

Forest Practices Board

Annual Report 1999–2000

A report on the operations of the Forest Practices Board
to the Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
and to be laid before each House of Parliament as
required under section 4 of the *Forest Practices Act* 1985.

Prepared by the Forest Practices Board

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Report of the Chair, Forest Practices Board

The year 1999/2000 saw the introduction of amendments to the *Forest Practices Act* that extend and improve the operation of the Act. The Board became a separate statutory authority, and was given the responsibility to monitor and report on the maintenance of a permanent native forest estate. The first report on this function joins the five other statutory reporting functions.

The Board is pleased to report, in accordance with Section 4E(1)(a) of the *Forest Practices Act*, that the forest practices system in 1999/2000 satisfied the principle of self-funding. The Board also notes with pleasure that the Forest Industries Association and Forestry Tasmania have established a joint research fund to support projects that have a high priority for advancing the scientific knowledge that underpins the forest practices system.

The Board reports that the independent regulatory functions of the Board were funded by the income received under s.44 of the *Forest Practices Act* in 1999/2000. On an accrual basis there was a \$7,000 deficit



Forest Practices Board members, left to right; Peter Volker, Ross Waining, Ken Felton (Chairman), Roger Chalk and Kim Evans.

in funding for these activities during 1999-00.

The Board undertook independent monitoring of the effectiveness of a sample of forest practices plans. Three experienced Forest Practices Officers were employed to independently audit a random sample of 15 per cent of all

commercial forest practices operations on Crown and private land.

The Board reports under s.4E(1)(b) of the *Forest Practices Act* that the implementation and effectiveness of forest practices plans was generally above the nominated standard. However, the Board notes that a substantial improvement in site preparation standards is required in some areas, particularly for plantation operations on State forest. Continuing improvement is also required within other areas of planning and implementation.

The Board reports under s.4G of the Act that there was good compliance with the Act and the Forest Practices Code. Notices to make good under s.41 of the *Forest Practices Act* effectively dealt with most instances of non-compliance. A total of 29 notices was issued by Forest Practices Officers. The Board dealt with three matters through the imposition of penalties under s.47 B of the Forest Practices Act.

The Board reports under s.4C(fa) of the *Forest Practices Act* that Tasmania's permanent native forest estate has been maintained at a level equivalent to 98.4% of the forest area that existed in 1996. The Board reports that the forest area is well in excess of the minimum thresholds within all regions. However, the Board notes that thresholds are being approached for three individual forest communities within two IBRA regions. The Board is taking action to ensure the maintenance of these communities in accordance with the policy on the maintenance of the permanent forest estate.

Many years of research and review have contributed to proposed substantial improvements to the Forest Practices Code. The Code is the centre of Tasmania's forest practices system, which continues to receive international recognition for its excellence and continuing development.

Ken Felton
Chair, Forest Practices Board

Report of the Chief Forest Practices Officer

The year 1999/2000 marked a milestone in the continuing evolution of Tasmania's forest practices system. Notable among the changes to the *Forest Practices Act* that came into effect on 1st July 1999 were-

- The establishment of the Forest Practices Board as a separate statutory authority;
- The replacement of Timber Harvesting Plans with Forest Practices Plans, to ensure that the Forest Practices Code applies not only to forest harvesting, but also to forest roading, quarries and reforestation activity (including plantations);
- The introduction of a requirement for compliance certificates to be lodged with the Board upon the completion of all operations. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that all operations will be inspected by a Forest Practices Officer during and at the completion of operations to ensure that the plan is fully complied with and that any problems are recognised and corrected in a timely manner.

In addition to the legislative changes, the year culminated in the release of a draft revised Forest Practices Code for public comment. The draft Code follows several years of independent reviews and public submissions. One of the major outcomes from the review process relates to the need for better information on the effectiveness of buffer strips along streams. It is pleasing to note that the forest industry (Forestry Tasmania and the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania) has recognised the need for increased research funding to support the continuing improvement of the Forest Practices Code. The immediate priority for the research funds provided by the industry in 1999/2000 has been to initiate studies into the effectiveness of buffers on Class 4 streams.

Careful consideration during the review of the Code was also given to issues raised in relation to the current increased rate of plantation establishment. Many of these

issues relate to social and economic factors that are not directly within the purview of the *Forest Practices Act*. The draft revised Code extends the consideration of off-site environmental effects on neighbours, with an approach designed to complement the 'good neighbour' initiatives that have been developed by forest managers in association with landowner groups.

Other notable developments during the year include:

- A review of procedures for compiling Three Year Plans of operations under the *Forest Practices Act*. A working group of industry, Board and local government representatives has agreed on improved procedures that emphasise consultation between industry and local government with respect to forward plans for the location of operations and the use of infrastructure such as roads and bridges.
- Input into the Private Land Reserve Program under the RFA.
- The development, in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, of agreed procedures for managing threatened species within wood production forests.
- The development of procedures for assessing and managing the risk to public safety from trees that are retained under the forest practices system.

The important structural improvements to the forest practices system were matched by the continuing high standards of professionalism and dedication shown by the people who apply the system in the forest. In particular, I would like to record my appreciation of the outstanding commitment shown by the Forest Practices Officers and by the specialists and other staff who provide expertise and support for the operation of the forest practices system.

Graham Wilkinson
Chief Forest Practices Officer

Part 1: report on the Board's statutory functions

1. Administration of Forest Practices

1.1 Forest Practices Board

The Forest Practices Board is an independent body set up by the *Forest Practices Act* (1985) that has responsibility for advancing the State's forest practices system and fostering a cooperative approach in developing policy and management in forest practices matters. The objective of the State's forest practices system is to achieve the sustainable management of public and private forests. The forest practices system is based upon a self-regulatory approach that is backed up by independent oversight by the Forest Practices Board. The Board reports to the Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

The membership of the Board was amended by changes to the *Forest Practices Act* that took effect on 1st July 1999. Members appointed during 1999/2000 were:

- (a) Secretary of the Department responsible for the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act* 1994; *Kim Evans*
- (b) Director of Private Forests Tasmania appointed under s.8(1)(c) of the *Private Forests Act* 1994 (being a person with expertise in forest or related sciences); *Peter Volker*
- (c) Director of Forestry Tasmania appointed under s.12E(1)(b) of the *Forestry Act* 1920 (being a person with expertise in forest or related sciences and knowledge of and experience in forestry); *Ken Felton (Chair)*
- (d) a person having expertise and knowledge of local government, who is a representative of a municipal area in which forestry is a major land use; *Roger Chalk*

- (e) a person having expertise in the harvesting and processing of timber; *Ross Waining*

The Chief Forest Practices Officer attends all meetings of the Board.

The Board had 10 meetings during the year. The Board also attended a field day with the Executive of Forestry Tasmania to view issues related to forest planning and plantation establishment.

The Board reviewed and updated its Strategic Plan during the year. Major policy issues that were dealt with by the Board during the year included:

- the regulation of tree clearing that is currently outside the control of the forest practices system;
- delegations to Private Forests Tasmania with respect to the administration of Private Timber Reserves;
- public access to information within Forest Practices Plans;
- compensation for landowners refused a Private Timber Reserve;
- proposed amendments to the *Forest Practices Regulations*;
- management of Aboriginal sites within wood production forests;
- plantation establishment on cleared land;
- the review of the Forest Practices Code.

1.2 Forest Practices Advisory Council

The functions of the Forest Practices Advisory Council are to advise the Board on: reviews of the *Forest Practices Act* and Code; financial matters including self funding and the effectiveness of forest practices administration; operations and research.

The membership of the Council changed on 1st July 1999 as a consequence of amendments to the *Forest Practices Act*.

Members of the Council in 1999/2000 were:

- (a) the chairperson of the Board, or that person's nominee; *Ken Felton (Chair)*
- (b) a person with knowledge of the State's resource management and planning system, nominated by the Secretary of the responsible Department in relation to the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*; *John Pretty*
- (c) a person with knowledge of administration and legislation in relation to private forests, nominated by Private Forests Tasmania; *Peter Taylor*
- (d) a person with knowledge of administration and legislation in relation to multiple use forests, nominated by the Forestry corporation; *Dr Hans Drielsma*
- (e) a person with expertise in, and experience of, forest issues in relation to harvesting and processing; *Andy Corbould*
- (f) a person with expertise in, and experience of, forest issues in relation to forest conservation; *Dr Alistair Richardson*
- (g) a person with expertise in, and experience of, tree growing on private land; *Mark Leech*

The Chief Forest Practices Officer attends all meetings of the Advisory Council.

Five meetings were held during the year. The major issues dealt with by Council during the year included:

- the review of the Forest Practices Code;
- procedures for the management of threatened species in wood production forests;
- three year plans;
- *Forest Practices Regulations*;
- procedures for assessing the safety of trees retained under the forest practices system.

1.3 Chief Forest Practices Officer

The Chief Forest Practices Officer (CFPO) is responsible for overseeing the day to day administration of the forest practices system. The CFPO is appointed under s.4J of the *Forest Practices Act* as a person who must have -

- (a) extensive expertise in forestry; and
- (b) extensive experience in forest operations; and
- (c) knowledge of the sustainable management of forests; and
- (d) management skills.

Graham Wilkinson is the current Chief Forest Practices Officer.

The CFPO attended and produced papers for consideration at all meetings of the Board and Advisory Council. He also served on a number of committees, including: the CAR Advisory Committee for the Private Land Reserve Program under the Regional Forest Agreement; the State Biodiversity Committee; the RFA Implementation Group; and the Native Vegetation Management Group. During August 1999, the CFPO undertook a study tour to California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. He produced a report on trends in the implementation of forest practices systems within those regions, and on the implications for the improvement of the forest practices system in Tasmania.

1.4 Forest Practices Act

Major changes to the *Forest Practices Act* took effect on 1st July 1999. The major changes are-

1. *Changes to the membership of the Forest Practices Board.*
 - The inclusion of a representative of local government on the Board provides improved opportunities for community input and for closer integration of the complementary planning processes under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act* and the *Forest Practices Act*.

- The inclusion of expertise in harvesting and processing on the Board provides expertise to help the Board achieve a balance between environmental protection and the commercial use of forests.
 - The exclusion of the position of the Managing Director of Forestry Tasmania from the Board removes the perceived conflict of interest associated with having Forestry Tasmania as both a commercial enterprise and a regulator.
2. *Creation of the Board as a separate, independent statutory body.*
Prior to 1st July 1999, the Board was administratively placed within Forestry Tasmania, although the Board functioned in an independent capacity. Formal legal separation of the Board from Forestry Tasmania has removed any perceived potential conflict of interest from the previous administrative arrangements. As from 1st July 1999, the Board is created as an independent statutory body. The Board is placed under the umbrella of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources for administrative support.
 3. *Removal of exemptions for Forestry Tasmania from legal action under the provisions of the Forest Practices Act (s.17, 21 and 41).*
The exemptions reflected the earlier administration of the *Forest Practices Act* by the predecessor of Forestry Tasmania (the Forestry Commission). The exemptions were no longer appropriate given the separation of the regulatory functions of the Board from the commercial functions of Forestry Tasmania.
 4. *Changes to the composition of the Forest Practices Advisory Council.*
These changes modify the membership of the Council to provide for better representation of the key stakeholder groups. Representation, particularly with respect to industry bodies, industrial organisations, private landowners, scientists and conservation interests has been further extended through formally constituted consultative committees established under the existing provisions of s.4H and s.37D of the Act.
 5. *Defining the operation of a forest quarry as a forest practice that requires a certified plan.*
Forest quarries are an integral part of forest road construction and maintenance. Administrative arrangements between the Forest Practices Board and the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment require the preparation of plans. This amendment formalises the administrative arrangements and ensures that forest quarries will comply with the requirements for environmental protection under the Forest Practices Code.
 6. *Replacing 'Timber Harvesting Plans' with 'Forest Practices Plans' to ensure that all forest practices involving roading, quarries, harvesting and reforestation are covered by certified plans and that such plans require certification of compliance.*
Timber harvesting plans were introduced in 1985 and covered activities associated with the harvesting of timber. Since then, the forest practices system has introduced separate plans for roading and quarries. In addition, there has been acceleration in plantation establishment on cleared land, for which a timber harvesting plan was not legally required. The introduction of Forest Practices Plans will ensure that plantation development is consistent with the Forest Practices Code. All plans now require a formal sign off through the lodgement of a certificate of compliance by a Forest Practices Officer upon the completion of operations.
 7. *Including Forestry Tasmania, contractors and timber processors as persons responsible*

for ensuring that forest operations are covered by an certified plan.

Exemption of Forestry Tasmania under the previous legislation was no longer appropriate given the role of Forestry Tasmania as a commercial enterprise. Similarly, changing roles within the industry mean that contractors and processors are now often the persons responsible for initiating forest practices.

8. *Providing the Forest Practices Board with the discretionary power to approve the purchase or acquisition of timber which has been subject to legal proceedings under the Act.*

The Board may now approve the utilisation of timber which has been unlawfully harvested and has been subject to legal proceedings under the Act.

9. *Providing that no activities can be undertaken which are contrary to the provisions of an certified plan during the term of the plan.*

A Forest Practices Plan now applies to all activities conducted within an area of land during the term of the plan. This was necessary to close a legal loophole whereby a person could for example clear trees from a streamside reserve for the purposes of “agriculture”, rather for the purposes “associated with the harvesting of timber” as defined within the Act.

10. *Ensuring that Forestry Tasmania is recognised as the landowner of public forests that are managed by Forestry Tasmania.*

Forestry Tasmania is recognised as a landowner for the purposes of s.21 of the Act.

11. *Amending s.47B(2) by: deleting “but the circumstances do not merit the imposition of a penalty” to clarify that the Board may impose penalties as an alternative to prosecution for any offence.*

The Board’s powers to deal with some breaches through the imposition of a fine have been extended.

12. *Providing that fines paid under s.47B may be paid into a fund administered by the Board.*

Fines are to be used by the Board for the purposes specified under s.44 of the Act.

13. *Amending the provisions for three year plans so that they include details on reforestation.*

Improvements to the Three Year Plan process address commitments given by the State in the Regional Forest Agreement for a higher level of monitoring of reforestation on private land.

14. *Extending the power of Forest Practices Officers to enter upon lands where forest practices may have been carried out.*

Previous powers were restricted to lands where operations “are being carried out”, thus precluding corrective action being taken if the operations had ceased.

15. *Extending the period for the issue of notices for failure to comply with an certified plan or provisions of the Act to up to 12 months beyond the expiry date of a plan.*

Notices may now be issued to require corrective action to be taken if environmental problems are detected for a reasonable period beyond the expiry date of a plan.

16. *Providing for the Board to undertake monitoring and reporting functions for the purposes of implementing provisions within the RFA which relate to the maintenance of a permanent native forest estate.*

The RFA commits the State to the maintenance of an extensive and permanent Native Forest Estate. The maintenance of the permanent Native Forest Estate will be delivered under processes involving three year plans and Forest Practices Plans as part of the forest practices system. The Forest Practices Board is required to monitor and report on the achievement of the reforestation targets and the maintenance of the Native Forest Estate.

2. Private timber reserves

- The rationale for dedicating private land as a Private Timber Reserve (PTR) is to ensure that activities on the land that are related to the establishment, growing or harvesting of timber are subject to a single, consistent, State-wide system of planning and regulation through the *Forest Practices Act*, and not to variable systems that may be applied under different planning schemes through the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act*. Details on PTR applications during 1999/2000 are summarised below. The net area of forested private property now dedicated as Private Timber Reserves represents approximately 31% of the total area of private forests within the State.
- Two decisions made by the Board were subject to appeals under section 9 of the Act (refer to section 6 of this report for further details).

	as at 30/6/99	1999/2000	Total to 30/6/2000
PTR approvals	1,101	210	1,311
PTRs revoked	18	7	25
Total Area (ha)	292,691	27,074	319,765



Members of the Forest Practices Board and senior officers of Forestry Tasmania inspect current logging technology in the Southern Forests.

3. Forest practices plans

- All forest practices on private property and Crown land must be carried out in accordance with approved forest practices plans, with minor exceptions for small operations as provided under the *Forest Practices Regulations 1997*. Forest practices plans must contain specifications in connection with the harvesting of timber, including roading and reforestation where appropriate. Such specifications must be in accordance with the Forest Practices Code. The Code requires special provisions where necessary to protect natural and cultural values, including flora, fauna, geomorphology, soils and water, cultural heritage and visual amenity. As reported above, amendments to the Act that take took effect on 1 July 1999 have resulted in the following changes-
 - Timber harvesting plans have been replaced by Forest Practices Plans (FPPs), which are required to cover:
 1. Harvesting of timber
 2. Establishment of forests (including those established on cleared land)
 - 3. Road construction and quarrying associated with the above activities.
- The applicant for a FPP must lodge a Certificate of Compliance prepared by a Forest Practices Officer upon the completion of a FPP. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that all operations will be inspected by a Forest Practices Officer during and at the completion of operations to ensure that the plan is fully complied with and that any problems are recognised and corrected in a timely manner.

3.1 Details for forest practices plans approved in 1999/2000

(a) Number of forest practices plans approved in 1999/2000 by type and certifying Forest Practices Officer (FPO) for private forests (PP) and State forest (SF)

Approving FPO	Quarry Plans		Rooding Plans		Harvesting Plans				Reforestation Plans		Total	%
	P	SF	PP	SF	Native forest		Plantations		PP	SF		
Private Forests Tasmania	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	8	1
Forestry Tasmania	2	27	0	81	1	201	2	60	3	15	392	39
Forest companies	3	0	23	11	261	18	66	0	29	0	411	41
consultants	0	0	3	2	143	3	25	4	9	0	189	19
total	5	27	26	94	411	222	94	64	42	15	1000	100%
%	.5	3	3	9	41	22	9	6	4	1.5		

(b) Native forests - area (hectares) of operations covered by Forest Practices Plans approved in 1999/2000 by harvesting method, future land use and tenure

	Partial logging ¹	Clearfelling followed by:			Total	
		Regeneration by seeding	Plantation Eucalypt	Plantation Pine		Non-forest land use ²
State forest	3,600	2,400	5,600	2,200	500	14,300
Private Land	11,200	2,100	4,500	1,100	1,900	20,800
Total	14,800	4,500	10,100	3,300	2,400	35,100

¹ retention of advanced growth, seedtrees, or shelterwood; or group or single tree selection

² clearing, primarily for agriculture and infrastructure

(c) Plantations - area (hectares) of operations covered by Forest Practices Plans approved in 1999/2000 by harvesting method, future land use and tenure

	Thinning	Existing plantations		New plantations on cleared land	Total
		Clearfelling followed by Plantation	Non-forest use		
State forest	1,800	2,100	9	900	4,800
Private Land	1,600	1,500	40	9,400	12,500
Total	3,400	3,600	50	10,300	17,300

3.2 Comments

In previous years, data have been presented on the proportion of operations based on the number of approved plans. The proportion of operations by number of approved plans has generally been regarded as an approximate guide to the proportion of operations by area. This year, data on operations by area (hectares) are available. Although not directly comparable with previous years, the plans approved in 1999/2000 reflect continuing high levels of plantation establishment within Tasmania. Reforestation of native forest to plantation declined from about 42% of operations in 1998/99 to about 38% of operations in 1999/2000. Areas of plantation established on cleared land were not required to be reported through the forest practices system prior to 1999/2000.

4. Three Year Plans

- The *Forest Practices Act 1985* provides for lodgement with the Board of three year plans for private property operations showing their location, volumes to be harvested and the carting routes for each location. Such plans are required to be produced by companies harvesting or causing to be harvested more than 100,000 tonnes in the preceding year. Summaries of the plans are sent to relevant local government authorities as a basis for consultation and negotiation on the location of planned harvesting.
- The 1999 amendments to the *Forest Practices Act* include new requirements for reporting on proposed reforestation, as part of the strategic three year planning process.
- During the year, the Board established a working group of representatives from local government and forest managers to review the efficacy of the current format of the three year plans. The working group recommended several improvements to ensure better consistency in the presentation of the

information. The group also recommended a system of formal briefings by forest managers to local government in order to improve communication and consultation with respect to the plans. The Board has endorsed the recommendations for implementation.

5. Forest Practices Code

In 1997, the Board commissioned an independent expert panel under the Chairmanship of Dr Peter Davies to review the soil and water quality provisions of the Code. Public comment on a draft report was received during 1998 and a final report was produced in 1999. The final report was considered and recommendations on changes to the Forest Practices Code were endorsed in principle by the Forest Practices Advisory Council and the Board.

During 1999/2000, the recommendations of the soil and water review, together with the recommendations from previous reviews into the steep country provisions of the Code and the safety aspects of the Code, were incorporated into a draft revised Code. The draft revised Code was released for a three month period of public comment during April–June 2000.

The Board expects that a revised Code will be issued later in 2000.

6. Forest Practices Tribunal

- The Forest Practices Tribunal provides an independent mechanism for the determination of appeals lodged under the *Forest Practices Act* by aggrieved parties. Appeals may be lodged in relation to applications for private timber reserves, forest practices plans or three year plans.
- Members of the Tribunal are appointed by the Governor in accordance with s.34(1) of the *Forest Practices Act*. Members within the categories under s.34 in 1999/2000 were as follows -

- a) barristers or legal practitioners who have practiced for at least five years - Keyran Pitt, Peter Roach.
- b) persons with a sound and practical knowledge of forestry, road construction in forests, and harvesting of timber - Richard Bowden, Gordon McCutchan, Barry Kingston, Richard Richardson, Duncan Grant.
- c) persons with tertiary qualifications and substantial practical experience in the sciences appropriate to land and forest management - Ian Swan, Bernard Walker, Robert Ellis, Bruce Leaver.
- d) persons with a sound knowledge of, and at least five years practical experience in, agriculture and forestry - Ian Dickenson, Peter Downie, Ian Smith, Ian Chalk.
- e) persons with a sound knowledge of, and at least five years practical experience in, conservation science - Peter Davies, Timothy Kingston, Gintaras Kantvilas.

The Chief Chairman of the Tribunal in 1999/2000 was Mr Keyran Pitt QC.

- Three appeals were heard during the year.

6.1 Appeals in relation to applications for Private Timber Reserves

1. **PTR Application 943.** An application for Private Timber Reserve (PTR) number 943 was refused by the Forest Practices Board primarily on the grounds under s.8(2)(e) of the *Forest Practices Act*. The Board's decision was that it would not be in the public interest to declare the land as a Private Timber Reserve because of the presence of highly significant karst

values that might have been damaged by forestry activities. The Board's decision also noted that there were grounds for refusal under s.8(2)(b) in that parts of the area are unsuitable for declaration as a PTR because of steep and rocky ground, and under s.8(2)(d) because of the presence of threatened species, which are protected under the *Threatened Species Protection Act*. The landowner appealed against the refusal of the PTR. The Forest Practices Tribunal upheld the decision of the Board to refuse the application. However, the Tribunal found that the sole basis for refusal should be that it is against the public interest to grant the application under s.8(2)(e) of the *Forest Practices Act*. The landowner subsequently lodged a claim for compensation pursuant to s.16 of the *Forest Practices Act*.

2. **PTR Application 1206** - The application was granted by the Board on the grounds that the application met all of the statutory requirements for declaration of a PTR. In reaching its decision, the Board noted that approval for a plantation had already been granted by Meander Valley Council under its planning scheme. Meander Valley Council lodged an appeal on public interest grounds on the basis that the land was adjacent to a residential zone. The Tribunal dismissed the appeal and upheld the Board's approval of the PTR. In its decision, the Tribunal found that it was *not satisfied that the land is not suitable for declaration as a Private Timber Reserve; or that it would not be in the public interest to grant the application; or that an owner of residential land within 100 metres of the subject site, would be materially and directly disadvantaged if the application was granted.*

6.2 Appeals in relation to the issue of notices under s.41 of the *Forest Practices Act*

Notices under section 41 of the *Forest Practices Act* were issued by a Forest Practices Officer to a landowner directing that forest roadworks cease until a Forest Practices Plan had been prepared and certified. The landowner appealed to the Tribunal, arguing that he was simply restoring an existing road and not constructing a new road. In its decision, the Tribunal found that the appellant was constructing an improved road to enable the carriage of harvested timber, substantially in excess of the 100 tonnes threshold prescribed in the *Forest Practices Regulations*. The Tribunal therefore dismissed the appeal and confirmed the notices issued by the Board.

7. Monitoring of compliance

7.1 General

- Supervision and monitoring of the forest practices system are based upon the application of self-regulatory mechanisms by the forest industry together with independent monitoring by the Board.
- Under the principle of self-regulation, Forest Practices Officers are employed by Forestry Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania, forest companies, co-operatives and as consultants to supervise and monitor forestry operations and ensure that they comply with the *Forest Practices Act*. Many forest managers undertake formal in-house monitoring, often as part of environmental management systems consistent with standards such as ISO14001.
- Formal reporting on compliance is now required upon the completion of all Forest Practices Plans under s.25A of the *Forest Practices Act*.
- Independent monitoring is carried out by:

- an annual audit of about 15% of all forest practices plans by independent Forest Practices Officers in conjunction with specialist staff of the Board;
- audits of Private Timber Reserves by independent Forest Practices Officers;
- the Chief Forest Practices Officer and other staff of the Board in the course of routine inspections, assessments of the standard of Forest Practices Officers, and investigations arising from complaints and alleged breaches of the Code;
- monitoring of natural and cultural values by the Board's specialist staff.

7.2 Certification of compliance

Changes to the *Forest Practices Act* from 1st July 1999 introduce a requirement for a certificate of compliance to be lodged with the Board within 30 days of the completion of operations prescribed within a Forest Practices Plan. These certificates must be completed by a Forest Practices Officer and lodged by the person who applied for the Plan. The Board resolved that the new requirement should be phased in, recognising an overlap period in which some existing plans were prepared and approved prior to the changes to the Act being introduced. The requirement to lodge a certificate of compliance will affect all plans certified since 1st July 1999. In addition, for existing plans that were certified prior to 1st July 1999, a certificate of compliance will be required for those plans that expire after 1st July 2000.

The Board will report on compliance through this process in future Annual Reports.

7.3 Independent audit of forest practices plans

- In accordance with s.4 of the *Forest Practices Act*, the Board undertakes an independent audit of a sample of Forest Practices Plans on private property and State forest. The audit is a random sample that is stratified to ensure that the activities of all forestry organisations and Forest Practices Officers are sampled. The audit covers plans for forest harvesting, roading, quarrying and site preparation at various stages of completion. In addition to the assessment of operational performance, the audit checks the standard of the plan, including all assessments and procedures required by the forest practices system.
- Forest Practices Officers Bill Manning (Forest Practices Board), Peter Lockwood (Private Forests Tasmania) and Rod Smith (independent consultant) conducted this year's audit.
- The audit provides an important basis for continuous improvement in forest practices since the results from individual operations are discussed in detail with the relevant organisation in order to effect future improvements.
- The 1999/2000 audit covered the questions detailed in Appendix 2. Not all of the questions necessarily relate to mandatory provisions of the Forest Practices Code. Assessment is based upon the scoring system detailed in Appendix 2, with scores of 1 and 2 considered to represent well implemented operations. The State-wide performance rating is determined as the proportion of the total sample of operations that achieves a score of 1 or 2. The Board has set a

performance target for all elements to be at or above a rating of 85%.

- It is important to note that the audit results are a measure of the quality standards set by the Board, and are not a measure of compliance *per se*. Results below the nominated standard indicate areas where the Board believes that improvements should be made in order to fully achieve best practice. Any matters that involve non-compliance with the Code are separately investigated and addressed (see section 8 of this report).
- The full results of the audit are detailed in Appendix 3. Figure 1(a) provides summaries of the standards achieved across the State, calculated as the weighted mean of questions within each of the categories. Figure 1(b) provides summaries of the standards achieved on State forest and on private property by the large companies and by the smaller, independent operations.



Forest Practices Officers and staff of Forestry Tasmania discuss karst management issues with Senior Geomorphologist Dr Kevin Kiernan.

Figure 1 Proportion of forest practices plans (THPs) assessed to have achieved the nominated standard within various assessment categories in 1999/2000

(The Board’s target in 1999/2000 was for at least 85% of operations to achieve the nominated standard)

Figure 1(a) State-wide results (mean values with standard deviation)

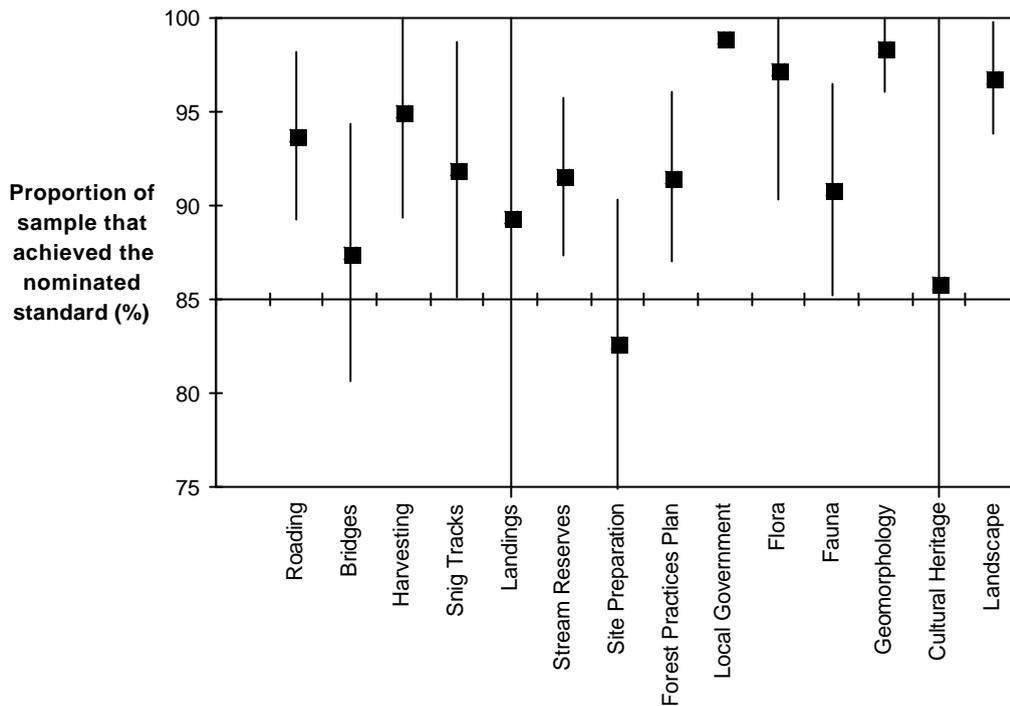
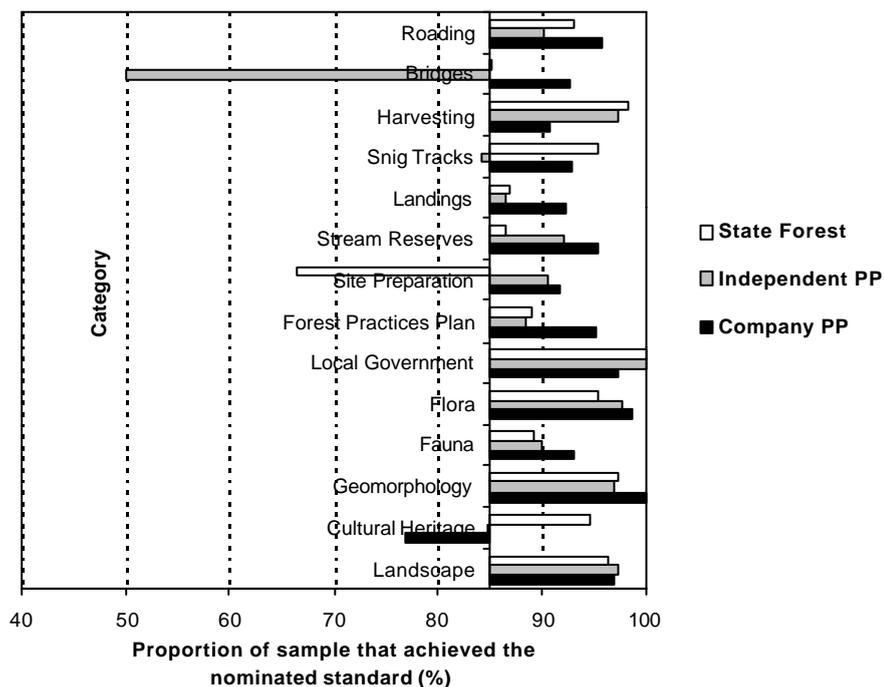


Figure 1(b) Results for operations on State forest and on private property (PP) by large companies and by independent operators



7.4 Comments on the annual audit of forest practices plans

The Board is pleased to note that the nominated standard of forest practices was achieved for 93 of the 120 factors assessed. However, the Board reports that the nominated standard was not achieved in a number of factors, including drainage of temporary tracks and snig tracks, stockpiling of soil on landings, contour ploughing, and the application of prescriptions for flora, fauna and cultural heritage. Site preparation operations on State forest were on average well below the nominated standard. The results show some problems arising from the recent change in emphasis from native forest operations to plantation establishment in some areas. The Board, through Forest Practices Officers and specialist staff, will work closely with forest managers to ensure that improvements are made in these areas.

The Board reports under Section 4E(1)(b) of the *Forest Practices Act* that the implementation and effectiveness of forest practices plans was generally above the nominated standard. However, the Board notes that a substantial improvement in site preparation standards is required in some areas, particularly for plantation operations on State forest. Improvement is also required within other areas of planning and implementation.

7.5 Monitoring of the Permanent Forest Estate

- Section 4C(fa) of the *Forest Practices Act* provides that the Board will monitor and report on harvesting and reforestation activity in relation to the maintenance of a permanent forest estate. The policy relating to the permanent forest estate is outlined in the Regional Forest Agreement. The permanent forest estate policy (PFE policy) prescribes that the area of native forest will be retained above minimum thresholds, expressed as a percentage of the native forest estate assessed in

1996 under the Regional Forest Agreement. The State-wide threshold is 80%, with other thresholds set by bioregions (IBRA) and by forest communities.

- During 1999/2000 the Board established the administrative mechanisms necessary to monitor and report on the permanent forest estate. Part of these mechanisms includes collation of information on the planned harvesting and reforestation activities that are authorised under the Forest Practices Plan process that came into effect on 1st July 1999.
- Data on planned changes to the native forest estate by forest community within the IBRA regions of Tasmania are provided in Appendix 4. The data should be interpreted with some caution for a number of reasons. First, the data relate to planned operations, some of which may not yet have commenced or been completed. Second, the mapping of RFA communities is still subject to ongoing review, verification and modification. Third, areas given within Forest Practices Plans are generally gross areas that do not exclude reserves such as streamside reserves. The areas shown to have been cleared are therefore likely to be an over-estimate. Finally, the data do not include areas of non-commercial clearing, which is currently not subject to regulation under the *Forest Practices Act*. Such clearing is not considered to be extensive within the commercial forest types, but could be locally significant in the drier forests and woodlands that are suitable for conversion to agriculture.
- Overall, the planned reduction in the area of the native forest estate amounts to approximately 50,800ha or 1.6% as a result of clearing for plantations and agriculture over the three year period from 1997/98 to 1999/2000. Summary results for the maintenance of the native forest estate by IBRA region are presented below.

IBRA Region	Native forest estate as at 30/6/00 (as % retention of 1996 area)
Furneaux	100.0
Woolnorth	95.8
Ben Lomond	97.1
Midlands	98.6
Freycinet	98.8
Central Highlands	98.8
West & Southwest	99.8
D'Entrecasteaux	98.1
STATE	98.4

Individual forest communities that appear to be rapidly approaching regional thresholds are as follows -

Forest community	IBRA region	area of forest retained (as % of 1996 area)
Inland <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest	Freycinet	76%
Wet <i>E. viminalis</i> on basalt	Ben Lomond	74%
<i>E. viminalis</i> / <i>E. ovata</i> / <i>E. amygdalina</i> / <i>E. obliqua</i> damp sclerophyll forest	Ben Lomond	63%

Other forest communities in which total area has been reduced by more than 7% are:

Forest community	IBRA region	area of forest retained (as % of 1996 area)
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on dolerite	Woolnorth	90%
Tall <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	Woolnorth	90%
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	Woolnorth	85%
Inland <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest	Ben Lomond	87%
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on sandstone	Ben Lomond	88%
Dry <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	Ben Lomond	90%
<i>E. regnans</i>	Ben Lomond	87%
Shrubby <i>E. ovata</i>	Ben Lomond	92%
<i>E. viminalis</i> / <i>E. ovata</i> / <i>E. amygdalina</i> / <i>E. obliqua</i> damp sclerophyll forest	Midlands	90%
<i>E. pauciflora</i> on Jurassic dolerite	Midlands	90%
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	Freycinet	88%
Grassy <i>E. globulus</i> forest	D'Entrecasteaux	93%
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	D'Entrecasteaux	92%

The Board reports under s.4C(fa) of the *Forest Practices Act* that Tasmania's permanent native forest estate has been maintained at a level equivalent to 98.4% of the forest area that existed in 1996. The Board reports that the forest area is well in excess of the minimum thresholds within all regions. However, the Board notes that thresholds are being approached for three individual forest communities within two IBRA regions. The Board is taking action to ensure the maintenance of these communities in accordance with the policy on the maintenance of the permanent forest estate.

8. Enforcement

8.1 Notices and Prosecutions

- The forest practices system is primarily based upon the principle of self-motivation, which is achieved by education, training, cooperation and fostering a commitment to sound forest practices. The maintenance of high standards of forest practices is also an essential part of the commercial business of forestry, with international certification and many contractual arrangements dependent upon compliance with the *Forest Practices Act* and Code.
- Where problems arise, the Act provides for action to be taken in several ways.
 1. Forest Practices Officers may give verbal or written notification (under Section 41(1)) in order to inform persons that they must comply with the Act or a forest practices plan. Where this notice is not complied with, a Forest Practices Officer may issue a second notice (under Section 41(2)) to direct the person to cease operations and carry out any work required to ameliorate any damage incurred as a result of the breach. Failure to comply with the second notice may lead to prosecution.

Most problems or instances of non-compliance are resolved by the notice system.

2. The Board may also prosecute for failure to have operations covered by a forest practices plan (Section 17) or for failing to comply with a forest practices plan (Section 21).
 3. The Board may impose fines as an alternative to prosecution (Section 47B).
- The following legal enforcement occurred in 1999/2000.

Notices issued by Forest Practices Officers	29
Fines imposed by the Board	3
Complaints laid with the Director of Public Prosecutions	0
Prosecutions pending	1

- Three cases were dealt with by the imposition of a fine by the Board under s.47B of the *Forest Practices Act*.
 1. A case in a State forest coupe at Taranna 15 involved -
 - Incorrect marking of a Class 2 streamside reserve, resulting in the reserve width being reduced from 30m to less than 16m along one section. As a result, logging and site preparation activities had been carried out to within 16m of the stream. This, coupled with excessive soil disturbance to very wet soils, had directly caused sediment to enter the stream.
 - Serious soil damage to large areas of the coupe caused by site preparation machinery working on very wet soils and within drainage lines.

The Board regarded these offences to be very serious. It was of particular concern that the errors which contributed to the offences had not been detected until the major operations were virtually completed and substantial environmental damage had already been done.

The Board believed that the environmental outcomes in coupe TA15 constituted serious offences under s.21 of the *Forest Practices Act*. The Board acknowledged that Forestry Tasmania initiated and fully co-operated with investigations into the offences. The Board also took into consideration the fact that Forestry Tasmania and the contractor had taken corrective action in relation to the rehabilitation of the damaged areas within the coupe, and had implemented new procedures in order to prevent a recurrence of the problems. Forestry Tasmania and the contractor, Hazell Bros, each paid a prescribed fine of \$5,000 under the provisions of s.47B of the *Forest Practices Act*.

2. The second case involved a harvesting contractor working on private land. The offences related to –
 - Harvesting beyond the harvesting boundary shown in the THP;
 - Harvesting within a class 3 streamside reserve;
 - Crossing and snigging across a class 3 stream;
 - Landings not corded;
 - Harvesting boundaries not marked;
 - Bark on landings not heaped.

The Forest Practices Board believed that the above constituted serious offences under s.21 of the *Forest Practices Act*. The Board took into account the cooperative attitude shown by the contractor with respect to the investigation and subsequent actions to carry out remedial works. The contractor, Mr Gary Garth, agreed to pay a prescribed fine of \$2,000 under s.47B of the *Forest Practices Act*.

3. The third case involved a firewood contractor on private land. The offence related to the harvesting of timber without an approved Forest Practices Plan and without the consent of the landowner.

The Forest Practices Board took into account the fact that the volume of wood harvested was low and that there had been no environmental harm. Nevertheless, the Board believed that harvesting without a Plan and without the consent of the landowner was a very serious offence under s.17 of the *Forest Practices Act*. The Board noted that separate action had been taken by the police with respect to other parties involved in this matter and imposed a fine of \$750 on the firewood contractor, Mr Stanley Redburn.

8.2 Investigation of Complaints

- The Board requires all complaints to be adequately investigated. The Board believes that under the principle of self-regulation, all parties have a responsibility to respond to complaints. Wherever possible, the Board asks Forest Practices Officers to investigate alleged breaches and to deal with public complaints. Formal legal investigations are undertaken into all serious breaches.
- A total of 77 formal complaints about forest practices was received by the Board from adjoining landowners, the public, local government and industry. This figure does not include complaints made directly to landholders or industry personnel, unless they were subsequently referred to the Board. All of these matters were investigated and were dealt with as detailed in the following table.
- There were 44 complaints that related to instances of non-compliance. This figure is less than the 53 instances of non-compliance reported in 1998/99.

	A	B	C	D	E	99/00 B-E
State Forest	6	17	3	1	0	21
Company operations on private property	19*	12	1	0	0	13
Independent private property operations	8	4	3	2	1	10
TOTAL	33	33	7	3	1	44

A = No breaches of the Act or Code.

B = Warnings given for marginal breaches, no serious environmental damage.

C = Notices issued under the *Forest Practices Act*.

D = Financial penalty imposed under s.47B.

E = Alleged offences subject to legal investigation or legal action.

* includes 9 complaints in relation to one operation

9. Administration

9.1 Forest Practices Officers

- The Forest Practices Board appoints Forest Practices Officers under s.38 and s.39 of the *Forest Practices Act*. Forest Practices Officers have powers and responsibilities under the Act, and the Board may delegate further responsibilities in relation to functions such as the certification of forest practices plans and the laying of complaints under the *Forest Practices Act*. Forest Practices Officers are employed by forest companies, Forestry Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania and as consultants to plan, supervise and monitor forest practices and ensure that operations comply with the *Forest Practices Act*.
- The prerequisite qualifications for appointment as a Forest Practices Officer are:

Forest Practices Officer (Planning) - a degree in forestry or equivalent academic qualifications or demonstrated personal expertise together with at least five years practical forestry experience in planning and supervision of forest operations;

Forest Practices Officers (Inspecting) - a tertiary qualification or equivalent technical expertise and at least five years experience in supervising forest operations.

In addition, a person who wishes to be appointed as a Forest Practices Officer must successfully complete a training course consisting of a number of teaching sessions, field trips, practical exercises in various parts of the State and a formal examination. Periodic refresher courses are also obligatory. Forest Practices Officers (Inspecting) may be appointed as Forest Practices Officers (Planning) following further training and accreditation for appropriate experience in forest planning.

9.1.1 Forest Practices Officers

	As at 30/6/99	Current as at 30/6/00
FPO(Planning)		
- industry	36	53
- independent consultants	19	14
- Forestry Tasmania	46	49
- Forest Practices Board	4	4
- Private Forests Tasmania	8	10
<i>Total FPO (Planning)</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>130</i>
FPO(Inspecting)		
- industry	27	21
- independent consultants	3	6
- Forestry Tasmania	24	30
- Private Forests Tasmania	1	1
<i>Total FPO (Inspecting)</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>58</i>
TOTAL	168	188

9.1.2 Disciplinary action

- Forest Practices Officers deliver an integral part of the forest practices system and the Board expects very high standards to be maintained. The Board has a disciplinary policy for instances of unsatisfactory performance by Forest Practices Officers. The Board is pleased to report that there were no matters requiring disciplinary action in 1999/2000.

9.2 Staff

Graham Wilkinson	B.Sc.(For.)(Hons), M.Sc.	Chief Forest Practices Officer
<i>Research and Advice</i>		
Bruce Chetwynd	B.A.(Env.Des.), Grad.Dip Rec.Plan, Grad.Dip.Land.Plan.	Forest Landscape Planner
Nathan Duhig	B.Sc.(Hons)	Scientific Officer
Fred Duncan	B.Sc.	Senior Botanist
Denise Gaughwin	B.A. (Hons), M.A.	Senior Archaeologist
Kevin Kiernan	Ph.D.	Senior Geomorphologist
Peter McIntosh	B.Sc.(Hons), Ph.D.	Senior Scientist (Forest soils and water)
Chris Mitchell	B.Sc. (For.)	Forest Practices Adviser
Sarah Munks	B.Sc.(Hons), Ph.D.	Senior Zoologist
Mark Wapstra	B.Sc. (Hons)	Scientific Officer
Darrell West		Aboriginal Heritage Officer
<i>Administration/Regulation</i>		
Kylie Dillon		Administrative Assistant
Bill Manning	Tech. For. Cert.	Inspector, Forest Practices
Paul Wilkinson	B.Nat.Res.	Environmental Officer
Sheryl Wolfe		Office Manager
<i>Temporary staff during the year</i>		
Helen Otley	B.Sc. (Hons)	Project Zoologist
Karen Richards	B.Sc. (Hons)	Project Zoologist
Brooke Craven	B.Sc. (Hons)	Project Botanist
Suzette Wood	B.Sc.	Research assistant - Geomorphology
Katriona Hopkins	B.A. (Hons), Dip. Ed.	Project Botanist

10. Training and Education

- The Board completed a Forest Practices Officer training course for 19 people and commenced a new course for 27 people.
- Briefings on the proposed amendments to the Forest Practices Code were conducted for all Forest Practices Officers.
- A four day course on the operation of the forest practices system was conducted by the Board in conjunction with Forestry Tasmania for 17 operational supervisors employed by Forestry Tasmania and the industry.
- A two day course in the certification of Forest Practices Plans for quarries was conducted for 15 Forest Practices Officers.
- In house training has been done by most Forestry Tasmania districts and by major companies. The training of major company contractors and operators was undertaken by the larger companies and by Hollybank Training Centre.
- The Forest Practices Board provided assistance to training programs in technical forestry conducted by Hollybank.
- Specialist courses were conducted in the following areas-
 - Plant identification course for six Forestry Tasmania staff;
 - Forest Botany Module for six Trainee Technical Foresters;
 - Greening Australia Master Tree Growers Course for 12 landowners;
 - Three Forest Botany Courses for 60 staff within Forestry Tasmania, industry, and private landowners.
 - A fauna course was

conducted for over 30 forest officers.

- A symposium and field day on the conservation and management of native grasslands was held at Surrey Hills for 25 people from Forestry Tasmania, North Forests, DPIWE, and community groups.
- Numerous presentations were given on the forest practices system, including to the national conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, and to a regional meeting of Pacific nations in Vanuatu.

11. Self Regulation

- A major objective of the forest practices system of Tasmania is to achieve a high degree of self regulation by the forest industry (Schedule 7 *Forest Practices Act 1985*).
- Self regulation is implemented through the following processes within the forest practices system:
 - *Preparation of forest practices plans.* Section 18 of the *Forest Practices Act* provides that any person may prepare a forest practices plan. However, in practice, most plans are prepared by Forest Practices Officers who have the skills and knowledge



Senior Soil Scientist Dr Peter McIntosh discusses soil issues with students during a field exercise for a Forest Practices officer course.

necessary to ensure that plans achieve the high standard necessary for approval. The larger companies and Forestry Tasmania generally employ sufficient staff to meet their own requirements for the preparation of plans. Smaller companies and private landowners are generally serviced by consultants.

- *Certification of forest practices plans.* Forest practices plans are certified by selected Forest Practices Officers who hold delegated powers from the Board. These Forest Practices Officers are appointed by the Board from suitably qualified staff employed by forestry consultants, forest companies, Forestry Tasmania and Private Forests Tasmania.
- *Supervision and inspection of forest practices.* Forest practices are supervised by Forest Practices Officers and other staff employed by the forest industry. Forest Practices Officers have the power to issue notices under Section 41 of the *Forest Practices Act* in order to ensure that operations comply with the Act or with the conditions of an approved forest practices plan.
- *Internal environmental audit.* Some of the major companies have formal environmental audit systems that are consistent with standards such as ISO 14001 in place. Operations on State forest are also subject to internal audit procedures by Forestry Tasmania.
- *Reporting on compliance under s.25A of the Forest Practices Act* - Certificates of compliance must be lodged with the Board within 30 days of the expiry of a Forest Practices Plan. Such certificates must be completed by a Forest Practices Officer.

The Board reports that a satisfactory level of self regulation has been maintained on State forest and on most of the private land that is subject to operations undertaken by the major companies. New requirements for compliance certification that were introduced from 1st July 1999 have led to an improvement in the monitoring and correction of problems by Forest Practices Officers across those sectors that were previously poorly served by Forest Practices Officers.

12. Funding

- The objective of the Tasmanian forest practices system is to deliver sustainable forest management in a way that is as far as possible self funding (Schedule 7 *Forest Practices Act 1985*). The Act also provides under Section 44 that certain functions of the Board will be paid out of money allocated by Parliament.
- Full financial details for the year 1999/2000 are presented in part 2 of this report (Financial Statements).

12.1 Self-funding of activities conducted by industry

- The industry has been self funding in implementing the *Forest Practices Act* by providing the following services:
 - preparation and certification of forest practices plans;
 - supervision of forest practices;
 - training and education of contractors, operators and Forest Practices Officers;
- The Board estimates the value of these services to be \$7 million p.a. in 1999/2000.

12.2 Self-funding of activities conducted by the Forest Practices Board

- The self-funding activities of the Board are primarily related to the direct cost of the services provided by the Board's Research and Advisory Programs (see section 13 of this report). The funding

for these activities of the Board is based upon the following arrangements:

- 50% of the funding is contributed for operations on publicly owned forests by a voluntary contribution from Forestry Tasmania;
- 50% of the funding is contributed for operations on privately owned forest owners by a voluntary contribution from wood processors. The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT) collects the levy on behalf of its members, who process over 85% of the total volume harvested from private property. The balance of the contribution from the private sector is paid by the forest companies North Forest Products and Boral.
- In addition to the direct funding of the Research and Advisory Program, the Board receives income from research grants and consultancy work.
- Total revenue received under the self-funding activities of the Board in 1999/2000 amounted to \$1.1 million.

The Board is pleased to report, in accordance with Section 4E(1)(a) of the *Forest Practices Act*, that the forest practices system in 1999/2000 satisfied the principle of self-funding. The Board also notes with pleasure that the Forest Industries Association and Forestry Tasmania have established a joint research fund to support projects that have a high priority for advancing the scientific knowledge that underpins the forest practices system.

12.3 Funding of the Forest Practices Board from Parliament

- Section 44 of the *Forest Practices Act* provides that the costs and expenses incurred for the following activities are to be paid out of monies provided by Parliament:
 - a) annual assessment of the forest

practices system and forest practices plans;

- b) preparation of the Annual Report to Parliament under s.4F;
 - c) detection and investigation of breaches of the Act;
 - d) laying of complaints and prosecuting offences;
 - e) payment of compensation for the refusal of Private Timber Reserves;
 - f) remuneration of the Chief Forest Practices Officer;
 - g) administrative support for the Chief Forest Practices Officer;
 - h) exercise of the Board's powers and functions.
- Total revenue received for the independent regulatory functions of the Board in 1999/2000 amounted to \$380,000.

The Board reports that the independent regulatory functions of the Board were funded by the income received under s.44 of the *Forest Practices Act* in 1999/2000. On an accrual basis there was a \$7,000 deficit in funding for these activities during 1999-00.

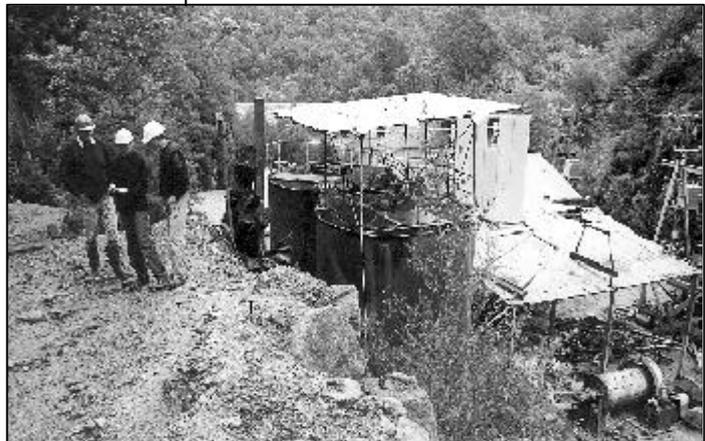
13. Report on the activities of the Research and Advisory Program

- The forest practices system draws on a large pool of scientific expertise available within the Forest Practices Board, Forestry Tasmania, forest companies, CSIRO, Parks and Wildlife Service, other Government departments and Universities.
- Senior scientists in archaeology, botany, geomorphology, soil science, visual landscape and zoology are attached to the Research and Advisory Program of the Forest Practices Board.
- Services provided by the Board include the following.
 - Contributing to comprehensive and scientifically based inventories and databases and the updating of these databases through additional research and surveys. Such databases show the occurrence or potential occurrence of values that may require reservation or special management.
 - Developing and maintaining up to date manuals to document the knowledge that under-pins the Forest Practices Code and to provide additional guidelines for the practical management of specific values within wood production forests.
 - Undertaking research to test the effectiveness of the provisions of the Forest Practices Code and proposing amendments if necessary.
 - Training, education and liaison with Forest Practices Officers and land managers.

- Providing advice to land managers on general management issues and on the practical conservation and management of significant features within wood production forests.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Forest Practices Code and management prescriptions involving specific values.
- Conducting or supervising surveys that require special expertise.
- Highlights of activities carried out by the Board's Research and Advisory Program are provided below. The Program is reviewed on an annual basis as at 31st March each year. A full copy of the Annual Report for the Research and Advisory Program is available from the Board upon request. Publications by staff of the Board are included in Appendix 1.

13.1 Archaeology

The Aboriginal Heritage Officer assisted by archaeologically trained staff completed 385 surveys for Aboriginal sites. The Aboriginal Heritage Officer completed 225 of these. Archaeologically trained staff and the Senior Archaeologist completed the remainder. New Aboriginal sites were located on 58 coupes. Sixty-four new historic sites were reported in this period.



Senior Geologist Denise Gaughwin and officers of Mineral Resources Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment evaluate the heritage value of the Anmchor mine site within State forest near St Helens.

The Senior Archaeologist completed a total of 43 inspections. Of these, 20 related to issues on private property and 23 related to land administered by Forestry Tasmania.

Research projects and assistance included:

- ... the completion of a project on the timber industry of the Upper Derwent;
- ... input into the management plan for the historic Van Dieman's Land Co. sites;
- ... species trial plantings and arboreta in Tasmania and mining sites in wood production forests.

Liaison occurred with appropriate organisations, including: the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment; Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council; Tasmanian Heritage Council and Mineral Resources Tasmania.

13.2 Botany

Formal advice was provided to Forest Practices Officers for about 300 sites. Approximately 110 field surveys were undertaken, with 70% being on private property.

About 70 occurrences or potential occurrences of 38 threatened plant species were identified (by survey or from databases) in proposed operational areas. Many of the occurrences were located in the field by Forest Practices Officers, others were located in the course of botanical surveys. There was liaison with specialists of the Threatened Species Unit for all occurrences, as required by the Forest Practices Code and the *Threatened Species Protection Act*. In most cases, protection of the species was achieved by negotiated management prescriptions. In the case of some species, where prescriptions included some form of disturbance, follow-up monitoring of the efficacy of the

prescriptions will be required.

Draft Forest Botany manuals were produced for 4 of the 7 regions, and a draft of the general manual was also prepared.

Research and project work included:

- ... the Mersey District Management Plan;
- ... the National Framework for Management and Monitoring of Australian Native Vegetation;
- ... the Tasmanian Vegetation Management Strategy;
- ... inventories and management plans for vegetation on King Island, the Jordan River catchment, Mersey River catchment and Meander Valley;
- ... research into the establishment of *Pinus radiata* in native forest (with Katriona Hopkins);
- ... research into the distribution and conservation of *Eucalyptus radiata* (with Katriona Hopkins);
- ... management planning for the native grasslands on State Forest in Mersey District (with Brooke Craven);
- ... flora surveys of State Forest plantation sites and reserves.

Liaison occurred with appropriate organisations and the Senior Botanist



Field day on management of native grasslands at Surrey Hills. Management planning for grasslands managed by North Forest Burnie and Forestry Tasmania was undertaken by Brooke Craven, through the Forest Practices Board.

worked closely with the Private Land Reserve Program and contributed expertise through the Scientific Advisory Committee.

13.3 Geomorphology

The Senior Geomorphologist responded to over 80 written requests for information on geomorphological and geoconservation issues with respect to forest operations. About half the written enquiries necessitated field inspections.

Environments: karst 63%; periglacial 14.0%; glacial 9.5% fluvial 9.6 other 3.9 (overlap)

Issues: geohazards ~85.0%; geoconservation: ~15.0%.

Activity: native forest 54%; plantation 36.5%; roading 4.8%; quarrying 3.2%; fire management 1.5%

Research work included:

- ... the mapping of some slope deposits and landforms in Florentine, Humboldt and Tyenna valleys to differentiate both rapid and slow mass movement features;
- ... the alluvial history of the Dazzler



Scientific Officer Nathan Duhig analyses water samples from a long-term study of processes within karst systems.

Range;

- ... the completion of the first intensive phase of data gathering for a karst process study via underground data loggers;
- ... monitoring of the biological component of the Little Trimmer karst studies;
- ... publication of results on karst, uplift and sedimentation;
- ... input to the proposed book on Tasmanian palaeoenvironments;
- ... a new project on soils in karst areas was initiated during the year, jointly with the FPB Senior Scientist (Soils and Water).

Liaison occurred with, and advice was given to, DPIWE and Forestry Tasmania, British Columbia Forest Service, the IUCN regarding an external expert review for a new World Heritage Area nomination (Vietnam), and several relevant NGOs of which the Senior Geomorphologist is a member (Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association; International Geographical Union Commission on Sustainable Development and Management of Karst Terrains; and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas).

13.4 Soils and water

A total of 171 notifications and enquires were received, chiefly from Forest Practices Officers, in relation to slope stability, soil erodibility, landslide hazard and soil/hazard management. Approximately half of these enquiries (83) required field inspections of coupes and a full report.

Research work and other projects included:

- ... the publication of guidelines for forestry operations on soils formed in basalt talus and for soils formed in dolerite talus;
- ... assistance to CSIRO and Forestry Tasmania staff for a joint trial of soil indicators at Warra LTERM site;



Students on a Forest Practices Officer training course studying soil profiles.

13.5 Visual Landscape

Requests for advice increased by 25% from last year and have swung over to plantations from native forest coupes (proportion is now 122 to 90). Plantations developments potentially raise more issues with respect to scenic values. Visual management of this new wave of plantation establishment will require diverse solutions to match each situation and region.

Guidelines for new and existing plantations

have been promoted in most districts and companies and implemented where appropriate. Some of these guidelines/principles have been included in revision of the Forest Practices Code.

During Long Service Leave the Landscape Planner attended a seminar in Europe on simulations (computer based) and visual perceptions, a public participation workshop for planning of a forested highland valley in Scotland and, two training courses on plantation forest visual management conducted by the UK Forestry Commission. Also visits were made to Coillte, the Irish forestry agency and the Irish Forest Service who are currently experiencing major investment and expansion in plantation forestry, with new research and directions on forest visual values management. Published material has been compiled to assist with developing improved plantations landscape management policy and guidelines

13.6 Zoology

The Senior Zoologist and Scientific Officer provided advice for 372 Forest Practices Plans (see summary tables

- ... ten new soil profiles were described and analysed in a cooperative project with Forestry Tasmania to better characterise soils formed in granite, and write a guide to their management
- ... commencement of a project to develop a guide to soils in karst areas;
- ... description and analysis of 20 new soil profiles;
- ... a reconnaissance survey of forms of carbon in different soil types formed in granite as part of a study to relate topsoil carbon quality to site productivity;
- ... establishment of research sites to retrospectively investigate the effect of forestry on the quality of Class 4 streams. Sites near Beulah and Ben Nevis were selected;
- ... presentation of results from a study of the Fish River Road landslide, Mersey Valley, (by McIntosh, Duhig and Hawkes) to the Second Forest Erosion Workshop, Warburton, Victoria.

Close liaison was maintained with scientists within Forestry Tasmania, CSIRO, universities and industry research bodies.

below). Of these, approximately 40 involved site visits, on both State and private property.

Table 1. Number of notifications for each species for the period 1/4/99 to 31/3/00. (NB. the total number of advice requests does not equate to the number of notification forms received as some notification forms are for several species)

Species	Number
Wedge-tailed eagle	192
Giant freshwater lobster	185
North-west velvet worm	54
North-east forest snail	39
Hydrobiid snails	32
Ptunarra brown butterfly	26
Grey goshawk	24
Australian grayling	23
Mt Mangana stag beetle	21
Mt Arthur burrowing crayfish	10
Simsons stag beetle	10
Giant velvet worm	8
Tasmaphena lamproides	6
Swift parrot	6
Broad-toothed stag beetle	4
Burnie burrowing crayfish	3
Caddisflies	2
Cave dwelling invertebrates	2
Blind velvet worm	3
Scottsdale burrowing crayfish	2
Schayer's grasshopper	1
Chaostola skipper	1
Dwarf galaxias	1
Clarence galaxias	0
Swan galaxias	0
Total	643

Collaborative work continued in 1999/2000 into the development of public authority management agreements for the conservation of Simsons stag beetle, north-west velvet worm, giant velvet worm and Mt Mangana stag beetle in State forest.

The threatened fauna locality database was updated during revision of the FPB Threatened Fauna Manual.

Research work and other projects included:

...priority coupe surveys for *Hoplogonus bornemisszai* (Bornemisszas stag beetle) and *H. vanderschoori* (Vanderschoors stag beetle) in north-east Tasmania (personnel: Karen Richards);

...testing the prediction for low priority coupes for simsons stag beetle (personnel: Karen Richards, Jeff Meggs);

...investigating the effectiveness of management prescriptions for the retention of swift parrot foraging habitat in production forests in Tasmania (personnel: Karen Richards, Jeff Meggs, Sarah Munks, Ray Brereton);

...studying the long term mortality rates of retained habitat trees in state forest coupes (personnel: Nathan Duhig, Sarah Munks, Mark Wapstra, Rob Taylor);

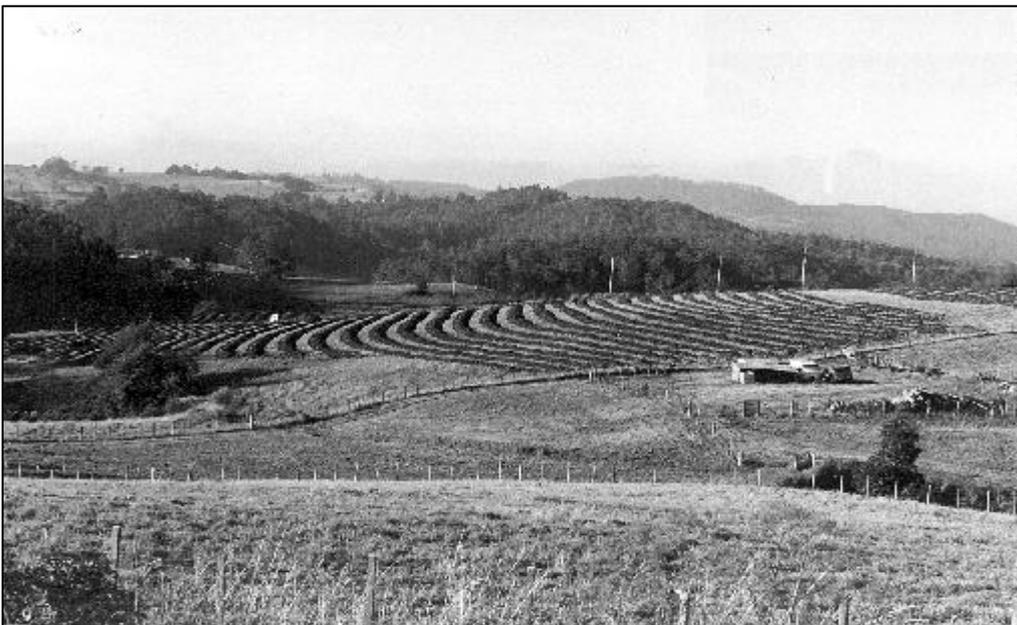
...assessing the implementation of Forest Practices Code provisions relating to the retention of hollow bearing trees in production forests in Tasmania (personnel: Mark Wapstra, Sarah Munks);

Table 2. Summary of advice requests by tenure for the period 1/4 to 31/3 for the last four years.

Note: private property includes industrial freehold and other private land; State forest includes all public tenures (e.g. HEC, Crown, State forest)

Tenure	Number of advice requests 1996/97	Number of advice requests 1997/98	Number of advice requests 1998/99	Number of advice requests 1999/00
State forest	116	188	192	159
Private property	140	243	200	213
Total	256	431	392	372

- ...describing the characteristics and occurrence of nesting habitat utilised by hollow-dependent birds in Tasmania's production forests (personnel: Mark Wapstra);
- ...assessing habitat suitability for juvenile freshwater lobster (*Astacopsis gouldi*) and the impact of logging in Class 3 and 4 streams (personnel: P.E.Davies and L.Cook);
- ...studying the distribution and impact of cable harvesting on hydrobiid snails (personnel: P.E.Davies and L.Cook);
- ...describing the foraging habitat requirements of the grey goshawk, *Accipiter novaehollandiae* in Tasmania. (personnel: Sarah Munks, Simon Plowright and Nick Mooney);
- ...studies into the ecology and habitat requirements of the platypus in an upper catchment lake system (personnel: Mr Philip Bethge, Dr Sarah Munks, A/Professor Stewart Nicol, Ms Helen Otley);
- ...co-supervising University of Tasmania M.Sc. students (stag beetle habitat and conservation management, occurrence and characteristics of habitat utilised by hollow-dependent birds in Tasmanian production forests) and a Ph.D. student (platypus eco- physiology);
- ...monitoring two long term studies of the impact of forest practices on two threatened invertebrates ie., Simsons stag beetle and the Scottsdale burrowing crayfish;
- ...establishing a long-term monitoring site for the Mt Arthur burrowing crayfish.



Excellent example of contour ploughing for plantation establishment on farmland near Wilmot.

Part 2: Financial statements

OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

	Note	1999-00 \$'000
OPERATING REVENUE		
	2	
Industry Contributions		852
State Government Appropriation		361
Grants		184
Fines and Fees		13
Other Revenue		73
Total Operating Revenue		1,483
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Salaries and Related Expenses		1,008
Advertising and Promotion		12
Communications		26
Consultancies		4
Depreciation	1(e) & 4	....
Information Technology		46
Rental of Accomodation		47
Other Accomodation Related		14
Travel and Transport		134
Other Operating Expenses		139
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		1,430
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Extraordinary Items		53
Extraordinary Items		....
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) after Extraordinary Items		53

Notes 1-9 form an integral part of these accounts.

OPERATING STATEMENT BY ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

	Note	SELF-FUNDING ACTIVITIES \$'000	1999-00 INDEPENDENT REGULATION ACTIVITIES \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
OPERATING REVENUE	2			
Industry Contributions		852	....	852
State Government Appropriation		....	361	361
Grants		184	....	184
Fines and Fees		....	13	13
Other Revenue		67	6	73
Total Operating Revenue		1,103	380	1,483
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and Related Expenses		734	274	1,008
Advertising and Promotion		6	6	12
Communications		20	6	26
Consultancies		3	1	4
Depreciation	1(e) & 4	....	....	....
Information Technology		30	16	46
Rental of Accommodation		37	10	47
Other Accommodation Related		11	3	14
Travel and Transport		105	29	134
Other Operating Expenses		97	42	139
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		1,043	387	1,430
Operating Surplus/Deficit before Extraordinary Items		60	(7)	53
Extraordinary Items		....	....	....
Operating Surplus/Deficit after Extraordinary Items		60	(7)	53

Notes 1-9 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2000

	Note	1999-00 \$'000	1998-99 \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Operating Account Balance	3 & 7(a)	320	323
Receivables and Prepayments		75	....
Total Current Assets		395	323
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	....	....
Total Non-Current Assets		....	....
TOTAL ASSETS		395	323
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accrued Expenses		10	....
Employee Entitlements	5	107	100
Total Current Liabilities		117	100
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Entitlements	5	113	111
Total Non-Current Liabilities		113	111
TOTAL LIABILITIES		230	211
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	6	165	112
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		395	323

Notes 1-9 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

	Note	1999-00 \$'000 Inflows (Outflows)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
<i>Payments</i>		
Payments to creditors, other suppliers and employees		(1,412)
<i>Receipts</i>		
Contributions		782
Other		627
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	7(b)	(3)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from disposal of assets		....
Payments for purchase of non-current assets		....
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		0
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(3)
Cash at the beginning of the year		323
CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR	3 & 7(a)	320

Notes 1-9 form an integral part of these accounts.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The Forest Practices Board of Tasmania is a body corporate, established by the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual accounting basis in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and all relevant legislation.

The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the convention of historical costs, and therefore do not reflect changes in the purchase power of money or current valuations of non-monetary assets, except where otherwise stated.

(b) Operations of the Board

The role of the Forest Practices Board is to advance the objective of the State's forest practices system and to foster a cooperative approach towards policy development and management. The Board facilitates self-regulation through the training and oversight of the work done by Forest Practices Officers employed within the forestry sector. This is underpinned by research and advisory services that promote continuing improvement. The Board also independently monitors, enforces and reports to Parliament on the standards achieved and on the degree of compliance with the Forest Practices Code and *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

(c) Statutory Matters

Under the requirements of the *Forest Practices Act Amendment 1999* the Board is required for the first time to produce accrual financial statements, starting from 1 July 1999.

(d) Valuation of Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Assets are recorded at their historical costs. In accordance with Treasurer's Instructions the asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Board is \$5,000. Assets valued at less than \$5,000 are charged to the operating statement in the year of purchase.

(e) Depreciation on Non-Current Assets

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

(f) Employee Entitlements

Employee entitlements include entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave and superannuation benefits.

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised, and are measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at current pay rates in respect of employees' services up to that date. The liability for sick leave is not material and has not been recognised.

A liability for long service leave is recognised, and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given, when assessing expected future payments, to expected future wage and salary levels plus on costs, experience of employee departures and periods of service. On-costs include payroll tax and employer superannuation contributions and exclude workers' compensation premiums and fringe benefits tax. Expected future payments are discounted using interest rates attaching, as at the reporting date, to Commonwealth

Government guaranteed securities with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

A superannuation provision is maintained in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund for all public sector entities. During the reporting period, the Board paid to the provision, eleven (11) per cent of salary in respect of contributory members and the appropriate Superannuation Guarantee Charge in respect of non-contributors. Under these arrangements the Board has no further superannuation liability for the past service of its employees.

(g) Comparative Figures

As this is the first year that the Board has been required to produce accrual financial statements comparative figures are limited to reporting for 1998-99 the cash balance and employee entitlements in the Statement of Financial Position. No other comparatives are provided in this report but will be provided in future years reports.

2. FUNDING OF THE BOARD'S OPERATIONS

The functions of the Board can be divided into two main areas, namely:

- Self-funding Activities

These activities comprise the Research and Advisory program which is supported by industry funding and other individual projects supported by either industry funding, Commonwealth grants, or RFA funding.

The Board reports in accordance with Section 4E(1)(a) that the forest practices system in 1999-00 satisfied the principle of self-funding. The Board notes with pleasure that negotiations with the private sector have resulted in voluntary agreement on equitable and secure arrangements for funding.

- Independent Regulation Activities

These activities are primarily supported by State Government funding. On an accrual basis there was a \$7,000 deficit in funding for these activities during 1999-00.

To reflect these separate activities an additional operating statement has been prepared which breaks up the operating revenue and operating expenditure between each of the activities.

3. OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE

From 1 July 1999 the Board's financial services have been provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. The Board's funds are separately accounted for within the Department's operating account which is held with the Department of Treasury and Finance. The balance of the Board's funds held within this account as at 30 June 2000 was:

	2000	1999
	\$'000	\$'000
Self-funding activities	61	51
Independent Regulation Activities	259	272
Total	320	323

4. NON-CURRENT ASSETS

In accordance with the capitalisation threshold adopted the Board does not have any assets valued at over \$5,000 to report on.

5. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

	2000	1999
	\$'000	\$'000
Accrued Salaries	26	14
Provision for Annual Leave	61	67
Provision for Long Service Leave	133	130
Total	220	211
Classified as:		
Current	107	100
Non-current	113	111
	220	211

6. EQUITY

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Board.

Changes during the 1999-00 financial year include an operating surplus from operations totalling \$53,000.

	2000	1999
	\$'000	\$,000
Balance at the beginning of the period	112	n/a
Operating surplus/(deficit) from operations	53	n/a
Balance at the end of the period	165	112

7. CASH FLOWS**(a) Reconciliation of Cash**

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Forest Practices Board considers cash to include cash held on its behalf within the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources Operating Account. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	2000	1999
	\$'000	\$,000
Operating Account balance	320	323

(b) Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to Operating Surplus

	2000
	\$'000
Net cash flows from operating activities	(3)
(Increase)/Decrease in employee entitlements	(9)
(Increase)/Decrease in creditors and accrued expenses	(10)
Increase/(Decrease) in receivables	75
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	53

(c) Tax Status

The activities of the Forest Practices Board are exempt from taxation, including an exemption from sales tax under Item 74 in the First Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act. From 2000-01 the Board will be subjects to the requirements under the Goods and Services Tax regime.

(d) Credit Arrangements

The Forest Practices Board does not have any credit stand-by arrangements or loan facilities.

8. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCLOSURES**8.1 Interest Rate Risk Exposures**

There was no interest rate applicable on Forest Practices Board balances held within the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources Operating Account for the year ended 30 June 2000. Exposure to interest rate and credit risks is considered to be minimal.

8.2 Credit Risk Exposures

Credit risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties failed to perform as contracted.

The credit risk on financial assets, excluding investments, of the Forest Practices Board which have been recognised on the balance sheet, is the carrying amount, net of any provision for doubtful debts.

The Forest Practices Board extends 30 day credit terms for sundry receivables, and receives standard commercial credit terms for sundry creditors.

The Forest Practices Board is not materially exposed to any individual overseas country or individual customer.

8.3 Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The carrying amount of operating account balances, receivables and prepayments, creditors and provisions for employees' entitlements approximates the net fair value because of the short term to maturity.

9. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	1999-00	1998-99
	\$'000	\$'000
Minimum Lease Payment	96	n/a
Contingent Rentals	...	n/a
Sub-Lease Rental Expenses	...	n/a
	96	n/a
<hr/>		
	1999-00	1998-99
	\$'000	\$'000
Total Lease Commitments	115	n/a
	115	n/a

Future lease payments, rentals and commitments not provided in these statements include:

	1999-00	1998-99
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than 1 year	93	n/a
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	22	n/a
Later than 5 years	...	n/a
	115	N/a

The Forest Practices Board leases are represented by land and building rental costs and vehicle lease costs.

Contingent rental costs relate to the land and building leases, and in the main comprise local government charges and the periodic escalation of leases by the Consumer Price Index.

Since Contingent rentals cannot be reliably determined, they have been excluded in the calculations of Total Lease Commitments. There is no difference between the value of minimum lease payments and the value of Total Lease Commitments.

The Board does not have any purchase rights flowing from the lease of the land and buildings.

The minimum lease payment for vehicles is based on the average age of the vehicle fleet and a standard lease period of 24 months.

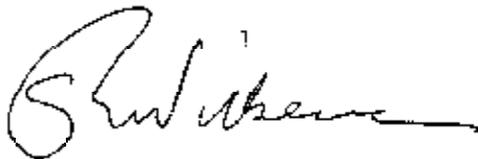
Comparative figures for 1998-99 are not available due to 1999-00 being the first accrual report required to be prepared by the Board and it also being the first year of application of the revised standard AAS 17 - Leases.

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

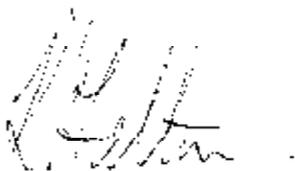
The accompanying financial statements of the Forest Practices Board of Tasmania have been prepared in compliance with applicable provisions of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990* and it is our opinion that:-

1. (a) The Operating Statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the operation of the Board for the year ended 30 June 2000.
- (b) The Statement of Financial Position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Board at 30 June 2000.
2. The accompanying accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

Dated this 3rd day of October 2000



Graham Wilkinson
(CHIEF FOREST PRACTICES OFFICER)



Ken Felton
(CHAIRMAN)

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**To the Members of the Forest Practices Board****Scope**

I have audited the financial report of the Forest Practices Board comprising Operating, Financial Position and Cash Flows Statements and notes thereto, for the year ended 30 June 2000. The Members of the Board are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Members.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial position of the Board and the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position of the Forest Practices Board as at 30 June 2000, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.



D W R Baulch
DEPUTY AUDITOR-GENERAL

13 November 2000

HOBART

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Publications and reports by staff or associates of the Board *

- Bonham, K. (2000). Assessment of the impacts of forest practices (clearfell and thinning) on terrestrial snails; a long term monitoring project. Initial report to Forest Practices Board.
- Craven, B., Duncan, F.** and Miller, G. (2000). Grasslands and grassy woodlands of significance in Mersey District, Forestry Tasmania. Report to Mersey District of Forestry Tasmania.
- Doran, N.E., **Kiernan, K.**, Swain, R. and Richardson, A.M.M. (1999). *Hickmania troglodytes*, the Tasmanian cave spider, and its potential role in cave management. *Journal of Insect Conservation* 3: 257-262.
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- Wilkinson, G.R.** (2000). Trends in forest practices – north-west America. *IFA Newsletter* 41(1) 13-15.

(* staff or associates of the Board are indicated in bold type)

Major reference documents related to forest practices

TITLE	PUBLISHED
An Atlas of Tasmanian Karst	1995
Fauna Conservation in Production Forests in Tasmania	1991
<i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i> (as amended 1994, 1998, 1999)	1985
Forest Practices Code 1993	1993
Forest Practices Fauna Manual	1990
Forest Practices Archaeology Manual	1991
Forest Practices Soils Conservation Manual	1993
Forest Practices Geomorphology Manual	1990
Forest Practices Botany Manuals	1991-95
Forest Soils of Tasmania	1996
Threatened Fauna Manual for Production Forests in Tasmania	1998
A Manual for Forest Landscape Management	1990
Native Forest Silviculture Technical Bulletin series	1990-1999
Rehabilitation Guidelines for Forest Construction	1990

**APPENDIX 2: AUDIT FORM USED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF FOREST PRACTICES PLANS
IN 1999/2000**

Appendix 2

THP No. FPO Prescription Surveyor Survey Date

TYPE OF OPERATION

Roading clear & constr:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harvesting..... Soft P:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refor. Establishment, Soft P:	<input type="checkbox"/>
constn & harv:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hard P:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hard P:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nat For:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nat For:	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Equipment..Conventional:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		Cable:	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Tenure: State Forest / Company PP / Independent PP / Crown Forest

District Principle Processor (Company) Contractor

Ops Commenced: Ops Completed: Restored? PTR?

Operational Status: Not started / Rooding / Pre-harvest / Harvesting / Post harvesting / Site Preparation / Regenerated / Interim Closure / Compliance Certification

SCORE:	0	1	2	3	4	5
Indicative %		>95	94-71	70-30	27-6	<5
Description	Not Applicable	Yes	Mostly	Variable	Mostly Not	No

SCORE COMMENTS

Road Construction

1. Is road design appropriate?
2. Is road location appropriate?
3. Are roads parallel to Cl. 1 & 2 st. >100 m?
4. Are roads parallel to Cl. 3 & 4 st. >40 m?
5. Are table drains properly constructed?
6. Are table drains clear?
7. Has drainage been diverted >50 m before stream crossing?
8. Are batter slopes stable?
9. Is clearing minimised?
10. Has width of stripping of top soil been minimised?
11. Have borrow pits been rehabilitated?
12. Is road drainage adequate?
13. Is culvert size and spacing correct?
14. Is culvert depth correct? (damage)
15. Are culvert inlets and outlets correct (not on fill)?
16. Is surfacing OK for winter carting?

17. Have temporary stream crossings been removed and waterbarred?
18. Have temporary tracks been drained?

Bridges, Fords, Causeways

19. Is disturbance kept to a minimum?
20. Have streambanks been restored?
21. Have bridge embankments been protected?

Harvesting

22. Are adjacent N.F. clearfell coupes >5 m dominant height? (dispersed coupes)
23. Is there one year between N.F. clearfell coupes? (dispersed aggregates)
24. Has appropriate machinery been used?
25. Is coupe size <50 ha on steep cable coupes?
26. Is coupe size <100 ha on coupes?

Snig Tracks (STs)

27. Do STs avoid Class 1 and 2 watercourses?
28. Are stream crossings minimised?
29. Were temporary log crossings constructed where needed?
30. Have log crossings been removed?
31. Has tractor damage to stream banks been avoided?
32. Has snigging avoided streams?
33. Is direction of snigging uphill or on contour?
34. Does ST location facilitate draining?
35. Have STs been drained, if required?
36. Is drain spacing as per Code/PHI?
37. Is drain location and construction effective? (no erosion)
38. Has rutting >400 mm over 20 m long been filled in?
39. Has slash been put on STs in wet plantation operation?
40. Is rutting <300 mm over 20 m on feeder STs
41. Have number of STs been minimised? (not parallel)
42. Has blading of mud or soil been avoided?

Landings

43. Has mud from landings been prevented from entering streams?
44. Are landings on elevated areas?
45. Are landings >40 m from streamside reserves?
46. Has soil been stockpiled?
47. Has soil been replaced (dry landing)?
48. Do snig tracks approach landings from below?
49. Have landings been corded (if required)? (pg. 36)
50. Have landings been drained?
51. Has water flowing towards landings been diverted?
52. Are retained trees free of log debris?
53. Has the number of landings been minimised?

- 54. Are landings less than 0.2 ha? (50 m x 40 m)?
- 55. Has rubbish and oil been removed?
- 56. Have bark and butts been returned to forest or placed in aerated heaps clear of surrounding trees?

Streamside Reserves (SRs)

- 57. Are SRs present on Cl. 1, 2 and 3 streams?
- 58. Is width of SR correct as specified in THP?
- 59. Was SR marked appropriately?
- 60. Were no trees felled within SRs unless specified?
- 61. Has <30% of crown cover been removed?
- 62. Is retained vegetation intact?
- 63. Has equipment been excluded from Cl. 4s? (10 m)
- 64. Have trees been felled away from SR?
- 65. Has logging debris been kept out of SRs?
- 66. Is there no evidence of sediment in streams (class 1, 2 and 3)?
- 67. Has vegetation damage by cables across SRs been avoided?
- 68. Has equipment been excluded from class 1, 2 and 3 streamside reserves?

Site Preparation

- 69. Have site prep. Machines been excluded from SR?
- 70. Is site preparation within slope guidelines (p71)?
- 71. Has cultivation been along the contour?
- 72. Have catch drains been installed if cultivation is not on contour?
- 73. Have windrows been kept out of water-courses and stream reserves?
- 74. Have drainage lines been excluded from cultivation?
- 75. Is there no rill or gully erosion evident?
- 76. Have tracks and firebreaks been drained adequately?
- 77. Have tracks and firebreaks been kept clear of SR and drainage lines?

Timber Harvesting Plan (THP)

- 78. Is soil erodibility class correct as in Code (Table 1)?
- 79. Is the THP thorough?
(Are all boxes and spaces filled in correctly and with adequate/appropriate details?)
- 80. Is the THP legible and clear?
- 81. Is the map clear?
- 82. Is the THP a good THP for the area?
(taking into account site conditions)
- 83. Do all aspects of the THP follow the Code?
- 84. Has the THP been correctly signed and dated by all parties?
- 85. Has the THP been followed?
- 86. Is the harvesting within the THP boundary?
- 87. Has the operation generally achieved the desired result?

Local Government

APPENDIX 4 – MONITORING OF THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PERMANENT FOREST ESTATE

IBRA	RFA no. ¹	RFA Forest Community ²	1996 RFA		97/98		98/99		99/00		Total Decrease ³ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
			Area (ha)	Decrease (ha)								
Woolnorth	1	Coastal E. amygdalina dry sclerophyll forest	24783	0	0	257	257	257	257	257	1.0	
	2	E. amygdalina forest on dolerite	18216	1685	68	69	1822	1822	1822	1822	10.0	
	3*	Inland E. amygdalina forest	912	30	0	23	53	53	53	53	5.8	
	4	E. amygdalina forest on sandstone	324	0	1	2	3	3	3	3	0.8	
	5	Allocasuarina verticillata forest	197	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
	6*	E. brookeriana wet forest	4467	54	3	23	79	79	79	79	1.8	
	7	Acacia melanoxylon forest on flats	8004	9	22	56	87	87	87	87	1.1	
	8	Acacia melanoxylon forest on rises	8073	99	0	29	127	127	127	127	1.6	
	9*	Banksia serrata woodland	159	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
	10	E. coccifera dry forest	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
	12	Dry E. delegatensis forest	4308	0	-1	40	39	39	39	39	0.9	
	13#	E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua damp sclerophyll forest	30145	617	242	208	1067	1067	1067	1067	3.5	
	14	Tall E. delegatensis forest	13546	325	433	619	1377	1377	1377	1377	10.2	
	16*	E. viminalis and/or E. globulus coastal shrubby forest	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
	19*	King Island E. globulus / E. brookeriana / E. viminalis forest	2426	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	

¹ Forest communities in which any area outside of reserves is protected on public land are shown with an asterisk (*); forest communities in which any old growth component outside of reserves is protected on public land are shown with a cross-hatch (#)

² Only forest communities that occur within the IBRA regions are listed

³ Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in Forest Practices Plans. The area shown as converted is generally based on gross area excluding informal reserves such as streamside reserves. The total area converted is therefore likely to be an over-estimate. Anomalies in mapping require further field verification. Area data may be modified, as mapping is refined.

IBRA	RFA	RFA Forest Community	1996 RFA Area (ha)	97/98 Decrease (ha)	98/99 Decrease (ha)	99/00 Decrease (ha)	Total Decrease ¹ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
	no.							
	20	Leptospermum sp. / Melaleuca squarrosa swamp forest	7449	0	0	3	3	0.0
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	29890	385	119	593	1097	3.7
	22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	26216	0	33	66	99	0.4
	23*	Melaleuca ericifolia forest	198	0	0	0	0	0.0
	25	Dry E. nitida forest	14264	1	0	2	3	0.0
	27*	Notelaea ligustrina / Pomaderris apetala forest	47	0	0	0	0	0.0
	28	Tall E. nitida forest	2964	0	0	15	15	0.5
	29	Dry E. obliqua forest	29236	918	168	361	1447	5.0
	30	Tall E. obliqua forest	125755	2261	2426	3034	7721	6.1
	31*	Shrubby E. ovata forest	3034	2	22	5	29	0.9
	37	E. regnans forest	2663	91	45	269	405	15.2
	39	E. rodwayi forest	129	0	0	0	0	0.0
	41	Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) forest	16809	13	31	72	115	0.7
	43	E. subcrenulata forest	193	0	0	0	0	0.0
	47*	E. viminalis grassy forest	2965	10	0	33	43	1.5
	49*	Wet E. viminalis forest on basalt total	2690	6	58	99	163	6.0
			380108	6504	3669	5876	16049	4.2
	1	Coastal E. amygdalina dry sclerophyll forest	133311	858	192	359	1409	1.1
	2	E. amygdalina forest on dolerite	44470	339	0	115	454	1.0
	3*	Inland E. amygdalina forest	4564	44	451	117	612	13.4
	4	E. amygdalina forest on sandstone	1022	25	15	87	127	12.4
	5	Allocasuarina verticillata forest	304	0	0	0	0	0.0
	7	Acacia melanoxydon forest on flats	255	0	0	0	0	0.0
	8	Acacia melanoxydon forest on rises	76	0	0	0	0	0.0
	12	Dry E. delegatensis forest	29819	215	334	89	638	2.1
	13#	E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua damp sclerophyll forest	2088	85	281	415	781	37.4
	14	Tall E. delegatensis forest	47494	329	130	519	978	2.1
	20	Leptospermum sp. / Melaleuca squarrosa swamp forest	42	0	0	0	0	0.0
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	25181	0	0	36	36	0.1
	23*	Melaleuca ericifolia forest	390	0	0	0	0	0.0
	27*	Notelaea ligustrina / Pomaderris apetala forest	21	0	0	0	0	0.0
	29	Dry E. obliqua forest	29621	892	898	1183	2973	10.0

IBRA	RFA	RFA Forest Community	1996 RFA Area				97/98		98/99		99/00		Total Decrease ¹	% of 1996 RFA area
			(ha)	Decrease (ha)	Decrease (ha)	Decrease (ha)	Decrease (ha)	Decrease (ha)	(ha)	(ha)				
			53555	1056	1049	630	2735	5.1						
	30	Tall E. obliqua forest	439	2	34	1	37	8.4						
	31*	Shrubby E. ovata forest	1843	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	36	E. pauciflora forest on sediments	27480	1464	1336	885	3685	13.4						
	37	E. regnans forest	40	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	39	E. rodwayi forest	16862	0	6	1	7	0.0						
	40#	E. sieberi forest on granite	21798	88	150	74	312	1.4						
	41	Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) forest	43366	8	33	60	101	0.2						
	42#	E. sieberi forest on other substrates	21404	0	27	0	27	0.1						
	47*	E. viminalis grassy forest	94	0	19	5	24	25.5						
	49*	Wet E. viminalis forest on basalt	505539	5405	4954	4576	14936	2.9						
		total	3321	0	0	0	0	0						
	1	Coastal E. amygdalina dry sclerophyll forest	40110	100	107	20	227	0.6						
	2	E. amygdalina forest on dolerite	19777	0	85	246	331	1.7						
	3*	Inland E. amygdalina forest	3921	212	10	0	222	5.7						
	4	E. amygdalina forest on sandstone	271	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	5	Allocasuarina verticillata forest	9363	200	11	12	223	2.4						
	12	Dry E. delegatensis forest	7796	398	78	189	665	8.5						
	13#	E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua damp sclerophyll forest	3951	52	0	21	73	1.8						
	14	Tall E. delegatensis forest	70	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	16*	E. viminalis and/or E. globulus coastal shrubby forest	2863	0	88	0	88	3.1						
	17*	Grassy E. globulus forest	58	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	124	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	23	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	24	E. morrisbyi forest	7	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	25	Dry E. nitida forest	40	0	0	0	0	0.0						
	27*	Notelaea ligustrina / Pomaderris apetala forest	13971	447	295	169	911	6.5						
	29	Dry E. obliqua forest	8159	0	124	58	182	2.2						
	30	Tall E. obliqua forest	2727	0	6	30	36	1.3						
	31*	Shrubby E. ovata forest	28669	0	0	200	200	0.7						
	32	E. pulchella / E. globulus / E. viminalis grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	451	0	0	45	45	10.0						
	34#	E. pauciflora forest on Jurassic dolerite												

IBRA	RFA no.	RFA Forest Community	1996 RFA Area (ha)	97/98 Decrease (ha)	98/99 Decrease (ha)	99/00 Decrease (ha)	Total Decrease ¹ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
	36	E. pauciflora forest on sediments	1163	0	0	0	0	0.0
	37	E. regnans forest	1366	16	30	0	46	3.4
	38*	E. risdoni forest	375	0	0	0	0	0.0
	39	E. rodwayi forest	113	0	0	0	0	0.0
	41	Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) forest	1872	0	0	0	0	0.0
	43	E. subcrenulata forest	13	0	0	0	0	0.0
	46*	Inland E. tenuiramis forest	32657	5	0	3	8	0.0
	47*	E. viminalis grassy forest	56549	0	55	13	68	0.1
	49*	Wet E. viminalis forest on basalt	66	5	0	0	5	0.0
		total	239846	1435	889	1006	3330	1.4
Freycinet	1	Coastal E. amygdalina dry sclerophyll forest	28743	90	0	0	90	0.3
	2	E. amygdalina forest on dolerite	69708	417	179	0	596	0.8
	3*	Inland E. amygdalina forest	569	0	135	0	135	23.7
								mapping to be checked
	4	E. amygdalina forest on sandstone	24020	214	0	0	214	0.9
	5	Allocasuarina verticillata forest	462	0	0	0	0	0.0
	6*	E. brookeriana wet forest	21	0	0	0	0	0.0
	10	E. coccifera dry forest	82	0	0	0	0	0.0
	11*	Callitris rhomboidea forest	650	0	0	0	0	0.0
	12	Dry E. delegatensis forest	66716	78	62	17	157	0.2
	13#	E. viminalis / E.ovata / E.amygdalina / E.obliqua damp forest not mapped		0	22	0	22	Mapping to be checked
	14	Tall E. delegatensis forest	21381	21	97	3	121	0.6
	16*	E. viminalis and/or E. globulus coastal shrubby forest	1038	0	0	0	0	0.0
	17*	Grassy E. globulus forest	10919	250	33	131	414	3.8
	20	Leptospermum sp. / Melaleuca squarrosa swamp forest	81	0	0	0	0	0.0
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	624	0	0	0	0	0.0
	27*	Notelaea ligustrina / Pomaderris apetala forest	20	0	0	0	0	0.0
	29	Dry E. obliqua forest	30535	175	251	18	444	1.5
	30	Tall E. obliqua forest	30675	0	16	205	221	0.7

IBRA	RFA no.	RFA Forest Community	1996 RFA Area (ha)	97/98 Decrease (ha)	98/99 Decrease (ha)	99/00 Decrease (ha)	Total Decrease ¹ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
	31*	Shrubby E. ovata forest	727	0	0	0	0	0.0
	32	E. pulchella / E. globulus / E. viminalis grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	110390	20	2	48	70	0.0
	34#	E. pauciflora forest on Jurassic dolerite	1375	0	0	0	0	0.0
	36	E. pauciflora forest on sediments	47	0	0	0	0	0.0
	37	E. regnans forest	3285	184	86	108	378	11.5
	39	E. rodwayi forest	2159	0	0	0	0	0.0
	40#	E. sieberi forest on granite	833	0	0	0	0	0.0
	41	Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) forest	2098	0	0	0	0	0.0
	42#	E. sieberi forest on other substrates	2378	0	0	0	0	0.0
	44	E. tenuiramis forest on granite	3021	0	0	0	0	0.0
	45	E. tenuiramis forest on dolerite	7577	0	0	2	2	0.0
	46*	Inland E. tenuiramis forest	2351	0	0	0	0	0.0
	47*	E. viminalis grassy forest	21831	220	0	10	230	1.1
	49*	Wet E. viminalis forest on basalt total	815	0	0	0	0	0.0
			445131	1669	883	542	3094	1.2
	1	Coastal E. amygdalina dry sclerophyll forest	257	0	0	0	0	0.0
	2	E. amygdalina forest on dolerite	5671	36	0	2	38	0.7
	4	E. amygdalina forest on sandstone	49	0	1	0	1	2.0
	6*	E. brookeriana wet forest	7	0	0	0	0	0.0
	8	Acacia melanoxylon forest on rises	154	0	0	0	0	0.0
	10	E. coccifera dry forest	49874	0	0	0	0	0.0
	12	Dry E. delegatensis forest	165264	1084	413	82	1579	1.0
	13#	E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua damp sclerophyll forest	671	0	0	0	0	0.0
	14	Tall E. delegatensis forest	154532	1509	1184	613	3306	2.1
	15	King Billy Pine with deciduous beech forest	192	0	0	0	0	0.0
	20	Leptospermum sp. / Melaleuca squarrosa swamp forest	392	0	0	0	0	0.0
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	24435	195	306	184	684	2.8
	22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	55154	0	1	85	86	0.2
	25	Dry E. nitida forest	5997	0	0	0	0	0.0
	28	Tall E. nitida forest	2525	0	0	0	0	0.0
	29	Dry E. obliqua forest	6371	344	30	40	414	6.5

IBRA	RFA no.	RFA Forest Community	1996 RFA Area (ha)	97/98 Decrease (ha)	98/99 Decrease (ha)	99/00 Decrease (ha)	Total Decrease ¹ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
	30	Tall <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	13980	182	146	77	405	2.9
	31*	Shrubby <i>E. ovata</i> forest	33	0	0	0	0	0.0
	32	<i>E. pulchella</i> / <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	1726	40	0	0	40	2.3
	33	Pencil Pine with deciduous beech forest	179	0	0	0	0	0.0
	34#	<i>E. pauciflora</i> forest on Jurassic dolerite	17009	0	0	5	5	0.0
	35	Pencil Pine forest	3768	0	0	0	0	0.0
	36	<i>E. pauciflora</i> forest on sediments	13163	0	0	0	0	0.0
	37	<i>E. regnans</i> forest	7576	7	109	82	198	2.6
	39	<i>E. rodwayi</i> forest	6235	0	0	1	1	0.0
	41	Silver wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) forest	7075	0	0	0	0	0.0
	43	<i>E. subcrenulata</i> forest	3646	0	0	0	0	0.0
	45	<i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest on dolerite	10	0	0	0	0	0.0
	46*	Inland <i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest	18905	0	0	0	0	0.0
	47*	<i>E. viminalis</i> grassy forest	10311	0	30	1	31	0.3
	49*	Wet <i>E. viminalis</i> forest on basalt	520	0	0	0	0	0.0
	50	King Billy Pine forest	337	0	0	0	0	0.0
		total	576018	3397	2219	1172	6787	1.2
↘	6*	<i>E. brookeriana</i> wet forest	78	0	0	0	0	0.0
	7	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on flats	764	0	0	0	0	0.0
	8	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on rises	5007	0	120	0	120	2.4
	10	<i>E. coccifera</i> dry forest	593	0	0	0	0	0.0
	12	Dry <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	6192	0	0	0	0	0.0
	14	Tall <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	20309	1	0	5	6	0.0
	15	King Billy Pine with deciduous beech forest	659	0	0	0	0	0.0
	16*	<i>E. viminalis</i> and/or <i>E. globulus</i> coastal shrubby forest	100	0	0	0	0	0.0
	18	Huon Pine forest	8934	0	0	0	0	0.0
	20	<i>Leptospermum</i> sp. / <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> swamp forest	9445	0	0	0	0	0.0
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	105120	0	156	0	156	0.2
	22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	272889	0	0	0	0	0.0
	25	Dry <i>E. nitida</i> forest	136654	4	0	0	4	0.0
	27*	<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i> / <i>Pomaderris apetala</i> forest	116	0	0	0	0	0.0
	28	Tall <i>E. nitida</i> forest	66557	10	200	0	210	0.3

IBRA	RFA	RFA Forest Community	1996 RFA Area (ha)	97/98 Decrease (ha)	98/99 Decrease (ha)	99/00 Decrease (ha)	Total Decrease ¹ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
			24925	0	135	31	166	0.7
			81922	162	146	403	711	0.9
			12775	1	0	262	263	2.1
			468	0	0	0	0	0.0
			2133	0	0	0	0	0.0
			13721	0	0	0	0	0.0
			769361	178	757	701	1636	0.2
			61	0	0	0	0	0.0
			221	0	0	0	0	0.0
			797	0	1	0	1	0.1
			3951	0	0	0	0	0.0
			8146	1	61	0	62	0.8
			24802	6	69	133	208	0.8
			8	0	0	0	0	0.0
			605	0	0	44	44	7.3
			41	0	0	0	0	0.0
			1262	0	0	0	0	0.0
			6849	0	0	0	0	0.0
			23847	0	1	1	2	0.0
			3057	0	0	0	0	0.0
			41	0	0	0	0	0.0
			2403	0	0	1	1	0.0
			29708	40	110	74	224	0.8
			112475	654	1194	934	2782	2.5
			255	0	0	0	0	0.0
			10535	1	8	0	9	0.1
			11	0	0	0	0	0.0
			20999	469	398	800	1667	7.9
			3981	0	0	0	0	0.0
			4254	0	0	1	1	0.0
			846	0	0	0	0	0.0
			1119	0	0	0	0	0.0
D'Entrecasteaux	1	Coastal E. amygdalina dry sclerophyll forest						
	2	E. amygdalina forest on dolerite						
	4	E. amygdalina forest on sandstone						
	10	E. coccifera dry forest						
	12	Dry E. delegatensis forest						
	14	Tall E. delegatensis forest						
	15	King Billy Pine with deciduous beech forest						
	17*	Grassy E. globulus forest						
	18	Huon Pine forest						
	20	Leptospermum sp. / Melaleuca squarrosa swamp forest						
	21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites						
	22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites						
	25	Dry E. nitida forest						
	27*	Notelaea ligustrina / Pomaderris apetala forest						
	28	Tall E. nitida forest						
	29	Dry E. obliqua forest						
	30	Tall E. obliqua forest						
	31*	Shrubby E. ovata forest						
	32	E. pulchella / E. globulus / E. viminalis grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest						
	35	Pencil Pine forest						
	37	E. regnans forest						
	41	Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) forest						
	43	E. subcrenulata forest						
	45	E. tenuiramis forest on dolerite						
	46*	Inland E. tenuiramis forest						

IBRA	RFA Forest Community no.	1996 RFA Area (ha)	97/98 Decrease (ha)	98/99 Decrease (ha)	99/00 Decrease (ha)	Total Decrease ¹ (ha)	% of 1996 RFA area
	47* E. viminalis grassy forest	193	0	0	0	0	0.0
	50 King Billy Pine forest	2652	0	0	0	0	0.0
	total	263119	1170	1841	1988	4999	1.9
	STATE TOTAL	3179122	19758	15212	15861	50831	1.6

88. Has local government been consulted where appropriate? (town water supply, road access, development application).

SPECIAL VALUES

FLORA

89. Have flora values been identified correctly? (e.g. does the coupe contain any sites of conservation significance as listed in section 4 or flow chart in section 5 of the relevant forest Botany Manual?)
90. Has the FPB Botanist been contacted (if required)?
91. Have prescriptions been included in the THP?
92. Have prescriptions been followed?

FAUNA

- **Office**

93. Have known locations or habitat of threatened species been taken into account, including need for survey (e.g. eagles nests) - Threatened Fauna Manual checked and notification form sent if necessary?
94. Has MDC zoning been noted on map and/or as prescriptions (Fa zones, wildlife habitat strips) on State forest?
95. Are prescriptions for wildlife habitat strips adequate (width correct and noted, no felling, burning protection)?
96. Are prescriptions for habitat tree clumps adequate?

- **Field**

97. Have prescriptions for threatened species been implemented?

Wildlife Habitat Strip

98. Is width correct?
99. Was the strip protected during felling and from regeneration burn?

Habitat Tree Clumps

100. Is the number of clumps correct?
101. Is there an adequate number of each age class of tree (e.g. are there 2-3 mature hollow-bearing trees?)

GEOMORPHOLOGY

- **Preparatory**

102. Does the THP comply with MDC zoning on State forest?
103. Is the THP consistent with the Karst Atlas?
104. Have other information sources been used?
105. Has geomorphologist been consulted or consultant engaged as per pp. 36-37 of Geomorphology Manual as required?

- **Operational**

106. Have prescriptions been implemented satisfactorily?
107. Have Forest Practices Code karst provisions on pp.64-65 been complied with?
108. If any factors from pp. 36-37 of Geomorphology Manual exist, were they recorded in the THP evaluation sheet?

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- 109. Has the MDC zoning been complied with on State forest?
- 110. Were archaeological surveys done if required under the prescriptions of the archaeological potential zoning/predictive statements?
- 111. Were the archaeology site distribution, Conserve or reference material consulted?
- 112. Were there prescriptions to protect cultural heritage values?
- 113. If yes, were they complied with?
- 114. If a post operation survey was recommended, was it completed?
- 115. Was the Forest Practices Unit Archaeologist consulted, where required?

LANDSCAPE

- 116. Has the evaluation sheet been correctly completed given the sensitivity of the landscape issue?
- 117. Have all important viewpoints been identified?
- 118. Where required, are there adequate prescriptions?
- 119. Have prescriptions been implemented satisfactorily on the coupe?
- 120. Is the landscape result acceptable?

Revised August 99 JW

Note: the audit contains reference to timber harvesting plans (THPs) which were replaced by Forest Practices Plans (FPPs) on 1/7/99 but individual THPs still in force as at 1/7/99 were included in the audit sample.

Appendix 3 Results of the annual audit of timber harvesting plans in 1999/2000

Question	RATING*							
	Total for all Tenure		Company PP		Independent PP		State Forest	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Roading								
1 Is road design appropriate?	169	97	62	98	36	92	69	99
2 Is road location appropriate?	169	99	62	98	36	100	69	93
3 Are roads parallel to Cl. 1 & 2 st. >100 m?	56	69	21	90	16	90	17	94
4 Are roads parallel to Cl. 3 & 4 st. >40 m?	81	93	34	97	21	95	25	84
5 Are table drains properly constructed?	156	96	60	98	30	87	64	97
6 Are table drains clear?	158	95	61	95	31	90	64	97
7 Has drainage been diverted >50 m before stream?	71	83	30	90	12	92	27	75
8 Are batter slopes stable?	29	93	52	96	22	91	53	91
9 Is clearing minimised?	25	95	17	98	21	100	56	93
10 Has width of stripping of top soil been minimised?	22	97	45	96	21	100	36	96
11 Have borrow pits been rehabilitated?	43	86	21	90	1	0	21	86
12 Is road drainage adequate?	167	90	64	95	34	76	67	93
13 Is culvert size and spacing correct?	152	93	60	95	29	90	61	93
14 Is culvert depth correct? (damage)	143	97	59	98	28	93	60	98
15 Are culvert inlets and outlets correct (not on fill)?	150	93	59	97	28	100	61	85
16 Is surfacing OK for winter carting?	124	96	42	95	17	88	67	99
17 Have temporary stream crossings been removed and waterbarred?	15	73	8	75	3	33	4	100
18 Have temporary tracks been drained?	52	79	25	90	14	64	10	62
Weighted Mean		93.7		95.9		90.3		93.2
Weighted Std		4.5		3.1		10.6		7.2
Bridges								
19 Is disturbance kept to a minimum?	24	70	10	90	1	100	13	80
20 Have streambanks been restored?	19	89	9	80	1	0	9	100
21 Have bridge embankments been protected?	21	95	9	100	0		12	92
Weighted Mean		87.5		92.9		50.0		85.3
Weighted Std		6.9		5.0		70.7		13.2
Harvesting								
22 Are adjacent N.F. clearfell coupes >5 m dominant height? (disper	28	79	12	50	1	100	15	100
23 Is there one year between N.F. clearfell coupes? (dispersed appr	30	90	14	86	3	100	13	92
24 Has appropriate machinery been used?	142	99	56	98	34	97	49	100
25 Is coupe size <50 ha on steep cable coupes?	13	100	2	100	1	100	10	100
26 Is coupe size <100 ha on coupes?	124	95	56	93	33	97	34	97
Weighted Mean		95.0		90.8		97.2		98.3
Weighted Std		5.6		13.0		0.8		2.5

Note: the audit contains reference to timber harvesting plans (THPs) which were replaced by Forest Practices Plans (FPPs) on 1/7/99 but individual THPs still in force as at 1/7/99 were included in the audit sample.

Appendix 3 (continued)

Question	RATING*							
	Total for all Tenure		Company PP		Independent PP		State Forest	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Snig Tracks (STs)								
27 Do STs avoid Class 1 and 2 watercourses?	63	96	29	97	12	100	22	100
28 Are stream crossings minimised?	60	94	33	97	17	97	30	90
29 Were temporary log crossings constructed where needed?	40	93	19	95	4	50	17	100
30 Have log crossings been removed?	37	84	15	80	3	67	19	89
31 Has tractor damage to stream banks been avoided?	87	87	40	93	20	75	26	88
32 Has snigging avoided streams?	109	96	45	98	26	92	37	97
33 Is direction of snigging uphill or on contour?	114	83	48	81	31	80	34	79
34 Does ST location facilitate draining?	100	99	41	96	29	100	30	100
35 Have STs been drained, if required?	69	80	29	80	16	31	26	100
36 Is drain spacing as per Code/THP?	64	88	28	89	11	55	25	100
37 Is drain location and construction effective? (no erosion)	64	91	29	93	13	60	25	100
38 Has rutting >400 mm over 20 m long been filled in?	12	75	5	60	2	50	5	100
39 Has slash been put on STs in wet plantation operation?	5	70	6	83	1	0	1	100
40 Is rutting <300 mm over 20 m on feeder STs	61	98	22	100	17	94	22	100
41 Have number of STs been minimised? (not parallel)	67	100	36	100	21	100	30	100
42 Has blading of mud or soil been avoided?	87	98	37	100	23	96	27	96
Weighted Mean		92.0		93.1		84.4		95.5
Weighted Std		6.8		7.0		20.5		6.5
Landings								
43 Has mud from landings been prevented from entering streams?	83	100	43	100	20	100	19	100
44 Are landings on elevated areas?	132	98	57	100	32	97	42	95
45 Are landings >40 m from streamside margins?	122	95	53	92	29	100	39	95
46 Has soil been stockpiled?	53	13	20	15	12	8	21	14
47 Has soil been replaced (dry landing)?	14	43	5	57	6	17	5	60
48 Do snig tracks approach landings from below?	118	95	51	98	30	93	36	92
49 Have landings been corded (if required)? (page 36)	5	100	1	100	0		0	100
50 Have landings been drained?	69	84	34	89	19	79	16	81
51 Has water flowing towards landings been diverted?	70	87	32	94	19	79	18	83
52 Are retained trees free of log debris?	53	91	25	100	13	69	14	93
53 Has the number of landings been minimised?	120	94	49	96	31	94	38	92
54 Are landings less than 0.2 ha? (50 m x 40 m)?	117	95	48	94	31	100	37	92
55 Has rubbish and oil been removed?	131	95	55	98	33	91	42	93
56 Have bark and tails been returned to forestor placed in aerated h	121	80	49	92	31	84	40	85
Weighted Mean		88.4		92.5		86.6		87.0
Weighted Std		17.7		16.1		20.7		18.6

Appendix 3 (continued)

Question	RATING*							
	Total for all Tenure		Company PP		Independent PP		State Forest	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Stream Reserves								
57 Are SRs present on Cl. 1, 2 and 3 streams?	83	100	34	100	14	100	34	100
58 Is width of SR correct as specified in THP?	95	93	42	95	15	100	37	86
59 Was SR marked appropriately?	85	51	38	92	13	85	34	81
60 Were no trees felled within SRs unless specified?	93	96	44	100	17	88	32	94
61 Has <30% of crown cover been removed?	20	95	11	100	4	75	5	100
62 Is retained vegetation intact?	95	88	44	93	19	89	32	87
63 Has equipment been excluded from Cl. 4s? (10 m)	115	88	51	94	27	89	35	78
64 Have trees been felled away from SR?	121	90	51	92	27	96	42	83
65 Has logging debris been kept out of SRs?	126	88	53	94	28	90	44	70
66 Is there no evidence of sediment in streams (class 1, 2 and 3)?	97	94	36	100	14	99	37	89
67 Has vegetation damage by cables across SRs been avoided?	5	60	1	0	0		4	75
68 Has equipment been excluded from class 1, 2 and 3 streamside r	81	93	34	97	15	87	32	91
Weighted Mean		91.6		95.4		92.2		86.4
Weighted Std		4.2		5.5		5.5		7.5
Site Preparation								
69 Have site prep. Machines been excluded from SR?	49	88	27	89	6	100	15	87
70 Is site preparation within slope guidelines (p71)?	51	96	27	96	8	100	15	94
71 Has cultivation been along the contour?	43	72	23	87	6	100	14	36
72 Have catch drains been installed if cultivation is not on contour?	16	69	7	86	0		9	36
73 Have windrows been kept out of water-courses and streamside r	46	88	26	100	7	100	15	60
74 Have drainage lines been excluded from cultivation?	46	73	26	85	6	100	16	44
75 Is there no fill or gully erosion evident?	48	81	26	92	7	71	15	67
76 Have tracks and firebreaks been drained adequately?	61	80	28	86	8	75	25	78
77 Have tracks and firebreaks been kept clear of SR and drainage lin	55	86	28	100	5	80	23	70
Weighted Mean		82.6		91.7		90.6		66.4
Weighted Std		7.7		5.9		12.4		16.7
THP								
78 Is soil erodibility class correct as in Code (Table 1)	177	95	68	96	38	97	69	93
79 Is the THP thorough? (Are all boxes and spaces filled in correctly)	172	84	67	90	36	81	65	80
80 Is the THP legible and clear?	175	95	68	98	36	82	66	94
81 Is the map clear?	177	93	68	100	38	89	66	88
82 Is the THP a good THP for the area? (taking into account site con	177	93	68	96	38	89	65	91
83 Do all aspects of the THP follow the Code?	177	92	68	91	38	97	68	90
84 Has the THP been correctly signed and dated by all parties?	176	94	68	99	38	87	67	93
85 Has the THP been followed?	171	88	68	94	34	79	66	85
86 Is the harvesting within the THP boundary?	162	98	65	100	34	91	60	98
87 Has the operator generally achieved the desired result?	170	84	68	90	33	79	66	79
Weighted Mean		91.5		95.3		88.4		89.0
Weighted Std		4.5		3.8		6.4		5.8

Appendix 3 (continued)

Question	RATING*							
	Total for all Tenure		Company PP		Independent PP		State Forest	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Local Government								
88 Has local government been consulted where appropriate? (town	88	88	40	88	23	100	26	100
Weighted Mean	99.0		97.5		100.0		100.0	
Weighted Std								
Flora								
89 Have flora values been identified correctly? (e.g. does the coupe	130	100	56	100	33	100	59	100
90 Has the Forest Practices Unit Botanist been contacted (if required)	44	98	21	100	7	100	16	94
91 Have prescriptions been included in the THP?	15	73	4	75	3	100	2	67
92 Have prescriptions been followed	10	90	2	100	3	67	5	100
Weighted Mean	97.3		98.8		97.8		95.5	
Weighted Std	6.9		5.4		8.3		10.8	
Fauna								
93 Have known locations or habitat of threatened species been take	145	93	50	96	32	94	61	90
94 Has MDC zoning been noted on map and/or as prescriptions (Fa	48	98	5	100	1	100	42	96
95 Are prescriptions for wildlife habitat strips adequate (width correct	36	92	12	100	0		24	98
96 Are prescriptions for habitat tree clumps adequate?	41	90	17	82	6	100	18	94
97 Have prescriptions for threatened species been implemented?	63	76	26	89	11	82	24	80
98 Is Wildlife Habitat Strip width correct?	34	94	11	100	0		23	91
99 Was the Wildlife Habitat Strip protected during felling and from re	28	89	11	91	0		17	88
100 Is the number of Habitat Tree Clumps correct?	33	91	14	86	5	80	14	100
101 Is there an adequate number of each age class of tree in Habitat	31	94	12	100	5	80	14	93
Weighted Mean	90.8		93.1		90.0		89.5	
Weighted Std	5.6		5.9		7.0		9.8	
Geomorphology								
102 Does the THP comply with MDC zoning on State forest?	42	100	4	100	0		38	100
103 Is the THP consistent with the Karst Atlas?	162	100	61	100	35	100	61	100
104 Have other information sources been used?	125	95	53	100	27	98	45	91
105 Has geomorphologist been consulted or consultant engaged as p	10	100	12	100	2	100	3	100
106 Have prescriptions been implemented satisfactorily?	8	100	6	100	0		2	100
107 Have Forest Practices Code karst provisions on pp.64-65 been co	7	100	6	100	0		2	100
108 If any factors from pp.36-37 of Geomorphology Manual exist, wer	7	100	7	100	0		0	
Weighted Mean	98.4		100.0		95.9		97.3	
Weighted Std	2.3		0.0		3.7		4.2	

Appendix 3 (continued)

Question	RATING*							
	Total for all Tenure		Company PP		Independent PP		State Forest	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Cultural Heritage								
100 Has the MDC zoning been complied with on State forest?	30	100	1	100	0		37	100
110 Were archaeological surveys done if required under the prescripti	49	67	35	60	3	67	20	75
111 Were the archaeology site distribution, Conserve or reference mat	183	88	64	98	32	97	65	98
112 Were there prescriptions to protect cultural heritage values?	24	58	15	60	4	25	5	30
113 If yes, were they complied with?	3	89	5	100	1	0	3	100
114 If a post operation survey was recommended, was it completed?	29	62	19	47	0		10	90
115 Was the Forest Practices Unit Archaeologist consulted, where req	34	76	19	61	6	83	10	100
Weighted Mean	85.8		76.9		84.8		94.7	
Weighted Std	15.0		21.2		24.6		8.7	
Landscape								
116 Has the evaluation sheet been correctly completed given the sens	156	88	65	87	34	87	65	86
117 Have all important viewpoints been identified?	150	89	62	100	32	100	54	88
118 Where required, are there adequate prescriptions?	10	88	21	90	0	80	10	80
119 Have prescriptions been implemented satisfactorily on the coupe?	35	97	17	100	8	100	10	90
120 Is the landscape result acceptable?	144	96	58	95	30	97	55	96
Weighted Mean	96.8		96.9		97.3		96.4	
Weighted Std	3.0		2.9		2.9		4.3	

* Rating is calculated as the proportion of the sample which contains a score of 1 or 2 as defined in Appendix 2
No. is the sample size for the question i.e. the no. of THPs where the question was applicable.