



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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## **FPA BOARD MEETINGS COMMUNIQUE**

**18 January & 15 & 28 February 2019**

### **FPA response to the recent bush fire emergency**

At its February meeting the Board noted submissions seeking the FPA's engagement to assist with recovery from the recent bush fire emergency. The Board was informed that some significant areas of STT production forest and private company forests had been burnt and that salvage operations would be required. The Board noted that the CFPO had already been involved in discussions on some matters and that operationally the CFPO and staff will expedite matters wherever possible to assist with any recovery actions or programs.

### **Forest Practices Code review**

The Board noted progress on the development of a revised draft Code at its 18/1 and 15/2 meetings and held a Special Meeting on 28 February to review the contents of the current draft of the Code. The Board noted the significant interest and contribution to the development of the draft Code, in particular from the Working Party members, and FPAC. The revised draft of the Code will progress to further stages of the consultation process.

### **Forest Practices Officer Appointment**

Hamish Howe was appointed an FPO at the February Board meeting.

### **Contractor Training**

At the January meeting, the Board considered and supported in principle a report recommending a training program to be developed and offered to forestry contractors, to maintain and develop contractors understanding of the forest practice system. The Board agreed that following consultation with FPAC and FPOrg, the development of the training program should proceed. The Board made an initial allocation of funds for the development of the program.

### **Forest Practices Awards**

At the January meeting the Board decided to continue with the FPA Forest Practices Awards, rather than combine the awards with other awards. The Board Awards Sub-committee is continuing with its work in relation to the organisation of the 2019 awards.

## **Compliance matters**

At the January meeting, the Board positively assessed the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee relative to the terms of reference for the Committee. The Board clarified action that may be taken by the Compliance Manager to streamline resolution of minor compliance matters.

At the February meeting the Board noted the large number of current investigations for alleged breaches of the Act.

## **Investigation & Enforcement Protocols**

At the February meeting the Board noted that FPAC had presented recommendations for updating the forest practices officer disciplinary section of the FPA's Investigation & Enforcement Protocols. The recommendations will be considered by the Board Subcommittee and advice presented to the Board.

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

The Board noted that the Forest Practices Amendment Bill 2018 is due to have its second reading in the House of Assembly on 12 March 2019.

## **Socio-economic projects**

At the February Board meeting, the Board received a presentation from the FPA's Environmental Economist, on a number of socio-economic projects. The Board also received draft documentation for its review, on the project considering the socio-economic impacts of provisions established to support retention and management of habitat for the critically endangered Swift Parrot.

## **King Island applications for forest practice plans involving clearance and conversion**

At the February meeting the Board received a presentation from the Biodiversity Manager noting a number of significant challenges in considering applications being developed for clearance and conversion of vegetation on King Island.

## **Finance**

The Board noted the monthly financial reports presented to the January and February meetings and that the FPA continues to be in a sound financial position.

## **Communication and Engagement**

The Board reviewed an early draft of the FPA Communication and Engagement Strategy document at its January meeting and noted progress at the February meeting.

## **Risk and Audit Committee**

The Risk and Audit Committee has decided to review the current FPA Board Risk Register.

### **Next Meeting**

The next FPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 15 March 2019.