

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

19 March 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. No major safety incidents were recorded since the February meeting.

Finance

The Board reviewed the monthly financial report. The Board endorsed the new FPA Financial Management Policy and Guidelines for FPA staff, and associated instruments of authorisation and delegation.

Compliance

The Board reviewed information on two investigations.

Private Timber Reserves

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the granting of one application for a PTR covering 31ha and the revocation of 4 full PTRs covering 309 ha.

Swift parrot

The Board were advised that Sustainable Timber Tasmania is using an independent ecologist to assist their staff in collecting data on Swift parrot foraging habitat and in the identification of *Eucalyptus brookeriana* in the Eastern Tiers. Members also considered a proposal that a full strategic review of swift parrot habitat management under the forest practices system be considered, noting that such a review is likely to consume significant resources and take time to complete. Further advice was sought on this matter.

Presentation by TasNetworks on their Environmental Management Scheme (EMS)

TasNetworks is exempt from requiring forest practices plans under the Forest Practices Regulations. This is due to EMSs for Aurora and Transend (the merged Aurora and Transend) that have previously been endorsed by the FPA. The FPA has encouraged TasNetworks to seek endorsement for a new EMS to avoid reliance on these previous "parent" EMSs. The Board received a comprehensive presentation of the TasNetworks EMS development project and its status from three of its officers. The Board recommended that FPA specialist staff in biodiversity, earth sciences and cultural heritage work with TasNetworks to identify any gaps in the EMS.

Interpretation of Forest Practices Regulations

The Board noted a number of regulations would benefit from amendments and determined to review a set of revised guidelines for applying the regulations at the next Board meeting.

Forest practices system review – s.4ZA of Act

The Act requires the FPA to report to the Minister on the State's forest practices system every five years, noting that the next report was due in 2022. The CFPO will prepare a paper for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

Meeting of Forest Practices Advisory Council

The Board noted the draft minutes of the FPAC meeting of 12 March 2021, which referred to a presentation of a review paper on the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and its relationship with the forest practices system. The Board asked for the paper to be presented at the next Board meeting for consideration.

Other

The Chief Forest Practices Officer advised that the recruitment of another compliance officer was under way. The CFPO and Biodiversity program staff would be travelling to King Island in late March to undertake field work and engage with the local community on forest practices matters.

FPA staff attended a briefing from the Solicitor General with respect to provision of advice, interpretation of statutes and gathering of evidence.

Board members

The Board noted that expressions of interest would be sought by the Minister for Board member positions where the terms of the incumbents were due to end in 2021.

Next Meeting - scheduled for Thursday 22nd April 2021 in Hobart