

Professor Gordon Duff  
Chair  
Forest Practices Authority  
30 PATRICK STREET HOBART TASMANIA 7000

Dear Professor Duff

The Forest Practices Advisory Council has been sent the advice tendered by the Board to Professor Jonathan West on the perverse outcomes of the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement (TFIGA). The Council has asked that I write to express the Council's support for the position taken by the Board.

The Council is concerned that the TFIGA has been conceived without a thorough understanding of the implications for the Forest Practices System. The Council shares the Board's view that there is a fundamental disconnect between the proposed wood production targets and the area of residual State Forest proposed under the agreement. The inevitable outcome will be pressure to downgrade the forest practice standards of the current Code resulting in loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage values. Alternatively the forest manager will not be able to meet the wood production requirements under the TFIGA.

The Authority has recently been through an exhaustive review of the biodiversity provisions of the Code and there is a case to be made for enhancing some of these provisions so as to provide better outcomes for some biodiversity values. As previously advised, FPAC believes the amendments to the Code proposed in the biodiversity review are likely to restrain sustainable levels of current wood production. Implementation of these proposals is likely to make delivery of the wood production objectives of the TFIGA even more problematic.

The Council is aware that an argument could be made that with the additional areas of forest to be reserved under the TFIGA intensification of forest production in the residual estate can be accepted. The Council does not support this view. The proposed residual areas of State Forest support many examples of biodiversity and cultural heritage that are not adequately conserved in the current or proposed reserves and should be managed under a forest practices system across their entire range. This is particularly the case for values supported by the private forest estate.

Kind regards

Jamie Bayly-Stark  
Chair  
Forest Practices Council

13 December 2011