



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

15 May 2020

Most Board members attended by videoconference from their homes or venues where they could be socially isolated.

Work Health, Safety and Wellbeing report and Covid-19 Pandemic

The monthly WHS&W report was noted. The Board were advised that most FPA staff were still working from home in accordance with government advice on social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic. The FPA continues to be guided by regular updates and protocols being communicated by the Department of State Growth and Australian Government. Members noted that forestry activity in the State still appeared to be relatively unaffected by the pandemic, with FPA staff experiencing a normal level of enquiries and notifications for advice associated with industry operations.

Forest Practices Code Review

The Board noted that the draft Forest Practices Code is to be sent to the Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC), Private Forests Tasmania and Sustainable Timber Tasmania for formal consultation as required by the Act.

Forest Practices Officer (FPO) Code of Conduct

The Board considered further revisions of the draft. The Board requested the draft be reviewed by the Solicitor-General prior to distribution to FPAC and FPOs for comment.

Finance and draft three year budget

The monthly financial report and the first draft of a budget for 2020/21 to 2022/23 along with strategic plans for the Biodiversity, Earth Sciences & Cultural Heritage and Socio-economic programs were noted. Members referred the draft budget to management for further consideration, and to the Board Finance Committee for detailed review and discussion.

Draft Socio-economic framework

The Board reviewed a draft framework for conducting socio-economic assessments of impacts of the forest practices system. It was agreed that a number of Board members should have discussions with staff on further development of the framework, focussing on applicability and targeting of the framework to anticipated Board actions.

Private Timber Reserves (PTRs)

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the revocation of 2 full PTRs and 1 partial PTR, covering a total of 219ha.

Compliance

Members were advised that the FPP Audit program was well under way. The Compliance Manager is investigating commercial online Case Management Systems for assisting with investigation management and the preparation of briefs of evidence for the Board, and further compliance proceedings where necessary.

Meeting of inter-agency group on threatened species and communities

The Chief Forest Practices Officer advised members that he and the Biodiversity Manger had met with the Department of State Growth's Director of Resources, DPIPWE's Director of Natural and Cultural Heritage, and the Director of the EPA to discuss issues with threatened species and communities.

Peer-reviewed publications by FPA staff

The Board noted two research articles in peer-reviewed journals in which FPA staff had been involved. These were:

S.A. Munks, A.E. Chuter, A.J. Koch. 2020. 'Off-reserve' management in practice: Contributing to conservation of biodiversity over 30 years of Tasmania's forest practices system, Forest Ecology and Management, Vol 465, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2020.117941>

Bianca Burke, **Adrian Slee, Peter D. McIntosh**, Harald Hofmann, and James Shulmeister. 2020. A reactivated cave system induces rapidly developing cover-collapse sinkholes in Tasmania, Australia. Journal of Cave and Karst Studies, v. 82, no. 1, p. 31-50. DOI:10.4311/2019ES0109

Next Meeting - scheduled for Friday 19th June 2020