



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

21 August 2020

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

The monthly WHS&W report was noted. There was one reportable incident for the month that required emergency treatment at hospital and lost time. The DSG COVID-19 Safety Plan continues to be implemented for all offices and vehicles.

Forest Practices Code Review

The Board resolved to amend the Forest Practices Code in accordance with section 32 of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* (the Act), having taken into account the outcomes of the required consultation processes. The amended Code will be known as the Forest Practices Code 2020 and will come into force on 1 January 2021 after a public launch and gazettal in early October. A summary of responses to public submissions will be made on the FPA's website, as will a PDF file of the amended Code. The Code will be printed and made available for sale at Service Tasmania.

Finance

The Board reviewed the monthly financial report and three-year budget scenarios. The FPA is in a sound financial position due to reserves that have been accumulated. However the Board noted that under current staff numbers and proposed appointments, the budgetary position will need to be carefully managed in future financial years.

Audit and Risk

The Board reviewed an amended Board Audit and Risk Committee Charter and the FPA Risk Register.

Private Timber Reserves (PTRs)

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the revocation of 3 full PTRs and 1 partial PTR covering 43ha.

Protection of Threatened Species and Communities

The Board reviewed a report on gap analysis on protection measures for Commonwealth listed threatened species and communities for the Tasmanian forest practices system and EPBC Act approved conservation advice and recovery plans. The report found there were few gaps and these were known to the FPA and there were plans in place. The Board sought further information on the resources required and timing to fulfil those plans.

FPA Offset Policy

The Board supported a proposal to review the FPA's offset policy, and its forwarding to the Forest Practices Advisory Council for advice after further development of the proposal.

Three year plans – major operations

The Board reviewed a report on the analysis of three year plan information that had been forwarded to the FPA by the major forest operators who were responsible for the harvesting of over 100,000 tonnes in the past year. Members noted the significant difficulties in consolidating the data and presenting it in a format that would be useful for road and bridge planning by Councils and for the FPA to consider improved regulatory outcomes around spatial and temporal planning for catchments. The Board endorsed the CFPO providing the report to the companies who submitted the information (de-identifying the data sources) and convening a meeting with them to discuss the issues and how the process may be improved.

TasNetworks Environmental Management System (EMS)

The Board noted a report from TasNetworks which was a gap analysis between its current EMS (which was endorsed under the forest practices system in 2011), and the forest practices plan process, to identify where improvements could be made to the current EMS.

Landscape Planning Tool project

The Board reviewed a project to develop and implement a process and associated pilot tool to take into account both natural and socio-economic values when planning forest practices at the landscape scale.

Swift Parrot Public Authority Management Agreement (PAMA)

The Board noted that DPIPWE and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) had entered into a PAMA which protects some extensive areas of swift parrot nesting habitat. The Board requested the CFPO to provide advice on the contents of the PAMA and any implications for changes to the Threatened Fauna Adviser prescriptions for swift parrots.

Next Meeting - scheduled for Friday 18th September 2020