

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

18 October 2019

Forest Practices Code Review

Submissions from 26 parties were received during the public comment period following the publication of the draft Code amendments. The submissions are being reviewed and further advice will be provided to the Board.

Strategic Planning

The Board commenced the process to review performance under the current strategic plan. The Board generally discussed issues of ongoing strategic interest including improved and accessible recording of areas set aside for protection under FPPs, landscape forest planning and whole farm forested area planning, expanding options for the scope of forest practices plans, sustainable yield forest planning, three year plans and regulatory fee structures.

Finance

The monthly financial report was noted.

Compliance

The Board made a final determination from their review of an investigation into a matter around alleged clearing of trees without a forest practices plan, and clearance and conversion of a threatened native vegetation community.

Private Timber Reserves (PTRs)

The Board agreed to recommend to Her Excellency the Governor, the approval of three applications for PTRs covering 344 ha, and the revocation of four full PTRs covering 129 ha.

Forest Practices Advisory Council

The Board noted that recruitment processes were underway to fill the three new membership positions created on FPAC as a result of the recent amendments to the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

Socio-economic program

The Board noted an update on the status of various projects being undertaken.

Changes to the Forest Practices Act

The Board noted that the amended *Forest Practices Act 1985* commenced on 7th October 2019.

Forest Practices Officers

Gerard Bennett was appointed as a Forest Practices Officer and Steve Reeve was delegated powers to certify forest practices plans.

Code of Conduct – Forest Practices Officers

The Board reviewed the first draft of a Forest Practices Officer Code of Conduct.

Bid for ARC Centre for Future Forest Value

The Board agreed to be one of the supporting parties in a bid for funding a new “ARC Training Centre for Future Forest Value”. The Board’s agreement is of limited cash and in kind support.

FPA Annual Report 2018/19

The Board reviewed a draft of the Annual Report.

Preventing unlawful clearance of vegetation

The Board discussed recent incidents of clearing of vegetation or trees on King Island and requested that a newspaper article be published to clarify the legislative requirements around such activities.

Next Meeting

The next FPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 15th November 2019.