

FPAC Communique

FPAC met on June 15, 2022.

Council received a presentation on the review of the Visual Landscape Management System. Council endorsed the recommended proposals which will facilitate comprehension and implementation by field practitioners. Some suggestions for minor clarification were conveyed to the CFPO.

Council was briefed on a range of possible regulatory changes by the CFPO. These have arisen out of experience with the FPS and aimed at providing clarification and/or legal certainty in dealing with some complex issues which have emerged over time. The more significant issues included: clearing along fence lines and the question of reasonable buffers; management and fee setting for vegetation management agreements; definitions for restoration and rehabilitation forestry; and the management of ancillary works associated with infrastructure development. Council noted that the proposals needed further development and consultations with relevant stakeholders and should be re-presented for further consideration by Council. Council noted the potential for gaps in the State Planning System which might emerge from the desirable clarification of regulatory scope and determined to advise the Board accordingly.

Council was briefed on recent legal actions involving the Forest Practices System. It was suggested that a proactive review to assess the way the FPA is currently meeting its obligations under the Act may remove doubt and provide certainty for moving forward.