



FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY

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FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

16 October 2020

Location

Due to the Board undertaking a field trip to East Coast forests, the Board held its meeting at the East Coaster Resort at Louisville Road, Orford.

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

The monthly WHS&W report was noted. The DSG COVID-19 Safety Plan continues to be implemented for all offices and vehicles.

Finance

The Board reviewed the monthly financial report and noted the Tasmanian Audit Office audit of the 2019/20 Financial Statements did not report any issues that required action.

Compliance

The Board considered compliance reports and preliminary information on four investigations.

The Board made a final determination to issue prescribed fines for alleged breaches of s.17(4)(ba) and (bb) of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* (the Act) in two matters of clearance of trees and threatened native vegetation communities without a forest practices plan. The fines were \$5000 and \$15,000.

Forest Practices Officer (FPO) Refresher Course

Members noted that the FPA is conducting one-day FPO Refresher Courses on 13th, 14th and 20th October 2020.

FPA Research Review

Members discussed the research review hosted by the FPA on 25 September 2020, where a range of speakers presented research and monitoring work associated with the management of special values in the forest practices system, noting it was well run and thought provoking.

King Island

The Board considered a proposal that certain species of the vegetation on King Island should be treated as trees for the purposes of the Forest Practices Act.

Socio-economic program

Members reviewed progress with the FPA's socio-economic program.

Meeting of Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC)

The Chair briefed members on the outcome of a meeting of FPAC held on 15 October 2020, noting advice from FPAC about clarifying the transitional arrangements from the Forest Practices Code 2015 to the Forest Practices Code 2020.

Visit to forestry coupes by FPA Board members

The Board meeting was followed by a visit of Board members to three forestry coupes on the East Coast. The visit was hosted by Midway Tasmania Pty Ltd and Sustainable Timber Tasmania, with members considering the issues around thinning operations in regrowth native forest. These forests were clear-felled by TPFH in the early 70s and are now being thinned to encourage remaining stems to produce sawlog size timber in future years. Discussions included protection of natural and cultural values, area and length of forest practices plans, road maintenance and fire risk management. The Board expressed appreciation to the hosts for the day.

Next Meeting - scheduled for Friday 20th November 2020