

## FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

**7 & 21 May 2021**

This Communique covers a special meeting held on 7 May to consider a compliance related matter and an ordinary meeting held on 21 May.

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

The monthly WHS&W report was noted. The DSG COVID-19 Safety Plan continues to be implemented for all offices and vehicles. One safety incident was recorded involving a FPA vehicle colliding at slow speed with a tree stump hidden from view by ferns.

The Board were provided with the results of a safety audit conducted by an independent consultant over the February to April period. Members noted the FPA was deemed to have an effective approach to managing WHS associated with its activities.

Members noted that the Fieldwork Safety Management Policy and Procedure had been updated and was due to be discussed at an upcoming senior management meeting.

### **Finance**

The Board reviewed the monthly financial report.

### **Risk and Audit Committee**

The Boards' Risk and Audit Committee presented their review of the Department of State Growth's Fraud and Corruption Policy and Plan documents. The Board agreed to adopt the Policy and Plan as part of the FPA's risk mitigation measures with respect to staff and to seek approval to apply it to the Board.

### **Compliance**

The Board reviewed outcomes from a Compliance Committee meeting held on 21 April 2021, noting four matters before the Courts.

A landowner has accepted a prescribed fine of \$100,000 for clearing and conversion of a threatened native vegetation community at Redpa without a certified forest practices plan in breach of s. 17 of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. Court proceedings have been adjourned *sine die*.

### **Private Timber Reserves**

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the granting of one application for a PTR covering 86 ha, the revocation of one partial PTR covering 7ha and the revocation of three full PTRs covering 67ha.

### **Process for considering information on threatened species**

The Board considered the decision-making process undertaken by the FPA in consultation with DPIPW in relation to the receipt of new threatened species information. The Board

noted that any process must ensure that the FPA is able to make independent and timely decisions. The contribution of *E. brookeriana* as foraging habitat for Swift parrot is being examined with a view to developing a recommendation for the threatened fauna adviser.

### **Forest Practices Officers**

The Board agreed to delegate powers, under s. 43 of the Act, to make decisions on applications to certify forest practices plans to Lee Nichols and Aaron Foley.

The Board considered issues related to the standards required of FPOs to certify forest practices plans and the mentoring of newly appointed FPOs.

### **Scrub complex on King Island**

The Chief Forest Practices Officer (CFPO) briefed members on the results of recent survey work undertaken on King Island to determine the occurrence of two threatened bird species and their association with native vegetation.

### **Relationship between the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the Forest Practices System**

Members noted that clause 4.4.1 in section 4.0 on exemptions in the “Tasmanian Planning Scheme - State Planning Provisions” allowed for the following exemption from local Council planning requirements: “clearance and conversion of a threatened native vegetation community, or the disturbance of a vegetation community, in accordance with a forest practices plan certified under the Forest Practices Act 1985, unless for the construction of a building or the carrying out of any associated development;”

Members noted that this may affect the Private Timber Reserves system that has operated for many years. The planning system change may also generate additional work for the forest practices system where landowners may seek approval to clear land under the forest practices system rather than by a planning authority permit.

### **Other**

Planning for the State of the Forests Report 2022 was well under way, with an implementation group having met recently to scope the report.

Recent communications activities included an article on land clearing in the King Island Courier.

FPA staff met with TasNetworks to provide advice on the development of its draft Environmental Management System.

The CFPO met with the State Fire Management Council regarding approval of fire management programs.

**Next Ordinary Board Meeting - scheduled for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Hobart**