oversight