

## FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

**23 & 24 July 2020**

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

The monthly WHS&W and six-monthly report from the Department of State Growth was noted. There were no reportable incidents for the month. The DSG COVID-19 Safety Plan has been adopted for all offices and vehicles.

### **Forest Practices Code Review**

The Board noted that STT, PFT and FPAC had been consulted on the proposed Code in accordance with section 32 of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* (the Act).

### **Finance**

The Board was advised the FPA had received its annual appropriation from Government. The FPA is in a sound financial position for the current financial year. The Board noted that recent news of industry downturn may have an effect on forest practices plan application fee income. The future financial position of the FPA will remain under close review.

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

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the approval of 2 new PTRs covering 35ha, and the revocation of 3 full PTRs and 1 partial PTR covering 898ha.

### **Certification of a forest practices plan**

The Board held a special meeting on 23 July to consider an application for certification of a forest practices plan that involved clearing and conversion of native forest and small areas of a threatened native vegetation community. The Board decided to amend the plan to provide increased protection of areas of the threatened native vegetation to be reserved and protection of an area of mature forest habitat and to require regular reports on status and health of the reserved areas.

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

The Board noted that the completion of the revocation process for a forest practices plan that had authorised extensive areas of clearing of trees and clearing and conversion of threatened native vegetation communities on the north-west coast. It also included a commitment for permanent reservation of high priority areas and protection of conservation values. No clearing and conversion or reservation activities had been undertaken under the plan. The Permanent Native Forest Estate data base is to be amended accordingly.

### **Draft Communications and Engagement Strategy**

The Board received a draft of the FPA's Communications and Engagement Strategy. The Board requested the strategy clearly promotes obligations the Act places on people wishing to undertake forest practices.

### **Contractor training resources**

The Board received a briefing on newly produced training resources for contractors. The resources are learner and trainer/assessor materials for the contextualisation to Tasmanian conditions of the Nationally Recognised Training unit 'FWPCOR2203 Follow Environmental Care Procedures'. The materials are designed for forestry workers operating in Tasmania and RTOs who deliver training. The materials align with competencies in the national Safe and Skilled program.

The FPA contributed \$25,000 to this project and congratulates Mr Stephen Walker (FPA consultant), Mrs Christine Grove (FPA Communications and Training Officer) and Purple Infinity for the excellent materials. The FPA will seek support from industry for publication of hard copies of the learner guide which will be useful as an education tool for workers and non-industrial private forest owners.

### **Three year plans – major operations**

The CFPO informed the Board that three year plan data had been received from organisations that are required to supply it under section 27 of the Act. There is still a difficulty in consolidating the data as not all companies have supplied information in a spatial format. This information can be used by FPA to examine the concentration of proposed harvesting and transport routes in accordance with section 28 of the Act.

### **King Island bird important habitat descriptions**

The Board noted a paper prepared by FPA's Biodiversity program staff on habitat descriptions for two endangered birds that occupy forested areas of King Island, the KI brown thornbill and KI scrubtit. The Board endorsed the use of the description document as a guide for planners, noting that it represents the best currently available information, but does not cover all the habitat on King Island where the species may be found.

**Next Meeting - scheduled for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020**