

FPAC Communique

FPAC met on Oct 15, 2020.

Council was briefed on the creation of the Tasmanian Single Civil and Administrative Tribunal and associated changes to legislation, which will affect the administration of the Forest Practices Tribunal. Council noted its satisfaction with the proposals.

Council considered a draft review of FPA activities and programs relevant to the implementation of threatened species conservation arising out of the Tasmanian RFA. Council noted the important contribution of these programs to the State's responsibilities under the RFA and that it was proposed to review the draft in the light of consultations with the DPIPW and State Growth.

Council considered a proposal to review options for securing conservation offsets in the Forest Practices System. Council noted the important role that the FPA socio-economic program could play in this review and encouraged the FPA to consider a principles and objectives approach in any revised offsets policy to provide flexibility in application and assist with better long-term protection of set aside areas.

Council noted the finalisation of the revised Forest Practices Code due to come into effect on 1 January 2021 and advised the Board to formally define transition arrangements and communicate these to FPOs to ensure clarity and legal certainty.

Council considered a progress report of the FPA socio-economic program. Council commended the widely scoped and relevant program and its value to the forest practices system and expressed the desirability of continuation beyond the current funding horizon.