



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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## **FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE**

**19 October 2018**

### **Work, Health and Safety**

One minor tripping incident recorded.

Techsafe Aviation was engaged by the CFPO to review the Safety Management Plan for the eagle nest activity checking operations. The Board was briefed by Techsafe Aviation on the risk management approach to the annual aerial eagle nest activity checking program. Management has been tasked with implementing operational systems to address the identified risks and report to the November meeting.

As a result of the review the FPA has decided to use rotary wing aircraft for the activity checking program. This will result in a substantial increase in the cost of the program and a required change to the Technical Note to allow for use of rotary wing aircraft under strict controls. DPIPWE and industry have been consulted on these changes.

### **Forest Practices Code Review**

The Board noted the progress of the review of the Forest Practices Code. A preliminary draft of the reviewed Code is to be provided to FPOs, FPA staff and review working group members as soon as possible. This may require working groups to convene to consider any suggested revisions raised. Once those matters are resolved the next stage will be for FPAC, STT and PFT to consider an amended Code that is suitable for public comment.

### **Compliance matters**

Two investigations were considered by the Board. One of the investigations highlighted the need to consider carefully the definition of a forest practice as resources had been spent on investigating a matter which it was determined was outside the jurisdiction of the Forest Practices Act.

It was determined that the FPO Disciplinary procedure becomes a stand-alone document and that it will be aligned with the proposed FPO Code of Conduct.

A streamlined approach to self-reported minor breaches was endorsed. The Compliance Manager is authorised to issue a formal warning without the need for lengthy investigation proofs to be prepared for the Board.

## **Threatened Species Issues**

The Board considered the draft of a Public Authority Management Agreement (PAMA) between DPIPWE and STT which incorporates a Management Plan for Swift Parrots in the Southern Forests on PTPZ Land.

## **Finance**

The Board noted the monthly financial report.

## **Amendments to the Forest Practices Act**

The Board noted the progress of drafting the proposed Forest Practices Amendment Bill 2018. Further consultation with stakeholders is encouraged.

One of the key changes proposed in the amendment is to provide for the original applicant to a plan under section 18 to transfer responsibilities to another party. The Act does not provide an ability for the responsibilities to be transferred, which means the plan must be revoked where the original applicant no longer wants to, or can (e.g. ceases to exist), be involved in the forest practices authorised by the certified forest practices plan.

The amendment also provides for aggrieved parties to be compensated for any works to repair damage caused by another party who has undertaken unauthorised forest practices on their land.

## **Private Timber Reserves**

The Board recommended to the Governor that 3 revocations be approved. Three further applications for partial revocation require the areas to be revoked to be adequately specified before being considered.

## **FPO Refresher Course**

The CFPO advised members that the second FPO Refresher Course of the series had been held in Launceston and had been successful. The final course is to be held in Devonport on 24 October.

## **Threatened Plant Adviser**

The Acting Biodiversity Manager briefed the Board on progress with the Threatened Plant Adviser. The TPA is being tested by selected FPOs and is due for release early in 2019.

## **Next Meeting**

The next FPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 November 2018