

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

22 April 2021

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. One safety incident was recorded involving threats against FPA staff by a member of the public.

Finance

The Board reviewed the monthly financial report.

Compliance

The Board reviewed updated information on one investigation and made a final determination on another.

Private Timber Reserves

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the granting of two applications for PTRs covering 73 ha.

Swift parrot

The Board considered options for implementing a strategic review of swift parrot habitat management, noting several significant issues associated with determining the best approach. The Board requested advice on the potential impact of management decisions on *Eucalyptus brookeriana* as a potential foraging source in the Eastern Tiers, including on private landowners.

Guidelines for the interpretation of the Forest Practices Regulations

The Board reviewed draft guidelines intended to be used by FPA staff and Forest Practices Officers as an aid to interpreting and applying the exemptions from requiring a forest practices plan set out in the *Forest Practices Regulations 2017*. The draft guidelines are to be provided to the Forest Practices Advisory Council for comment.

Relationship between the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the Forest Practices System

The Board reviewed a paper prepared by a member of the Forest Practices Advisory Council which outlined changes resulting from the adoption of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and how the requirements of the State Planning Provisions might operate in conjunction with the forest practices system. Members noted that the changes had the potential to result in more applications for forest practices plans arising from developments in the Agricultural and Rural Zones.

Other

Three members of the FPA's advisory staff were appointed as Forest Practices Officers. They are Diana (Dydee) Mann, Adrian Slee and Kirsty Kay.

The CFPO advised he had conducted engagement and communication meetings on King Island with KI Council, NRM and individual landowners. A meeting was held with a group of beef farmers at the Council chambers. The CFPO outlined the regulatory system with respect to land clearing. Farmers expressed concerns about the requirement to gain permits to clear trees and the need for complex and costly pre-clearing assessments. Other issues were covered including threatened species, maintenance of infrastructure, fire management and management of native vegetation regrowth.

The FPA's Publications and Training Officer had introduced the FPA's planned 'Check before you Chop' campaign to a meeting of town planners in Campbell Town.

A paper was presented which demonstrated the difference in value between "bush" blocks and cleared agricultural land in the main beef and dairy area in the State. The Board noted that the difference in value may be sufficient motivation for incidents of illegal clearing. It is also possible that the range of financial penalties available under the Act may not present a sufficient deterrent to those who proceed without seeking authorisation.

The Board has scheduled a strategic planning session in June.

Next Meeting - scheduled for Friday 21st May 2021 in Hobart