



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

14 December 2018

Forest practices system and the land use planning schemes

The Board discussed interaction between the forest practices system and the planning schemes which are being developed by Councils according to the Tasmanian Planning System. In particular the Board considered that tree clearing matters in the general residential zone and the low density residential zone should be exempt from requiring a forest practices plan as Council development application processes should assess any impacts. The Board will recommend amendment of the Forest Practices Regulations in due course.

Forest Practices Code review

The Board noted progress and the contributions from FPOs, FPA staff and Working Group members on an initial draft of the Code. The Board deferred discussion on some drafting and details of the scope of the Code to the January meeting.

Compliance matters

Two matters were considered by the Board and preliminary determinations made according to s 47B of the Act in which alleged offenders have been offered prescribed fines.

The Board authorised the action that may be taken by the Compliance Manager to streamline resolution of minor compliance matters.

Threatened species and threatened native vegetation

DPIPWE Acting Deputy Secretary and Manager Policy and Conservation Assessment met with the Board to discuss matters of mutual interest in the content of the PAMA being developed by DPIPWE and STT in relation to swift parrot habitat and related clauses in the Threatened Fauna Adviser.

Finance

The Board noted the monthly financial report and that the FPA is in a sound financial position.

Amendments to the Forest Practices Act

The Board noted the Forest Practices Amendment Bill 2018 had had its first reading in the House of Assembly during the last sitting session of November 2018.

Private Timber Reserves

The Board recommended to the Governor that applications to revoke 4 private timber reserves be approved. The combined area of the revocations was 186.62 hectares. The principal reason for seeking revocation was to return the land to pasture.

The Board agreed to a review of the Private Timber Reserves Manual to be undertaken jointly with Private Forests Tasmania.

Forest Practices Officers

The Board appointed forest practices officers (FPO) and delegated powers to certify forest practices plans as follows:

Martin Fitch - appointed as FPO

Richard Lindley and James Newman - appointed as FPOs and delegation to certify plans

Gavin Lucas - delegation to certify plans

Cyber security

The Board and staff will receive a briefing on cyber security issues from the Department of State Growth's Director of Information Management Branch in January.

Communication and Engagement

The Board will develop a Communications and Engagement Strategy in early 2019 to further improve the understanding of the role of the FPA in government and in the community.

The FPA website is currently being upgraded and it is anticipated that the new website will be launched in later April 2019.

Vegetation clearing

The Board considered an application for certification of a forest practices plan that involved the clearance and conversion of 1.9 ha of degraded inland *E. amygdalina* and 1.6 ha of *E. pauciflora* trees in a 37 ha paddock near Conara. *E. amygdalina* is a threatened native vegetation community. The Board was satisfied that one of the conditions of s 19(1AA) of the Forest Practices Act had been met, ie that the clearance and conversion is unlikely to detract substantially from the conservation values of the threatened community, and authorised the CFPO to certify the plan.

Staffing

A graduate officer has been recruited under the Department of State Growth's Graduate Employment Program for a two year fixed term.

Work, Health and Safety

Safety report was noted, with one minor tripping incident reported.

Next Meeting

The next FPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 18 January 2019.