



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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## **FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE**

**19 June 2020**

### **Work Health, Safety and Wellbeing Audit report and Covid-19 Pandemic**

The monthly WHS&W report was noted. FPA staff continue to be guided by regular updates and protocols being communicated by the Department of State Growth with respect to Covid-19.

### **Forest Practices Code Review**

The Board noted that the Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC) had endorsed the final draft of the proposed Forest Practices Code 2020. In that context, the Board noted the FPAC interest in the recent Vic Forests court case outcome and the future operation of Tasmania's Code.

### **Forest Practices Officer Code of Conduct**

The Board reviewed a further update to the draft FPO Code of Conduct. The Board will send the document to forest practices officers and FPAC as a consultation draft for review and advice.

### **Finance**

The Board received a report on a three year forward projection of the FPA's finances from the Board Finance Committee. The Board resolved the Authority should adopt a conservative approach to expenditure whilst further consultations take place on the projected future funding.

### **Private Timber Reserves (PTRs)**

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the approval of 1 new PTR covering 66ha, and the revocation of 5 full PTRs and 4 partial PTRs covering 402ha.

### **Compliance**

The Board reviewed the schedule of fines, prosecutions and forest practice officer standards.

The Board made a final determination to issue a prescribed fine for a breach of s. 17(4)(bb) of the Act. The breach involved the clearance and conversion of a threatened native vegetation community without a certified forest practices plan. The amount of the fine was \$5000.

The Board made a final determination to issue prescribed fines to two parties for alleged breaches of s.17(4)(ba), s.17(4)(b), and s.17(5) of the Act. The breaches involved the clearing of trees without a certified forest practices plan. The amount of the fine was \$10,000 for the owner of the land and \$2000 for a firewood operator who obtained the timber from the operation.

### **Appointment, authorisation, delegation of officers under the Forest Practices Act**

The Board delegated authority under s.43 of the Act to forest practices officer **Dean Richard Tuson** to certify forest practices plans associated with establishment of quarries, forests, the harvesting of timber, and the construction of roads.

### **Application for a forest practices plan**

The Board further considered an application for a forest practices plan that involves clearing and conversion of a threatened native vegetation community, invoking a consideration of section 19(1AA) of the Act. The Board requested the CFPO to seek further particulars in relation to the application including advice on a potential overall environmental benefit that might be achieved as a result of possible requirements in the plan.

### **Revocation of forest practices plan**

The Board resolved to revoke a forest practices plan that had authorised extensive areas of clearing and conversion of threatened native vegetation communities which also included a commitment for permanent reservation of high priority areas and protection of conservation values. The land owner had not undertaken any clearing and conversion activities or taken active measures to implement the conditions of the forest practices plan and had not provided any relevant response to FPA advice of its intention to consider revocation and the reasons for proposed revocation.

### **Threatened species**

The Board noted the Chief Forest Practices Officer's active participation in facilitating an inter-Agency working group on threatened species and threatened native vegetation communities.

**Next Meeting - scheduled for Friday 24th July 2020**