

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

19 November 2021

Finance

The Board noted the monthly financial report. The Board reviewed a discussion paper on the FPA's financial outlook along with comments made by the Forest Practices Advisory Council. The Board agreed that advice on the financial outlook should be provided to the Minister.

Private Timber Reserves

There were no applications for PTR declarations or revocations.

Compliance

The Board noted the schedule of investigations and prosecutions. In 2020-21 financial year, 21 investigations have progressed as follows:

- Six investigations finalised with \$363,500 in prescribed fines offered
- Eleven investigations are in progress, including six commenced
- Four investigations are before the courts, with one adjourned *sine die* as the respondent has agreed to pay a prescribed fine in instalments.

FPA staff have dealt with 103 enquiries since 1 July, including 25 carried over since 30 June.

- Four have been upgraded to investigations
- 69 have been resolved
- 35 are open.

Swift Parrot Important Breeding Area (SPIBA) update

The Board considered advice from the FPA's Manager Biodiversity in relation to discussions with DPIPWE on management of swift parrot habitat in the Denison/Barnback forests in southern Tasmania. The Board also noted communication between the FPA and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) and the FPA response to reports of swift parrot sightings in a harvesting coupe. STT later announced it would stop harvesting in the coupe for the remainder of the swift parrot nesting season.

Annual Report 2020/21

The CFPO advised that the FPA 2020/21 Annual Report had been made available to the Minister for tabling in parliament.

Forest Practices Officer appointment

The Board appointed Andrew Wye as a Forest Practices Officer.

Change in Administrative arrangements for the FPA

The CFPO reported on the transfer of FPA administration within the Tasmanian Government structure, from the Department of State Growth to Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET), scheduled to take effect from 31st March 2022.

Other

The CFPO reported on the FPA staff visit to King Island, staffing changes, compliance activities on audit and prosecutions, a matter before the Forest Practices Tribunal, attendance and presentations at the Forestry Australia Biennial Conference and preparation of the State of the Forests Report.

Next scheduled Board meeting – 16 December 2021 in Hobart.