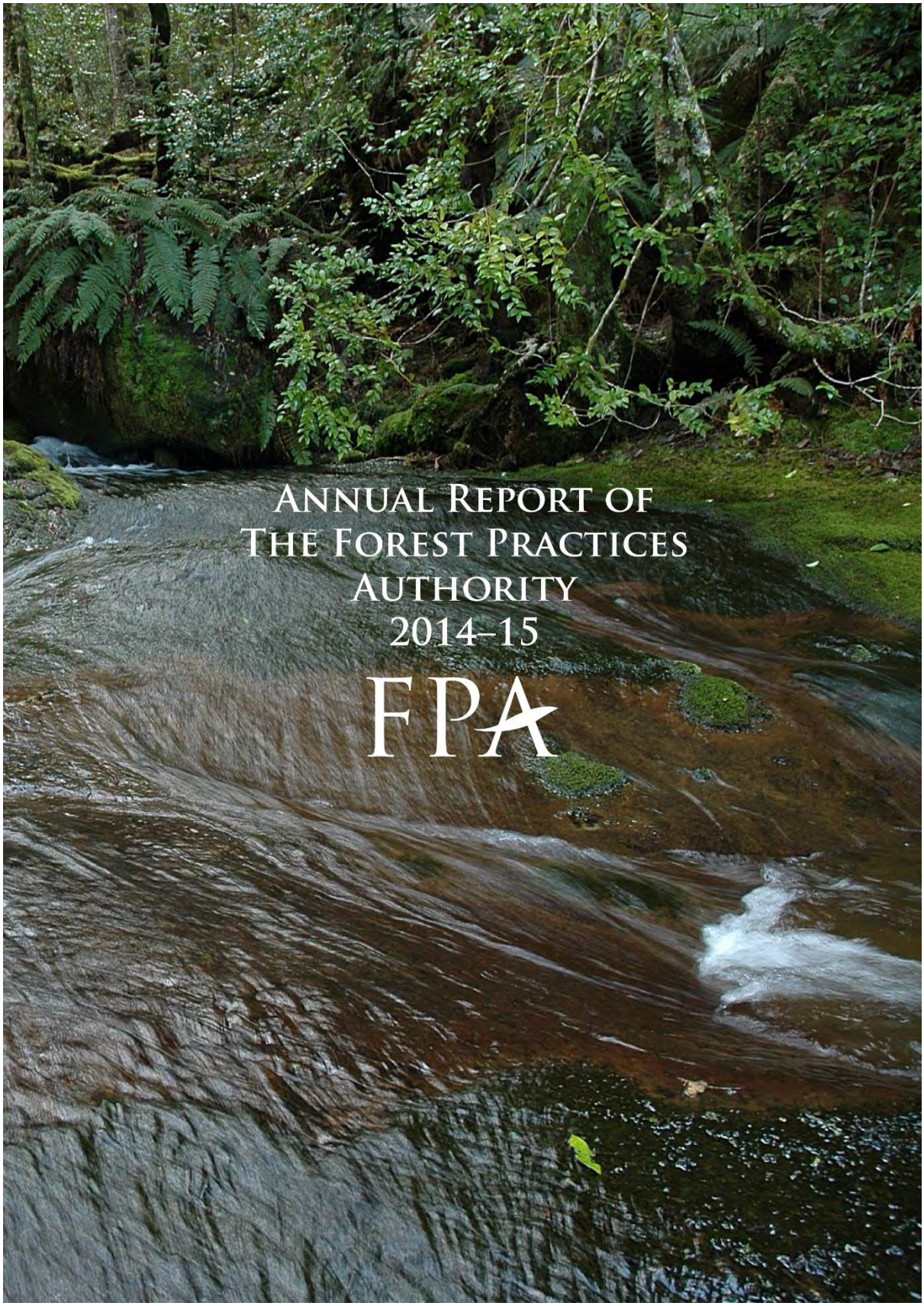

Annual Report of The Forest Practices Authority 2014–15

FPA

Forest Practices Authority

Annual Report

2014–15

FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY
TASMANIA AUSTRALIA

A report on the operations of the Forest Practices Authority to the Minister for Resources, to be laid before each house of parliament as required under s.4C, 4E and 4X of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*

The Annual Report of the Forest Practices Authority

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Cover photograph: Peter Tonelli won the 'Rocks and water' category of the 2014 Forest Practices Photographic Competition with this image of the Bassian Falls aqua pavement.

Abbreviations and acronyms

CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
DSG	Department of State Growth (created in 2014, incorporating the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts)
FIAT	Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
FPA	Forest Practices Authority
FPAC	Forest Practices Advisory Council
FPO	Forest Practices Officer
FPP	forest practices plan
FT	Forestry Tasmania
GIS	geographical information system
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Region for Australia
NRM	regional Natural Resource Management organisations
PTPZL	Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (previously State forest)
PTR	private timber reserve
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
The Act	The *Forest Practices Act 1985*
The Code	The *Forest Practices Code*
TSS	Threatened Species Section, DPIPWE
UTas	University of Tasmania

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The Tasmanian forest practices system

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) is the independent statutory body established by the Parliament of Tasmania under the *Forest Practices Act 1985* to regulate forest practices in Tasmania. The forest practices system applies to forest practices that are undertaken on both public land (mainly Permanent Timber Production Zone Land) and private land.

The Tasmanian forest practices system operates primarily through the Forest Practices Act and the associated *Forest Practices Code*. The system also takes account of other legislation and policies, including the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement 1997.

The system is based on a co-regulatory approach, combining self-management by the industry and independent monitoring and enforcement by the FPA. Forest Practices Officers (FPOs) are employed within the industry and trained and authorised by the FPA to plan, supervise, monitor and report on forest practices.

FPA staff provide advice on regulatory and technical matters, including requirements to manage natural and cultural values. The FPA also monitors forest practices to ensure that standards are being met. Corrective action is taken where required and penalties are imposed for serious breaches.

The forest practices system aims to foster cooperation amongst all stakeholders, including the government, landowners, the forest industry and the broader community. There is an emphasis on planning, training, education and continuing improvement.

The Board of the FPA recognised eight people and companies for their outstanding contributions to Tasmania's forest management at the 2015 Forest Practices Awards near Hobart in June 2015.

Back row, from left: Gordon Duff, Meredith Roodenrys, Steve Luttrell (FPA Board); Graham Wilkinson (ex-Chief Forest Practices Officer); Errol Lohrey (Forestry Tasmania (FT) north); Sarah Munks (FPA); Gareth Tempest (ex-FT north-east, now Timberlands Pacific); James Fergusson (FT north-west). Front row, from left: Paul Harriss (Minister for Resources); Kevin Muskett (contractor); Adrian and Neil Bennett (contractors).

Forest practices, defined by the Forest Practices Act, are:

- harvesting native forests and plantations
- establishing native forests and plantations
- clearing and converting forests and threatened non-forest native vegetation communities
- constructing roads and quarries for the above purposes
- harvesting treeferns.

The objective of the Tasmanian forest practices system is set down in Schedule 7 of the Forest Practices Act:

The objective of the State's forest practices system is to achieve sustainable management of Crown and private forests with due care for the environment and taking into account social, economic and environmental outcomes while delivering, in a way that is as far as possible self-funding–

(a) an emphasis on self-regulation; and

(b) planning before forest operations; and

(c) delegated and decentralized approvals for forest practices plans and other forest practices matters; and

(d) a forest practices code which provides practical standards for forest management, timber harvesting and other forest operations; and

(e) an emphasis on consultation and education; and

(ea) an emphasis on research, review and continuing improvement; and

(eb) the conservation of threatened native vegetation communities; and

(f) provision for the rehabilitation of land in cases where the forest practices code is contravened; and

(g) an independent appeal process; and

(h) through the declaration of private timber reserves – a means by which private land holders are able to ensure the security of their forest resources.

Around 343 hectares of native forest was established on private land during 2014–15. All but 10 hectares of this area was part of a Greening Australia project in the Midlands (pictured). Of the 343 hectares, 269 hectares were establishment of native forest on cleared land such as pasture, and 74 hectares were improvement of existing poor quality native forest on farmland. Photograph by Greening Australia.

The year in brief

For the year ending 30 June 2015

- Specialists from the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) provided advice on natural and cultural values in response to 347 notifications (380 were lodged last year) lodged by Forest Practices Officers (FPOs). The FPA's specialists collaborated with other experts from government agencies and universities to develop advice, and carry out research and monitoring and other activities.

- FPOs certified 591 forest practices plans (FPPs) (523 plans last year) for native forest and plantation operations, totalling 31 682 hectares (25 978 hectares last year) on public and private land.

- FPPs were certified for the following:

    - 32 hectares of new plantations (23 hectares last year) on previously cleared land. This year 76 hectares of new plantations were established on cleared native forest sites (8 last year)

    - 343 hectares of establishment or enrichment of native forest on private land

    - the conversion of 4837 hectares (3803 hectares last year) of native forest and plantations to non-forest use, primarily for agriculture

    - the conversion of 2160 hectares (2315 last year) of native forest to other uses, resulting in a decrease of 0.07 per cent (0.07 last year) in the area of Tasmania's native forest during 2014–15.

- The net effect of FPPs for clearing and new plantings of forest in Tasmania in 2014–15 was an overall decrease in the total area of forest by 4535 hectares during the year (last year there was a decrease of 3780 hectares).

- The cumulative decrease in the area of Tasmania's native forest between 1996 and 2015 is 156 648 hectares (154 666 last year), or 4.9 per cent.

- The annual assessment conducted by the FPA found that the implementation and effectiveness of FPPs across all land tenures were generally above the nominated standards for the majority of factors being assessed.

- Three (seven last year) fines totalling $3500 ($13 000 last year) were imposed for offences under the *Forest Practices Act 1985.*

- There were no new prosecutions (none last year) under the *Forest Practices Act 1985.*

Report of the Chair, Forest Practices Authority

It is my honour, as the Chair of the Forest Practices Authority over the period 2009–15, to submit this report on the operations of the FPA in 2014–15.

The year has seen the amendment of the *Forest Practices Code* after extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and inviting submissions from the public. The key change was the incorporation of the '*Guiding Policy for the operation of the* Forest Practices Code' to give it legal effect. This policy was originally released by the Authority in December 2013 and articulates the FPA's interpretation of the manner in which the Code can deliver provisions of legislative changes over the last two to three years. The policy also clarifies the contribution of private forests and Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL) to the conservation of natural and cultural values. On behalf of the Board of the FPA, I acknowledge the hard work demonstrated by the Chief Forest Practices Officer and FPA staff to develop the amendments and to see them through to incorporation in the *Forest Practices Code*.

Changes to the Forest Practices Advisory Council and the Board of the FPA

During the year the membership of the Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC) changed. In addition to continuing members Terry Edwards and Tom Fisk, the new members appointed by Minister Harriss in February 2015 were Hans Drielsma (Chair), Suzette Weeding, Neil McCarthy, Andrew Morgan and Fred Duncan. My thanks to all former members for their service on the council over many years.

At the time of writing I can also report that the Board of the FPA has undergone significant change. The terms of my appointment as Chair and those of members Ian Whyte, Meredith Roodenrys, Steve Luttrell and John Whittington all ended on 30 June 2015. We have all been privileged to serve on the Board for periods ranging from 5 to 10 years, during a period of many regulatory challenges. Effective as of 1 July 2015 the members appointed by Minister Harriss under the provisions of s.4A of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*, consist of John Ramsay (Chair), Alex Schaap, Cheryl Arnol, John Hickey and Steve Luttrell. The Board also includes the Chief Forest Practices Officer (CFPO) as a continuing member, with one vacancy yet to be filled. The Board is fundamentally important in providing high standards of governance and fostering a cooperative approach towards policy development, to advance the objectives of the forest practices system.

Changes in management

This year has also seen a significant change to the FPA management team, with the departure of Graham Wilkinson as CFPO in early February 2015, after 19 years of service. Graham has provided outstanding leadership to the FPA and has progressed the forestry regulator to being a fully independent body with a high level of integrity and professionalism. Under his leadership and that of delegated Forest Practices Officers (FPOs), the Tasmanian forest practices system has become recognised, both nationally and internationally, as one of the best regulatory systems in the world

for enabling sustainable forestry and reasonable protection for the environment. Following his departure from the CFPO position, Graham worked on a number of strategic initiatives in the role of Director Major Projects before retiring from the State Service on 30 June 2015. I am pleased to report that, on the Board's recommendation, the Minister appointed Angus MacNeil as Acting CFPO from 1 February 2015. Angus has been the FPA's Business Administration Manager and Board Executive Officer for the last seven years and has substantial experience in the public forestry sector, private industry, and in senior management positions. He is well placed to perform the role of CFPO until a permanent appointment is made.

Forest practices plans (FPPs)

Under s. 4E(1)(b) of the Forest Practices Act, the FPA reports that the implementation and effectiveness of FPPs on public and private land were above the nominated standards.

Permanent native forest estate

The FPA reports, under s. 4C(fa) of the Forest Practices Act, that Tasmania's native forest estate has been maintained in accordance with the Tasmanian Government Policy on the Maintenance of a Permanent Native Forest Estate. The area of native forest as at 30 June 2015 was equivalent to 95.1 per cent of the native forest area that existed in 1996.

Self-regulation

In accordance with s. 4E(1)(a) of the Forest Practices Act, a high level of self-regulation has been achieved on public land and on private land that is subject to operations undertaken by forestry companies. Overall, a lower standard is achieved by the smaller, independent operators.

The FPA is pleased to report that high rates of lodgement of compliance reports and high levels of compliance with FPPs has been sustained. The FPA will continue to pursue the small number of applicants who have not lodged certificates by the due date based on assessment of risk.

Funding

In accordance with s. 4E(1)(a) of the Forest Practices Act, the FPA reports that the forest practices system satisfied the principle of self-funding in 2014–15.

The independent regulatory functions of the FPA were funded by the income received under s. 44 of the Forest Practices Act in 2014–15.

On behalf of the Board of the Forest Practices Authority, I offer my congratulations to Graham, Angus and the staff of the Authority for another year in which the high standards of the FPA have been upheld, despite many difficult challenges.

Professor Gordon Duff, Chairman, Board of the Forest Practices Authority

Report of the Acting Chief Forest Practices Officer

At the beginning of February 2015, Graham Wilkinson retired as Chief Forest Practices Officer (CFPO) after 19 years in the role and left the State Service on 30 June 2015.

In 1996 he inherited a forest practices system that was very well designed and had been working effectively for nearly a decade. He said his priority was to maintain and safeguard the fundamental elements of the system and to ensure that it continued to evolve in a proactive manner to meet the needs of the forestry sector and the broader community into the future. Some of his key achievements were:

1. strengthening the credibility and importance of the Forest Practices Officer (FPO) system and the FPA specialists who provide them with advice
2. improving the independence of the FPA
3. extending the forest practices system to capture more of the elements of sustainable forest management
4. improving the 'one stop shop' approach by developing agreements with other regulators, for example the procedures agreed between the FPA and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) for the management of threatened species
5. raising the national and international profile and reputation of the forest practices system, though our input into national reviews, workshops, conferences and publications.

Our forestry regulation framework in Tasmania is now highly regarded in a national and global context, and the skills that Graham has developed and taught others are now being transferred to forestry regulation in developing countries, particularly in the Pacific region.

Those who worked closely with Graham appreciated his attitude and professionalism and I am told that as CFPO he was highly regarded in this challenging role by more than one side of the forestry debate. On behalf of FPA staff I take this opportunity to thank Graham for his leadership, guidance and, not least, his sense of humour over the many years we worked with him.

I was appointed as Acting CFPO from the beginning of February and am now really seeing the challenges that Graham faced on a daily basis. During my tenure the FPA has also been transitioning to a new Board, as the majority of Board members for the 2014–15 period reached the end of their terms on 30 June 2015 and have not been re-appointed.

The FPA recognises that Tasmania's forestry sector and its operating environment are in transition following an unprecedented period of change and uncertainty. In December 2013 the '*Guiding policy for the operation of the* Forest Practices Code' was released by the FPA after consulting with the Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC). During 2014–15 the FPA amended the Code to incorporate

the guiding policy to give it legal effect, and made minor updates to references elsewhere in the document. The *Forest Practices Code 2015* took effect on 1 July 2015.

The forest practices system is underpinned by the FPA's small team of very hard working and professional staff, services provided by other parts of government, and not least the FPOs out there planning and implementing forest practices to a high standard. During the year the FPA's team responded to 620 requests for scientific, technical and general advice on forest practices and we investigated 68 reports of potentially non-compliant activities. In addition, our compliance staff conducted an independent and systematic assessment of 56 forest practices plans to evaluate performance against the requirements of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the Code. Our research staff collaborated with other researchers and students to provide improved scientific knowledge and planning tools for forest planners.

Despite the loss of many experienced foresters and forest operators from the sector in recent years, a high standard of forest practices continues to be achieved. At the front line, FPOs undertook regular inspections of operations and lodged 1079 compliance reports, of which only 0.9 per cent required further investigation and action by the FPA. Our independent monitoring and assessment program showed that 92 per cent of operations across all tenures were rated as 'sound' or above.

The number of active FPOs has fallen from 234 to 195 over the last four years, commensurate with the general downsizing of the forestry sector. We have lost a great deal of expertise and experience but we are fortunate to have retained a strong pool of FPOs, who continue to be strengthened by ongoing training and education programs. Many of the FPOs who have left the forestry sector now work for the Parks and Wildlife Service or the Tasmania Fire Service and bring great skills to these public service organisations. In the second half of 2014, the FPA conducted a number of mandatory Refresher Courses for FPOs. In May 2015 the FPA commenced an FPO Training Course with 24 participants. We also conducted 10 other field days and training programs (many with more than one session) for a range of stakeholders including forest planners and contractors, and presented seminars and talks to other groups.

The Forest Practices Awards are an FPA Board initiative to recognise the high achievers in the forest practices system. An awards ceremony took place In June 2015, when eight people or companies were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the system.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the capability and enthusiasm of FPA staff and FPOs, who strive to maintain the highest standards of work in a system that is complex, sophisticated and based on continual improvement and cooperation between all parties.

In closing, I thank fellow members of the Board of the FPA for their support and encouragement to the CFPO and FPA staff and wish all members whose terms ended on 30 June 2015 the very best in their future endeavours.

Angus MacNeil, Chief Forest Practices Officer (Acting)

1 Independent regulation functions report

1.1 *Forest Practices Act 1985*

The *Forest Practices Act 1985* was changed on 22 October 2014 in accordance with the *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014*. There were no changes to Forest Practices Regulations 2007 during 2014–15.

1.2 *Forest Practices Code*

The *Forest Practices Code* provides a set of guidelines and standards to provide reasonable protection to the environment. The guidelines and standards in the *Forest Practices Code* cover:

- building access into the forest (roads, bridges, quarries etc.)
- harvesting of timber
- conservation of natural and cultural values (soil and water, geomorphology, visual landscape, biodiversity, zoology and cultural heritage)
- establishing and maintaining forests.

The former Forest Practices Board (now the Forest Practices Authority, FPA) developed the *Forest Practices Code* through extensive consultation and public comment. It is reviewed periodically, incorporating improvements suggested by stakeholders including scientists, government, landowners, the forestry industry and the public. The Code is legally enforceable under the Forest Practices Act for both public and private forests. The Code can be downloaded from the FPA's website.

In February 2015, under the provisions of Part IV of the Act, the FPA announced its intention to amend the edition of the Code that had been in force since 2000. The key amendment was the incorporation of the *Guiding policy for the operation of the* Forest Practices Code to give it legal effect, plus some other minor updates to references within the Code.

The guiding policy, originally released by the FPA in December 2013, provides an overarching set of principles to clarify the contribution of non-reserve forests (e.g. privately owned forests and Permanent Timber Production Zone Land) to the conservation of natural and cultural values under the forest practices system. It was developed to help interpret and implement the changes in forestry legislation since the Tasmanian Forest Agreement process. The policy defines how the Code will be applied to achieve a reasonable balance of outcomes within areas that have been set aside for resource use, including prescribing how the landowner's 'duty of care' should be applied on Permanent Timber Production Zone Land. The 'duty of care' is a means of allowing forests allocated for economic activities to make a reasonable contribution to the maintenance of natural and cultural values.

In the lead-up to the Board's decision, the FPA consulted with stakeholder and government organisations represented on the Forest Practices Advisory Council, including Forestry Tasmania (FT), Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) and nominees of the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT)

and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA). As a result of the consultative process the FPA Board determined the immediate priorities were as follows:

1. The overarching legislative and policy framework for the Code should be clarified through the incorporation into the Code of the '*Guiding policy for the operation of the* Forest Practices Code'.

2. Minor updates should be made to references within the Code.

The Board determined that no other changes to the technical provisions of the Code were warranted at that time, noting that improvements to the planning and implementation of forest practices continue to be made through the comprehensive planning tools that support the Code. In making this decision, the FPA took into account various thematic reviews and comments on the Code from various sources, including scientists and specialists of the FPA and other organisations, Forest Practices Officers (FPOs), nominees of stakeholders represented on the Forest Practices Advisory Council (FPAC), the report of the independent expert panel for the 2009 Review of the Biodiversity Provisions of the Code and a report by CSIRO on a review of the plantation provisions of the Code.

On the above basis and in accordance with s.32 of the Act, the FPA publicised its intention to amend the Code with various stakeholders and in newspapers published on 14 March 2015. Objections or comments were invited by 15 May 2015. Eight submissions were received and a report and response document was prepared. After careful consideration of the submissions and response documents the FPA Board resolved, at its meeting on 12 June 2015, to proceed with the amendments as set forth in the public documents.

The amendments have now been published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette and took effect from 1 July 2015, when the updated *Forest Practices Code 2015* was issued.

1.3 Forest practices plans

Forest practices plans (FPPs) are required for all forest practices on public and private land, other than for exemptions prescribed in the Forest Practices Regulations 2007 which are available from the Tasmanian Legislation website. The publication *A guide to planning approvals for forestry in Tasmania* (available on the FPA's website) provides further information on the regulations and the process of preparing an FPP.

FPPs must be prepared in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* and must be certified by a Forest Practices Officer (FPO) appointed by the FPA and duly delegated to certify FPPs before any work starts. Applicants for FPPs must notify their immediate neighbours and local government before operations begin.

FPPs provide details of the operation area, boundaries, roads, snig tracks, landings, bridges, streams and forest areas retained for conservation purposes. They also include prescriptions for the management of natural and cultural values, planned harvest systems, and reforestation.

During the preparation of the FPP, FPOs are required to identify natural and cultural values. They prepare prescriptions for the management of these values by using the FPA's planning tools and contacting the FPA specialists where required to seek advice about special management

requirements. The FPA specialists provide advice based on regulatory requirements and the results of research and monitoring. This will sometimes involve liaison with other experts. An FPP may be amended or refused where the proposed operations do not comply with the Code.

Forestry operations may also need approval from local government if required under the planning scheme and if the land is not a private timber reserve (PTR) or Permanent Timber Production Zone Land (PTPZL).

The Gunns group of companies went into receivership in September 2012. Since then a number of active plans where Gunns was recorded as the FPP applicant have been revoked in order that operations could be completed and compliance obligations undertaken by another applicant. Of those revoked plans, 134 replacement plans were certified in 2014–15. The number of plans in brackets in the tables below represent the total number of plans if the original plans had not been revoked and replaced.

Not included in the tables below are 343 hectares of establishment or enrichment of native forest on private land. This area does not appear in the tables because although the area is covered by FPPs there is currently no code in the FPA's online FPP Coverpage database for this activity. All but 10 hectares of this area was part of a Greening Australia project. Of the 343 hectares, 269 hectares were establishment of native forest on cleared land such as pasture, and 74 hectares were improvement of existing poor quality native forest on farmland.

1.3.1 Details of forest practices plans certified in 2014–15

Table 1.3.1 Number of FPPs certified in 2014–15 by type and certifying FPO for private property and public land[1]

Certifying FPO	Quarry plans		Roading plans		Harvesting plans (including reforestation where appropriate)				Reforestation plans on cleared land		Total	%
					Native forest		Plantations					
	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public		
Consul-tants			5	12	22		56	11	4		**110**	18.6
[2]Forest companies	7 (0)		46 (19)		17 (17)	3 (3)	163 (64)	11 (11)	15 (13)		**262 (128)**	44.3
Forestry Tasmania		1	2	47	7	36	2	121			**216**	36.5
Private Forests Tasmania					2		1				**3**	0.5
Total[2]	**7 (0)**	**1 (1)**	**53 (26)**	**59 (59)**	**48 (48)**	**39 (39)**	**222 (123)**	**143 (143)**	**19 (17)**	**0 (0)**	**591 (457)**	
%	1.2	0.2	9.0	10.0	8.1	6.6	37.6	24.2	3.2	0		

[1] Public land includes PTPZL (known as State forest up to November 2013)
[2] Number in () excludes plans certified in 2014–15 as replacements for revoked Gunns' plans
Note that the above table excludes three non-forest plans that do not fit into any of the above categories

Table 1.3.2 Native forests: area (hectares) of operations covered by FPPs certified in 2014–15 by harvesting method, future land use and tenure

	Partial logging[1]	Clearfelling followed by:				Total[3]
		Regeneration by seeding	Plantation		Non-forest land use[2]	
			Eucalypt	Pine		
Public land[4]	1650	2582		0	77	**4309**
Private property[5]	2709 (2709)	55 (55)	76 (74)	0 (0)	2003[6] (2001)	**4843** **(4839)**
Total[5]	**4359** **(4359)**	**2637** **(2637)**	**76** **(74)**	**0** **(0)**	**2080** **(2078)**	**9152** **(9148)**

[1] thinning, retention of advanced growth, seedtrees, or shelterwood, group or single tree selection
[2] clearing, primarily for agriculture and infrastructure, including roads
[3] losses resulting from dam works permits issued under the *Water Management Act 1999* (6.15 ha in 2014–15) are not covered by FPPs and are not therefore included in this table but are included under the data for the Permanent Forest Estate in section 2.8 and Appendix 4 of this report
[4] Public land includes PTPZL (known as State forest up to November 2013)
[5] Number in () excludes plans certified in 2014–15 as replacements for revoked Gunns' plans
[6] Includes one FPP certified on 27 January 2015 for clearing 1674 ha which was still the subject of a legal challenge as at 30 June 2015

Table 1.3.3 Plantations: area (hectares) of operations covered by FPPs certified in 2014–15 by harvesting method, future land use and tenure

	Existing plantations				New plantations on cleared land	Total
	Thinning	Clearfelling followed by:				
		Plantation	Native forest[1]	Non-forest use		
Public land[2]	4746	1914	10	165	0	**6835**
Private property[3]	1145 (661)	11875 (4933)	59 (31)	2585 (2313)	32 (24)	**15695** **(7961)**
Total[3]	**5891** **(5407)**	**13789** **(6847)**	**69** **(41)**	**2750** **(2313)**	**32** **(24)**	**22530** **(14796)**

[1] Largely from the rehabilitation of streamside reserves in pine plantations which were established prior to the *Forest Practices Code*
[2] Public land includes PTPZL
[3] Number in () excludes plans certified in 2014–15 as replacements for revoked Gunns' plans

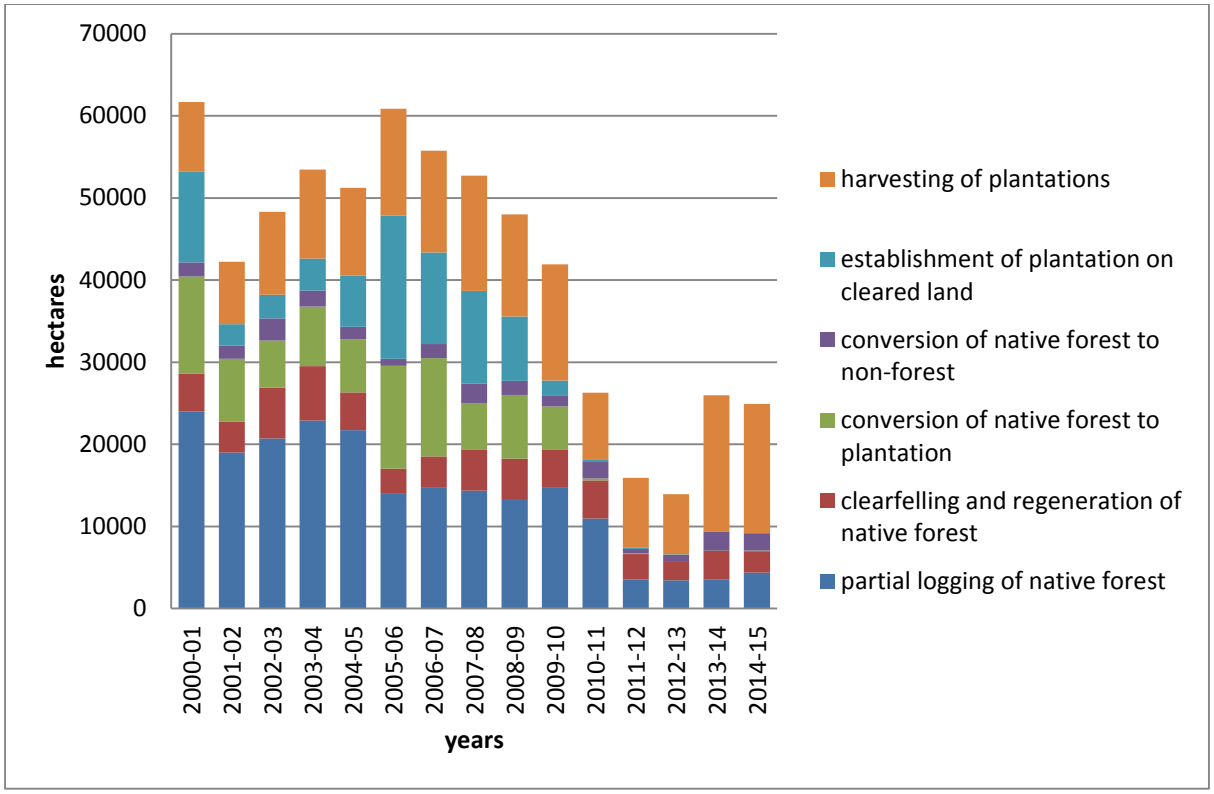


Figure 1.3.1 Area of forest by various treatments from 2001–2015[1]

[1] excludes plans certified in 2014–15 as replacements for revoked Gunns' plans

Plantation harvesting continues to be an important sector in forest practices. This plantation on private land near Blessington is being harvested and will be replanted as plantation.

1.3.2 Harvesting of treeferns

The harvesting of treeferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) is regulated under the Forest Practices Act and all harvesting of treeferns for export must be conducted in accordance with a management plan approved by the governments of Tasmania and Australia. A revised management plan became effective in 2012.

Under the Act, all treeferns must have tags issued by the FPA affixed to their stems prior to removal from a harvesting area. These tags must remain on the stems at all times to ensure that the origin of treeferns can be tracked to approved harvesting areas. Table 1.3.4 provides details on the harvesting of treeferns in 2013–14 and 2014–15. Revenue from the sale of treefern tags (see section 4 of this report) is used to fund regulatory activities and research into the longer term sustainability of treefern harvesting.

Table 1.3.4 The number of FPPs certified which included treefern harvesting prescriptions

Region	Number of FPPs certified including treefern harvesting prescription		Number of treefern tags issued	
Financial year	2013–14	2014–15	2013–14	2014–15[1]
Total	16	4	8982	11 014

[1.] Made up of 4150 tags issued for stems less than 30 cm and 6864 issued for stems greater than 30 cm

1.4 Three-year plans

The Forest Practices Act provides for lodgement with the FPA of three-year plans for operations showing the location of each operation, the volume to be harvested and the carting routes to be used. Such plans are required from companies that have harvested, or caused to be harvested, more than 100 000 tonnes of timber in the preceding year. Summaries of the plans are sent to relevant local government authorities as a basis for consultation on the location of planned harvesting.

Industry representatives convene regional meetings with representatives of local government each autumn to facilitate discussion regarding cartage routes and expected tonnages, and any other matters of concern to local government.

In recent years, preparation of plans has been difficult due to the uncertainty associated with the loss of markets and changes in resource security.

The FPA reports that the requirement to lodge three-year plans was met in 2014–15 to the extent that was possible given the current uncertain wood scheduling environment. Three-year plans have been lodged with the Authority this year by Forestry Tasmania, Forico, Norske Skog and Timberlands Pacific.

1.5 Statutory reports

1.5.1 'State of the forests Tasmania' report

The FPA is required under s. 4Z of the Forest Practices Act to produce a report every five years on the state of the forests. The FPA, in collaboration with other governmental agencies, compiles a report on the sustainability indicators that have been agreed between the Tasmanian and Australian governments under the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators Framework. This report forms the basis of the 'State of the forests Tasmania' report. The latest report was completed in 2012 and covers the period 2007–11. The report and the illustrated booklet are available from the FPA's website. The next report is due in 2017.

1.5.2 Forest practices report

The FPA is required under s. 4ZA of the Forest Practices Act to review the operation of the forest practices system, including the provisions and operation of the *Forest Practices Code*, and to provide a report every five years. The last report was published in the FPA's annual report for 2011–12. The next report is due in 2017.

1.6 Private timber reserves

Private timber reserves (PTRs) were created by the Tasmanian Parliament in 1985 to enable landowners to have their land dedicated for long-term forest management. The legislation provides that forestry activities on the land are subject to a single, consistent, statewide system of planning and regulation through the Forest Practices Act, rather than to variable systems that may be applied under different planning schemes through the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. PTR applications during 2014–15 are summarised below.

Table 1.6.1 Number and area of private timber reserves, 2014–15 and progressive total

	1 July 2014–30 June 2015	Progressive total to 30 June 2015*
Applications approved by FPA	4	2150
Private timber reserves revoked	32	297
Total net area gazetted (hectares)	**308**	**444 206 (down from 449 444 at 30/06/14)**

*The progressive total contains adjustments to figures in previous periods. Progressive totals are adjusted primarily because original applications to declare areas as PTRs have in some cases been followed in later years by an application to revoke part or all of the area declared as a PTR.

Three years ago the number of revocations exceeded the number of new approvals for the first time since PTRs were introduced in 1985. This trend continued in 2014–15 due to landowners deciding to convert plantation land back to agricultural use and place some areas of native forest under conservation covenants.

1.7 Monitoring of compliance

Monitoring of compliance is carried out at three levels under the forest practices system:

1. Routine monitoring of operations by FPOs employed by forest managers. This level of monitoring is often undertaken as part of formal environmental management systems and forest certification, which also involve third-party audits.
2. Formal reporting on compliance under s. 25A of the Forest Practices Act (see section 1.7.1 below). This is required for all FPPs and is done by qualified FPOs.
3. Independent monitoring of a representative sample of FPPs in accordance with s. 4E(1)(b) of the Forest Practices Act (see section 1.7.2 below). This is performed annually by the FPA.

The FPA's monitoring and assessment protocols and investigation and enforcement protocols can be found on the FPA's website.

1.7.1 Compliance reports

The Forest Practices Act requires a compliance report to be lodged with the FPA within 30 days of the completion of each discrete phase of operation prescribed within an FPP and a final compliance report to be lodged with the FPA within 30 days of the expiry of the plan. These reports must be lodged by the person who applied for the plan. The FPA requires these reports to be completed by an FPO and to provide statements within one of the following categories:

- FPP fully complied with:
    - Fully complied with – this means that all provisions of the plan were fully complied with.
- FPP not fully complied with:
    - No further action recommended – generally the operation was changed in a manner that did not result in any long-term environmental harm; e.g. the stocking standard in a plantation was below the target specified in the FPP, but still adequate to meet stocking standards.
    - Matter resolved through corrective action – generally the FPO undertaking the compliance check has detected non-compliance and has issued a notice under the Forest Practices Act to require corrective action to ensure compliance with the plan, e.g. improved regeneration treatments or stabilising disused access tracks. Follow-up monitoring is undertaken by the FPO and a final report provided to the FPA.
    - Further investigation required – generally a non-compliance issue has occurred that requires further investigation and action by the FPA, e.g. environmental harm has occurred or a required corrective action has not been undertaken.
- FPP operations did not commence.

Where compliance reports are not lodged on time, the FPA issues the applicant of the plan with a notice under s. 41 of the Act to require the lodgement of the report. Failure to comply with a notice under the Act can result in the FPA undertaking compliance checks at a cost to the applicant, or legal proceedings, consistent with the FPA's *Investigation and enforcement protocols,* which can be downloaded from the FPA's website.

Table 1.7.1 below includes the reports on each discrete phase of operation within each FPP. For the period of reporting, 1079 reports from 438 FPPs were lodged, of which 144 plans had one or more non-compliant phase.

Table 1.7.1 Compliance reports for all discrete operational phases due for lodgement with the FPA as at 30 June 2014

Applicant	Reports due	Reports lodged		No activity	Compliance (for reports lodged where activity commenced)							
					Fully complied with		Not fully complied with					
							No further action		Corrective action		Further investigation	
Forestry Tasmania	560	560	100%	22	528	98.1%	8	1.5%	0	0%	2	0.4%
Gunns[1]	163	163	100%	0	61	37.4%	102*	62.6%	0	0%	0	0%
FEA Ltd	13	13	100%	5	4	50%	4	50%	0	0%	0	0%
Norske Skog	48	48	100%	2	46	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Timberlands Pacific	86	85	98.8%	7	77	98.7%	1	1.3%	0	0%	0	0%
SFM	28	28	100%	10	18	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
AKS Forest Solutions	11	11	100%	2	5	56%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%
Forico	6	6	100%	0	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Independent private property	164	142	86.6%	30	89	79.4%	15	13.4%	1	0.9%	7	6.3%
Total or average %	1079	1056	97.8%	78	834	85.2%	134	13.7%	1	<0.5%	9	0.9%

[1] The large number of certificates lodged as 'No further action recommended' (* in table) by Gunns in this year represent Gunns' plans which were not adopted by Forico. On 25 September 2012 Gunns went into voluntary administration and Receivers and Managers were appointed. On 5 March 2013 Liquidators were appointed.

The FPA is pleased to report that high rates of lodgement of compliance reports and high levels of compliance with FPPs have been sustained. The FPA will continue to pursue the small number of applicants who have not lodged certificates by the due date based on assessment of risk.

1.7.2 Independent assessment of forest practices plans

The annual assessment program is the means by which the FPA meets its statutory obligations under s. 4E(1)(b) of the Forest Practices Act which states that the FPA must, at least once each financial year, '*assess the implementation and effectiveness of a representative sample of forest practices plans*'.

To this end, the FPA conducts systematic assessments of FPPs to evaluate performance against the requirements of the Forest Practices Act and the *Forest Practices Code*.

The annual assessment program has been developed in line with the Australian Standard AS/NZS ISO 19011:2003: *Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing*. In line with ISO 19011, the annual assessment program is periodically reviewed to identify areas of improvement. The FPA's *Monitoring and assessment protocols* can be viewed on the FPA's website.

The formal assessment process is based on a random sample of certified FPPs selected from the FPA's FPP database. The 2014–15 assessment program selected certified FPPs at various stages of completion in the three years prior to 1 July 2014.

The assessment program assessed 56 FPPs, covering:

- all aspects of forest planning and operational practices under the Forest Practices Act, including cable harvesting and quarries
- a representative sample of FPPs undertaken by companies and agencies, and individual forest owners or managers
- FPPs prepared by a range of FPOs who had certified plans during the nominated period; a total of 29 certifying FPOs were assessed during the program.

Assessments determine the quality of planning, implementation and reporting against prescriptions within each FPP and the *Forest Practices Code*.

The 2014–15 assessments were based on questions concerning 11 categories covering 87 standards defined in the *Forest Practices Code*. Previously the assessments were based on 139 standards. The change to 87 standards was a combination of removing duplicate standards and updating the standards to reflect changes in the forest practices system, including compliance reporting and the requirement to upload FPPs to the FPA's online FPP Coverpage database.

Assessment was based on a performance rating score (Appendix 3). The statewide performance rating is determined as the weighted mean of the total sample. This score provides a measure of performance against the standards set by the FPA.

Potential breaches of the Forest Practices Act and/or the *Forest Practices Code* identified through the assessment program are independently investigated by the FPA and subject to enforcement actions as detailed in section 1.9 of this report.

Two assessors were used during the 2014–15 program:

- Mick Schofield, the FPA's Compliance Manager, has over 15 years of experience in forestry and is a registered Lead Auditor Environmental Management Systems with Exemplar Global. Mr Schofield had primary responsibility for ensuring the efficient and effective conduct and conclusion of the annual program, in accordance with the assessment scope and plan as defined under protocols and instructions.
- Ann La Sala, the FPA's Forest Practices Advisor, has over 20 years of experience in forestry.

1.7.2.1 Summary of the results

A summary of the various facets of forest operations assessed is provided in Table 1.7.2. Summaries of the program outcomes are calculated as the weighted mean of the performance rating within each category and are provided in Figure 1.7.1 (mean performance rating for all assessments by category) and Figure 1.7.2 (mean performance rating for all assessments by category and tenure).

The FPA's Compliance Program staff carry out the annual assessment program that determines the quality of planning, implementation and reporting against prescriptions within each FPP and the Forest Practices Code*.*

Table 1.7.2 Coverage of the 2014–15 full assessments

	PTPZL	Industrial forest companies	Independent forest owners and Crown land other than PTPZL	Total
No. of assessments	17	21	18	**56**
No. of certifying FPOs assessed[1]	11	11	9	**29**
Operation				
Roading	5	2	3	**10**
Harvesting	16	21	18	**55**
Reforestation[2]	16	21	10	**45**
Quarry	1	0	0	**1**
Forest type				
Softwood plantation	1	16	5	**22**
Hardwood plantation	2	5	3	**10**
Native forest – clearfelled[3]	5	0	5	**10**
Native forest – partial logging	8	0	4	**12**
Harvesting				
Conventional	15	21	18	**54**
Cable	1	0	0	**1**
Reforestation				
Softwood plantation	1	14	2	**17**
Hardwood plantation	2	6	2	**10**
Native forest[4]	14	4	5	**23**
Conversion – non-forest	0	0	8	**8**

[1] Some FPOs are assessed in more than one category.

[2] Reforestation includes thinning operations.

[3] Includes aggregated retention.

[4] Reforestation is assessed in more than one category, including reforestation of riparian zones in plantations.

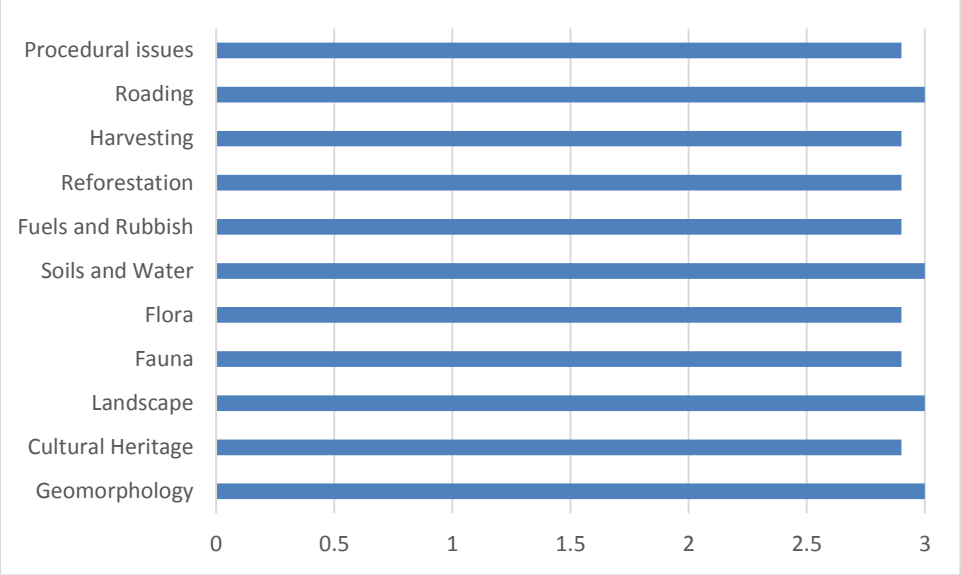


Figure 1.7.1 Mean performance rating for all assessments by category 2014–15

Figure 1.7.2 Mean performance rating for all assessments by category and forest manager 2014–15

Individual performance ratings by tenure

A total of 2201 individual forest planning and operational questions were assessed across 56 FPPs. An analysis of the performance rating for each question by tenure (Table 1.7.3) indicates that, on average, 92 per cent of operations received a score of three:

- 94.8 per cent on PTPZL
- 94.5 per cent for industrial forest companies
- 86.5 per cent for independent forest owners on private property.

Table 1.7.3 Percentage of performance rating recorded for all individual questions scored for each operation by tenure in 2014–15

Tenure/rating	1 (Un-acceptable)	2 (Below sound)	3 (Sound)
PTPZL	0.6%	4.6%	94.8%
Industrial (private)	0.4%	5.1%	94.5%
Independent (private)	3.3%	10.2%	86.5%

Table 1.7.4 provides a summary of results for operations by the various applicants that were included in the random sample of FPPs in 2014–15.

Table 1.7.4 Percentage of performance rating recorded for all individual questions scored for each operation by applicant in 2014–15 (plans in brackets)

Applicant/rating	1 (Un-acceptable)	2 (Below sound)	3 (Sound)
Forestry Tasmania (17)	0.6%	4.6%	94.8%
Forico (5)	0.5%	3.8%	95.6%
Norske Skog (4)	0.0%	0.0%	100%
Timberlands Pacific (10)	0.4%	7.0%	92.6%
Independent (20)	3.3%	10.2%	86.5%

1.7.2.2 Comments on standards achieved

Under s. 4E(1)(b) of the Forest Practices Act, the FPA reports that the implementation and effectiveness of FPPs on public and private land were above the nominated standards.

1.8 Monitoring of the permanent native forest estate

The FPA is required to implement and report on the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate under s. 4C of the Forest Practices Act. Appendix 4 provides details of the policy and the data for all of the forest communities within Tasmania's bioregions.

- The rate of conversion decreased slightly in 2014–15 compared to the previous couple of years (see Figure 1.8.1). A total of 2160 hectares of native forest was converted to other vegetation types (mainly for agricultural land use) compared to 2315 hectares in 2013–14. The areas of highest native forest conversion were in the Ben Lomond (1803 ha) and Woolnorth (245 ha) bioregions.
- Overall, the reduction in the native forest estate over the period 1996–2015 amounts to approximately 156 648 hectares (4.9 per cent of the estimated 1996 native forest estate) as a result of conversion, mainly for plantations or agriculture. The proportion of native forest conversion by bioregion varies from 11.8 per cent (Woolnorth Bioregion) to 0.2 per cent (Furneaux Bioregion) – see Table 1.8.1.
- Approximately 499 hectares of threatened forest communities were represented in FPPs certified for conversion in 2014–15.
- The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy originally set a bioregional threshold for all communities to be maintained at no less than 50 per cent retention of the 1996 area. Concern raised by the FPA about a concentration of conversion in a number of communities resulted in the government amending the policy to increase this threshold to 75 per cent in December 2009. Table 1.8.2 shows that 12 communities are below the 75 per cent threshold as a result of conversion activity prior to 2009.
- Most conversion is now for agriculture and other non-forest use and very little is for plantation establishment. The certification of FPPs for conversion of native forest to plantations virtually ceased on PTPZL in 2007.
- The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy states that broad-scale conversion must end by January 2016 or when the 95 per cent statewide threshold is reached (whichever is the earlier).

Threatened non-forest native vegetation communities do not form part of the permanent native forest estate but any clearance or conversion of them has been subject to regulation under the Forest Practices Act since 2007. There was no clearance or conversion of threatened non-forest native vegetation communities under FPPs in 2014–15 and virtually none since 2007.

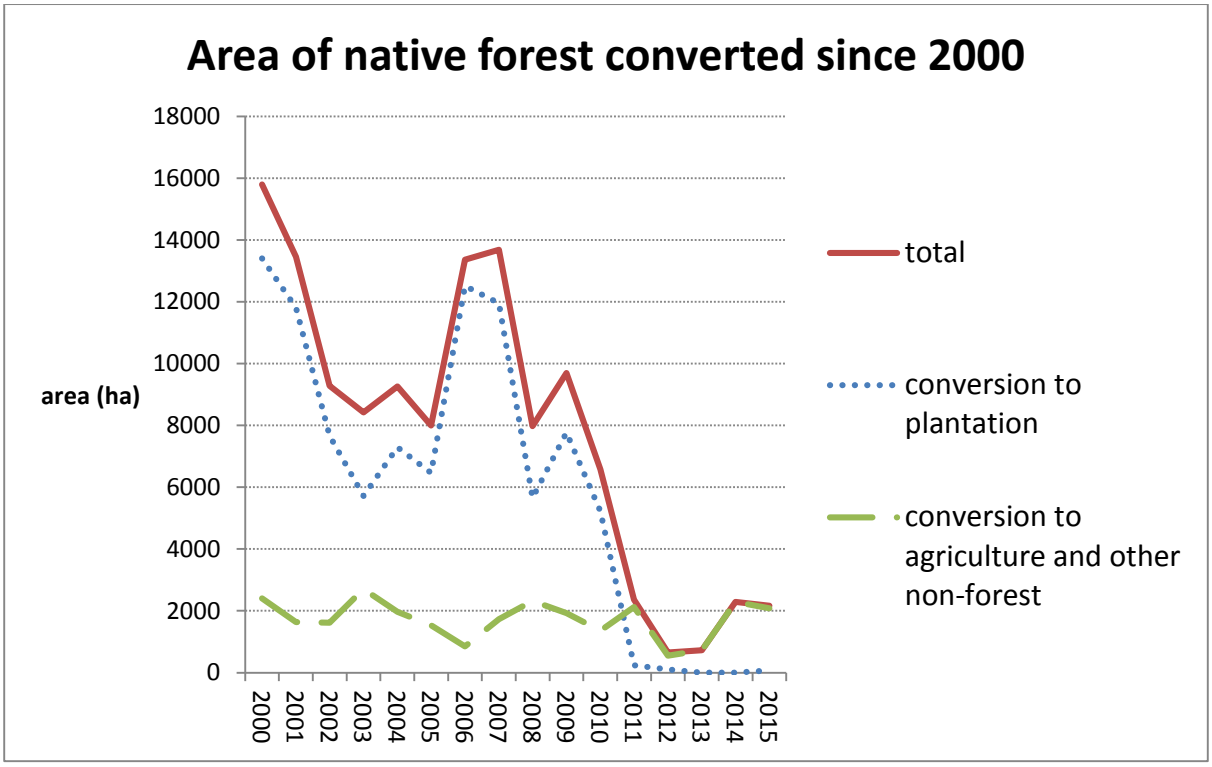


Figure 1.8.1 **Area of native forest converted since 2000**

Table 1.8.1 **Loss of native forest in Tasmania and Tasmanian bioregions, relative to the 1996 estimated extent (as revised in the 2002 *'State of the forests Tasmania' report* dataset)**

Bioregion	2013–14 Total % decrease of native forest since 1996 (at 30/06/14)	2014–15 Total % decrease of native forest since 1996 (at 30/06/15)
Woolnorth	11.7	11.8
Ben Lomond	9.0	9.3
D'Entrecasteaux	5.3	5.3
Central Highlands	4.5	4.5
Midlands	3.5	3.5
Freycinet	2.6	2.6
West and South-west	0.7	0.7
Furneaux	0.2	0.2
State total	**4.9**	**4.9**

Table 1.8.2 The number of forest communities with a reduction in bioregional area of more than 10 per cent relative to their 1996 estimated extent (based on the 2002 '*State of the forests Tasmania*' *report* dataset)

(Some communities identified in Appendix 4 as having losses of unrealistic magnitudes, because of significant inaccuracies in the 1996 mapping, have been excluded from this table.)

Bioregion	Number of communities	Number of communities with substantial reduction in area since 1996	
		Total >10%	Total >25%
Woolnorth	35	12	1
Ben Lomond	28	10	6
D'Entrecasteaux	28	2	0
Central Highlands	34	5	3
Midlands	30	6	1
Freycinet	33	2	1
West and South-west	23	1	0
Furneaux	6	0	0
State total		**38**	**12**

The FPA reports, under s. 4C(fa) of the Forest Practices Act, that Tasmania's native forest estate has been maintained in accordance with the Tasmanian Government Policy on the Maintenance of a Permanent Native Forest Estate. The area of native forest as at 30 June 2015 was equivalent to 95.1 per cent of the native forest area that existed in 1996.

1.9 Enforcement

1.9.1 Investigations

The FPA investigates all complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Forest Practices Act and the *Forest Practices Code*. Investigations are undertaken directly by FPA compliance staff, with assistance of FPA specialists when required, or by FPOs. Reports and recommendations are reviewed by the CFPO, and when appropriate by the Board of the FPA against the FPA's Investigation and enforcement protocols. Investigations may also be undertaken in cooperation with other government agencies and Tasmania Police.

Formal legal actions arising as a consequence of serious breaches identified during investigations are undertaken in consultation with Tasmania Police.

The FPA dealt with 68 investigations in 2014–15, of which 34 were new and 34 were commenced in a previous year. Of the new investigations, 5 were conducted on PTPZL, 2 on Crown land, 2 on industrial private property and 25 on independent private property.

Forty-four investigations were finalised. Investigations with breaches related to: operating without a plan (15); boundary incursions (2); streamside reserves (4); natural and cultural values (0); FPP prescriptions and the *Forest Practices Code* (8); and apparent breach but insufficient evidence or out of time to proceed with legal action (3). In the remaining 12 investigations, no breaches of the Act or the *Forest Practices Code* were found to have occurred. Outcomes of finalised investigations are detailed in Table 1.9.1.

Table 1.9.1 Outcomes of completed investigations

Outcome	2013–14		2014–15*	
No breach	17	31%	12	27%
Minor breach, no serious environmental harm	18	33%	7	16%
Notice issued to require corrective action or formal warning given	12	22%	19	43%
Penalty imposed	5	9%	3	7%
Matters resolved by the courts	0	0%	0	0%
Apparent breach but insufficient evidence or out of time to proceed with legal action	3	5%	3	7%
Total completed investigations	**55**	**100%**	**44**	**100%**
Investigations in progress	34		24	
Total investigations (completed and in progress)	**89**		**68**	

*includes matters carried over from previous years

1.9.2 Notices and prosecutions

The forest practices system is designed to achieve high environmental standards, with an emphasis on planning, training and education. Where issues arise, the FPA prefers that they are dealt with through early detection and corrective action. Corrective action may involve remedial action, as well as reviewing and improving systems to ensure that similar issues do not arise in the future.

Education is considered critical in ensuring that individuals, companies and agencies understand their responsibilities under the Forest Practices Act. Consequently, where issues arise through a lack of knowledge, the FPA prefers to address the issue by educating the responsible person to prevent similar issues arising in the future.

Where issues arise that generally reflect inadequate systems or insufficient care, or in cases of repeat offences, penalties are appropriate to reinforce the due diligence that all parties must apply when undertaking activities identified under the Forest Practices Act.

Legal enforcement may be undertaken in several ways:

- FPOs may give verbal or written notification (under s. 41(1)) in order to request the responsible person to comply with the Forest Practices Act or an FPP. Where this notice is not complied with, an FPO may issue a second notice in writing (under s. 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 a s. 41(2) notice is a breach under the Forest Practices Act and can lead to prosecution.
- The FPA may prosecute (lay a complaint) for failure to have operations covered by an FPP (s. 17), for failing to comply with an FPP (s. 21) or for failing to lodge a certificate of compliance (s. 25A).
- The FPA may impose fines as an alternative to prosecution (s. 47B).

Table 1.9.2 Legal enforcement 2010–11 to 2014–15

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Formal notices issued by FPOs*	15	8	9	5	2
Fines imposed	9	7	5	7	3
Complaints laid	2	2	1	0	0

* Refers to written notices and does not include verbal notices given by a FPO under s. 41 of the Forest Practices Act. The figures reported do not include notices issued with respect to overdue certificates of compliance nor notices issued by FPA compliance staff conducting investigations.

The FPA imposed three fines under s. 47B of the Forest Practices Act in 2014–15 which totalled $3500, as follows:

- Landowner G Gillies paid a fine of $1000 for causing the clearing of trees and harvesting of timber on approximately 4 hectares of land without an FPP.
- Landowner Dowling Holdings (Tas) Pty Ltd paid a fine of $2000 for causing the clearing of trees on approximately 2 hectares of land, including vulnerable land, without an FPP.
- Landowners R and L Gudden paid a fine of $500 for causing the harvesting of timber on approximately 4 hectares of land without an FPP.

In addition to fines, the FPA took action in the following cases:

- Landowner on Saltwood Creek Road, Pipers River was required to cease clearing and allow 9.7 hectares of forest including approximately 3 hectares of *Eucalyptus ovata* (black gum) forest to regenerate naturally. The site has been subject to ongoing monitoring for the past two years and the area is regenerating.

- Landowner on Austins Road, Turners Marsh was required to cease clearing and allow approximately 1 hectare of forest to regenerate naturally. The landowner received a fine (Category 1 $0–$3000), fully suspended subject to no further clearing or forest practices contrary to the Forest Practices Act for a period of two years. The clearing occurred on Crown land without the landowner's consent.
- Contractor Taslog P/L completed remedial work to a machinery exclusion zone including removing log stacks and slash, FPP CJG0075. The contractor received a $2000 fine fully suspended on condition that Taslog P/L does not cause any further breach of the Forest Practices Act for a period of two years.
- Contractor Darren Templar completed remedial work including removal of temporary crossings and drainage on snig tracks and access track, FPP JGH0131.
- Forestry Tasmania completed remedial work including the installation of a culvert and improved drainage on snig tracks, FPP CGP0297. Approximately 30 hectares (of 118 hectares of softwood plantation coupe) is to be returned to native forest incorporating areas of high erodible soil and moderate slope.
- Landowner on Gordons River Road, Tyenna was required to cease clearing and allow approximately 0.5 hectare of forest to regenerate naturally. The clearing occurred on Forestry Tasmania land without FT's consent. The landowner who caused the clearing has resurveyed the boundary.
- Forestry Tasmania completed remedial work to improve road drainage, FPP JBW0408.
- Contractor Darren Templar received a suspended fine (Category 1 $0–$3000) for the construction of approximately 900 metres of additional roading contrary to FPP JGH0268.
- Landowner on Murchison Highway, Rosebery, harvested and removed approximately 11.5 cubic metres of blackwood without the landowner's consent (Forestry Tasmania). The landowner paid Forestry Tasmania three times the usual royalty for the timber removed. As the matter was mutually resolved between the landowner and Forestry Tasmania, the FPA waived further action under the Forest Practices Act.

Prosecution in progress:

- A complaint was laid against a landowner/logging contractor for causing forest practices contrary to the FPP, with respect to felling prescriptions. This complaint, laid in 2012–13, remains before the court.

1.10 Self-regulation

The Tasmanian forest practices system is based on a co-regulatory approach, involving self-regulation by the industry with independent monitoring and enforcement carried out by the FPA. The objectives of the forest practices system are outlined in Schedule 7 of the Forest Practices Act (listed in the section on the forest practices system at the beginning of this report). Self-regulation is implemented through the following processes within the forest practices system:

- Preparation of FPPs. Section 18 of the Forest Practices Act provides that any person may prepare an FPP. The larger companies and Forestry Tasmania generally employ staff to meet their own requirements for the preparation of plans. Consultants generally service smaller companies and private landowners.

- Certification of FPPs. FPPs are certified by accredited FPOs who hold delegated powers from the FPA. These FPOs are appointed by the FPA from suitably qualified staff employed by forestry consultants, forest companies, Forestry Tasmania and Private Forests Tasmania. Certification of FPPs is the process whereby an FPO must check that the FPP has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Forest Practices Code* and all administrative instructions issued by the FPA.

- Monitoring and inspection of forest practices. Forest practices are supervised by FPOs and other staff employed by the forest industry. FPOs have the power to issue notices under s. 41 of the Forest Practices Act in order to ensure that operations comply with the Act or with the conditions of a certified FPP.

- Internal environmental audit. Some of the major companies and Forestry Tasmania have formal environmental audit systems, such as ISO 14001.

- Reporting on compliance under s. 25A of the Forest Practices Act. Compliance reports must be lodged with the FPA within 30 days of the completion of discrete operational phases detailed within an FPP. Such reports must be completed by an FPO.

The FPA reports that, in accordance with s. 4E(1)(a) of the Forest Practices Act, a high level of self-regulation has been achieved on public and private land that is subject to operations undertaken by forestry companies. Overall, a lower standard is achieved by the smaller, independent operators.

2 Research and Advisory Program report

2.1 Biodiversity Program

2.1.1 Advice

Table 2.1.1 Biodiversity Program notifications in 2014–15

	PTPZL	Private forest	Total
Office assessment and advice provided (approx.)	68(95)	52(61)	120(156)
Field assessment and advice provided (approx.)	20(19)	11(10)	31(29)
Total notifications	**88(114)**	**63 (71)**	**151 (185)**

This data is derived from the notification system database. The figures in brackets are the number of notifications responded to in 2013–14.

The Biodiversity Program staff responded to approximately 151 requests for advice on biodiversity issues from FPOs and other forest planners as part of FPP development between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. Of these, 88 were for PTPZL, with the remainder for a mix of private operations (Table 2.1.1). The data in the notification database indicates that field assessments were undertaken for about 25 per cent of notifications. However, this is an underestimate because some involved multiple visits and in some cases pre-plan visits were not recorded.

The number of notifications in 2014–15 decreased by approximately 19 per cent from those in 2013–14, when 185 were received. This number of notifications, whilst reduced from the previous year, is similar to those received in 2012–13.

Several requests for advice were complex, particularly for conversion operations on private land and those involving threatened fauna species where the management approach agreed with DPIPWE was difficult to implement in some areas (e.g. swift parrot, masked owl, grey goshawk and wedge-tailed eagle). Before advice could be provided, many notifications, particularly on PTPZL, required extensive consultation with DPIPWE specialists and multiple site visits by Biodiversity Program staff. FPA ecologists have also spent time ensuring that actions delivered through Forestry Tasmania's internal management systems are consistent with those required by the forest practices system.

In addition to dealing with advice requests relating to FPPs, advice was provided on other forest management issues relating to threatened species and communities. Eagle nest management issues took up a considerable amount of staff time, particularly during the eagle breeding season. In the south of the State, advice on implementation of the swift parrot management recommendations on public land took up a considerable amount of staff time. In the north of the State, a number of field visits were needed to evaluate habitat and interpret the recommended management approach for

the masked owl and grey goshawk. In particular, applying the masked owl management approach on private property involved detailed habitat assessments due to the inaccuracy in vegetation mapping and difficulties in interpreting vegetation layers. On-ground assessment has in most cases resulted in a satisfactory outcome. Several field visits have also involved working with individual planners to clarify the management approach for the Tasmanian devil, particularly in plantations.

Biodiversity Program staff also provided advice and specialist input to FPA compliance investigations, predominantly in relation to threatened species or threatened vegetation communities. This included reviewing file notes, field days, contributing to the collection of evidence, and as an expert witness in court.

A significant amount of time was also spent throughout the year responding to advice requests on a wide range of biodiversity-related issues from planners, other agencies (in particular DPIPWE), consultants, students and members of the general public (see also section 2.3 below). Comment was also provided to those developing High Conservation Value areas for Forest Stewardship Council certification.

2.1.2 Planning tools and guideline development

The development and maintenance of biodiversity-related planning tools to meet the recommendations of the 2009 Biodiversity Review continued to be a priority in 2014–15. All planning tools and technical notes and guidelines available for use by FPOs are delivered through the FPA services section of the FPA website. Planning tool development and maintenance activities in 2014–15 included:

- ***Threatened Fauna Adviser*** **(ThFA)**: this decision-support tool was endorsed for use by planners in March 2014 and has been used consistently during 2014–15. It is used in accordance with the *Procedures for the management of threatened species* agreed between DPIPWE and the FPA. Considerable staff time was spent on issues relating to the functioning of the tool, clarification of the management recommendations and training different districts/companies in use of the online planning tool.
- ***Biodiversity Values Database***: species range boundaries and habitat descriptions continued to be updated in 2014–15 as new information became available from research projects. Minor adjustments were made to the web-map function following feedback from planners and a system was developed to track changes for compliance monitoring.
- ***Threatened Plant Adviser*** **(TPA)**: FPA staff continued work on the development of a Threatened Plant Adviser (TPA) in 2014–15. The TPA is a new planning tool which will provide advice on the management of threatened plant species within areas covered by the forest practices system. The TPA is intended for use by FPOs, forest planners and others conducting biodiversity evaluations as part of the process of developing an FPP. Like the Threatened Fauna Adviser, the TPA will be a web-based decision-support system to deliver consistent management advice and determine areas or species that are a priority for conservation management. The project team, comprising FPA botanists and consultants, has been meeting on a regular basis since January 2015 to gather up-to-date information and expert opinion and develop draft management recommendations and habitat descriptions for each threatened flora species that has the potential to occur in areas subject to the forest practices system. A series of background reports have been produced, and the aim is to complete a draft TPA in 2015–16. The project is governed by an FPA and DPIPWE project

steering committee, and the information produced by the project team will be reviewed by a Scientific Reference Group and a Stakeholder Reference Group in 2015–16.

- ***Biodiversity evaluation sheets***: in order to streamline planning, these sheets were divided into four separate sheets in 2014–15, based on the type of operation being planned. The sheets are designed to help assess the risk of a forest practice to a particular biodiversity value and aid the development of appropriate management prescriptions.
- ***Biodiversity technical notes and planning guidelines*** (see publications) – some of these required endorsement from the Board, consistent with the FPA document release policy:

  Work continued on the development of the following technical notes in 2014–15:
  - a technical note clarifying the management approach for wedge-tailed eagle nests was endorsed and made available to planners via the FPA website
  - technical notes on identifying habitat for the swift parrot and giant freshwater crayfish were endorsed and made available to planners via the FPA website
  - a draft of a technical note on designing fauna-friendly stream crossings was finalised, endorsed and made available to planners via the FPA website
  - technical notes on identifying habitat for threatened frogs and masked owls were drafted and comment is being sought
  - a technical note on forest remnants is in draft form.

2.1.3 Policy, reviews and input to strategic planning

The Biodiversity Program was involved in the following strategic planning and review activities:

- Landscape-scale planning: Work continued on the development of habitat models with staff from the Sustainability Section of Forestry Tasmania to facilitate landscape-scale planning, using the *Biodiversity landscape planning guideline* on public land.
- Annual review of the *Agreed procedures* between FPA and DPIPWE for the management of threatened species under the forest practices system: An evaluation of the implementation of the procedures agreed between the Board of the FPA and the Secretary of DPIPWE for the management of threatened species and communities under the forest practices system (Section D3.3 of the *Forest Practices Code*) found that the procedures were complied with and were effective. See Appendix 5.
- Threatened species recovery planning / vegetation planning input:
  - staff contributed to a recovery plan meeting for threatened burrowing crayfish and the giant freshwater crayfish
  - membership of the scientific reference group for TASVEG (a digital map of Tasmania's vegetation) and the Property Assessment Group (DPIPWE)
  - Input into the development of DPIPWE and FPA threatened vegetation communities information sheets as part of the update of TASVEG. This included the development of a generic definition of a vegetation community for management purposes.
  - Development of two internal guidelines on estimating of the duty-of-care contribution for all FPPS and ecological assessment requirements for FPP applications involving the clearance and conversion of native vegetation.

- Monitoring changes in Tasmania's Permanent Native Forest Estate: Biodiversity Program staff monitored and reported (quarterly) on the changes to the native forest estate in 2014–15.

2.1.4 Research and monitoring

The overall aim of the research and monitoring program is to gather information that can be used to develop management approaches and to evaluate the effectiveness of the biodiversity provision of the *Forest Practices Code*. The Biodiversity Program's staff contributed to 13 research and monitoring projects in 2014–15 (Table 2.1.2). These research projects were funded from a variety of external funding sources and involved collaboration with external researchers, students and institutions. The Research Biologist coordinated the FPA's research and monitoring activities.

The priorities for effectiveness monitoring identified in the 2012 review were used to determine which projects to focus on. These included projects on the effectiveness of threatened fauna recommended actions and the hollow provisions of the *Forest Practices Code*. The main findings from the effectiveness monitoring projects are provided in Koch and Munks (2015) (see Appendix 1).

A presentation on the research work undertaken by the program was given at the University of Tasmania by the Research Biologist. The Biodiversity Manager and Research Biologist co-supervised a number of higher degree students undertaking projects contributing to FPA priority research, including James Pay (eagle breeding behaviour, PhD), Andre Pracejus (giant freshwater crayfish and forestry, Honours), Joanna Lyall (use of plantations by spotted-tailed quolls and devils, MSc), Tamika Lunn (management of streams for aquatic fauna – platypus, Honours) and James MacGregor (platypus health in NW catchments, PhD). The FPA raptor specialist provided technical and ecological advice for James Pay's PhD project. Lisa Cawthen (previously an FPA-supported honours and PhD student) produced a CRC/FPA-funded booklet *Tasmanian bats and their habitat – a guide* to help people identify and monitor Tasmania's bats and their habitat.

Tierney O'Sullivan (eagle breeding behaviour, Honours) and Shannon Troy (spotted-tailed quoll habitat use, PhD) both received their higher degrees in 2014–15. The results of their research have been used to improve the management of eagle and quoll habitats.

A number of enquiries were received from potential new students interested in FPA-supported projects advertised through the University of Tasmania.

Other research and monitoring activities undertaken with DPIPWE and FPA staff included: obtaining and renewing data licence permits, renewing scientific collection permits and animal ethics applications, and contributing to the Warra Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network meeting. The FPA Research Biologist, in collaboration with other researchers across agencies, has convened a quarterly symposium event to discuss matters relating to landscape-scale management of biodiversity (e.g. research projects, planning tools and data innovations).

The Biodiversity Program's publications and presentations comprised one journal article, five consultancy reports and five conference presentations at three conferences/seminars. The outcomes of research projects were communicated through *Forest Practices News* articles, presentations and field days (see training section 2.3 in this report).

Table 2.1.2 Biodiversity research active projects in 2014–15, with summary of activities undertaken (further information is provided Koch and Munks 2015)

Project title	Activities during period from 1/7/14 to 30/6/15
How effective are current management actions in protecting wedge-tailed eagle nest sites in production forests?	Aerial surveys for 2014–15 were completed. A meeting of the eagle project steering committee was held and it was determined that the focus and scale of the project would be adjusted. The future focus of the project will be to determine the timing of the breeding season. The number of nests surveyed will be reduced due to resource constraints and will only include nests known to have been used in the past.
Testing the accuracy of the mature habitat availability map for predicting hollow availability in wet forest	Surveys undertaken across the State to test the accuracy of the mature habitat availability map have been finished. The map is in the process of being revised and updated. Scientific papers are being drafted on the testing of the map and outlining the proposed approach for managing mature habitat using the map.
Recovery of threatened flora communities in partially harvested areas	A study was initiated in 2007 to determine the effectiveness of management for the rare plant *Acacia pataczekii* (Wally's wattle). Plots were established around clumps of mature plants prior to logging. The plots were surveyed after logging in 2007 and then again in 2015. Regeneration plots within the harvested area, the retained clumps, and the skid tracks were assessed in 2015. The results found that there was some damage to the unmarked study plots, but overall there was a high level of retention of adult plants. High levels of regeneration across the study area indicate this species is tolerant of the disturbance resulting from partial harvesting. The study concluded that the management practices implemented were effective.
How effective is the keeled snail management plan?	In 2013–2014 keeled snail monitoring sites were re-surveyed. A scientific paper outlining the implementation and effectiveness of the keeled snail management plan is being drafted for publication in collaboration with Forestry Tasmania and Kevin Bonham (consultant).
Survival of trees in wildlife habitat clumps	Data collection was completed for this long-term study of the survival and use of wildlife habitat clumps. The data has been proofed but analysis has not yet commenced.
Habitat use of dwarf galaxias	A study was initiated to determine whether dwarf galaxias use blackwood swamp areas in north-western Tasmania. Initial surveys found no fish at any location surveyed. Follow-up surveys at a different time of year located fish in historic sites but not in blackwood swamps. This study concluded that dwarf galaxias are unlikely to inhabit blackwood swamps in north-western Tasmania.
Long-term use of devil dens	A potential den site in the Florentine was monitored using cameras. A high level of activity by a range of species was observed, including use by a female devil with pouch young. This den will be monitored for the next 3–5 years to assess long-term use by devils.

STUDENT PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FPA **These projects contribute to the work of the FPA and are co-supervised by the FPA Biodiversity Manager or Research Biologist through their honorary positions with the University of Tasmania. Some have also received support from the FPA raptor specialist.**	
Effectiveness of management for the giant freshwater crayfish	An Honours student, Andre Pracejus, has commenced a study on giant freshwater crayfish, involving modelling habitat suitability and assessing management effectiveness within plantation areas. This project is co-supervised by the FPA Research Biologist. This project may help target and review future management for this species.
The effectiveness of stream management for platypus	An Honours student, Tamika Lunn, is re-surveying old study sites for platypus in north-east Tasmania, to determine the impact of land use change on platypus health and distribution. This project is co-supervised by the FPA Biodiversity Manager. This work will increase our understanding of the effectiveness of stream management for the conservation of aquatic species and their habitats.
Platypus health in catchments in north-western Tasmania	This PhD project by James MacGregor is being conducted through Murdoch University and is co-supervised by the FPA Biodiversity Manager. One of the project aims is to look at the relationship between land-use practices (including forest practices) and platypus health indicators. The information gathered will be of use in catchment management and monitoring decisions. James has submitted his thesis and responded to examiners' comments.
Behaviour of breeding eagles and the impact of disturbance	This PhD project by James Pay is being conducted through the University of Tasmania and is co-supervised by the FPA Research Biologist. The aim of the project is to improve our understanding of the eagle breeding biology and learn more about activities that may disturb this species. The overall objective is to determine whether management practices are effective in mitigating disturbance to breeding birds. The information gathered will be used to review eagle management recommendations.
Swift parrot ecology	The FPA supports an ARC research grant that is funding a PhD (Matt Webb) and a post-doctoral position (Dejan Stojanovic). These projects are assessing habitat use, distribution, and threats to swift parrots. These projects are not supervised by FPA staff.
Responses of native and introduced carnivores to habitat change and fragmentation in northern Tasmania	This Masters project by Joanna Lyall is being conducted through the University of Tasmania and is co-supervised by the FPA Biodiversity Manager. The study is exploring the landscape-level and stand-level factors that influence habitat suitability of plantations for Tasmanian devils and spotted tailed quolls, and the interaction between devils, spotted tailed quolls and cats in plantation areas. Field research has been completed and data is being analysed.

2.1.5 Consultancies

Biodiversity Program staff time was spent on consultancies (to a gross value of approximately $15 000) but to a lesser degree than in the previous year. Most were small in scale, but the income from these consultancies has contributed to the maintenance of specialist staff members within the FPA who are available to provide advice and support for FPOs. The consultancies included:

- provision of advice and habitat surveys on various biodiversity issues to the Environment and Heritage Branch of the Department of State Growth (central-north burrowing crayfish habitat surveys, soil and land capability maps)
- threatened fauna habitat surveys for the Department of State Growth's Transport, Infrastructure Services Division
- production of a planning tool for Department of State Growth, to help them manage threatened species of burrowing crayfish during road maintenance and construction activities
- threatened species surveys for Dorset Council
- eagle nest searches for GHD consultants
- eagle nest activity checks for different forest industry companies.

Crayfish experts (Laurie Cook, left, and Alastair Richardson, centre) training an FPA-supervised Honours student, Andre Pracejus (right), on giant freshwater crayfish habitat, survey methods and handling techniques in the Wynyard area.

2.2 Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program

2.2.1 Advice

Table 2.2.1 Notifications received for public and private forest, 2014–15

	PTPZL	Private forest	Total
Office assessment	64 (85)	97 (85)	163 (170)
Field assessment	21 (12)	12 (13)	33(25)
Total notifications	**85 (97)**	**109 (98)**	**196 (195)**

Figures in brackets are the number of notifications responded to in 2013–14; significant enquiries are included in totals.

About the same number of notifications was received as in last year, but more field assessments were required. More assessments were made on private forests (mainly plantations) than on native forest in PTPZL (formerly State forest).

Fifteen new historic (i.e. colonial or postcolonial) cultural heritage sites were found by FPOs throughout the year; most were associated with historic timber harvest (e.g. mill sites, tramways and raised stone tracks) and mining (e.g. water races and stonework). In addition, a farm homestead site was identified, formerly belonging to Melaleuca identity Deny King and his brother. Newly found sites are recorded on the FPA's database and also on Conserve, a database curated by Forestry Tasmania and accessible to all FPOs. Historic sites are managed or protected in line with prescriptions in the FPA's *Resource guide for managing cultural heritage in wood production forests*.

Fifteen Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (artefacts or artefact scatters) were found by foresters during the year. After checking by the Cultural Heritage Manager, details of such finds are reported to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania for recording on the Aboriginal Heritage Register. They are also recorded on the Conserve Aboriginal database by specifically trained FPOs.

2.2.2 Planning tools and guideline development

The Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program is working to develop more planning tools and technical guidelines so that FPOs are better equipped to resolve coupe management issues without reference to the Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage specialist. During the year a new evaluation form for evaluating both earth sciences and cultural heritage values in coupes was devised, trialled, approved by the FPA Board, and issued to FPOs. It simplifies the process of assessing special values for FPOs and makes clearer when FPA advice should be sought.

Regular meetings were held with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and other stakeholders in order to revise the Aboriginal cultural heritage sections of the *Resource guide for managing cultural heritage in wood production forests*, clarify the responsibilities of FPOs, and improve procedures concerning how Aboriginal cultural heritage in forests should be managed and protected during coupe planning, operations and post-operations. As a result of these discussions, an advanced draft of a revised document was produced for consideration by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and members of the interim Aboriginal Heritage Council.

At the same time, the historic cultural heritage components of the *Resource guide* have been collected into a draft stand-alone document, which has been edited and brought up to date.

2.2.3 Research and monitoring

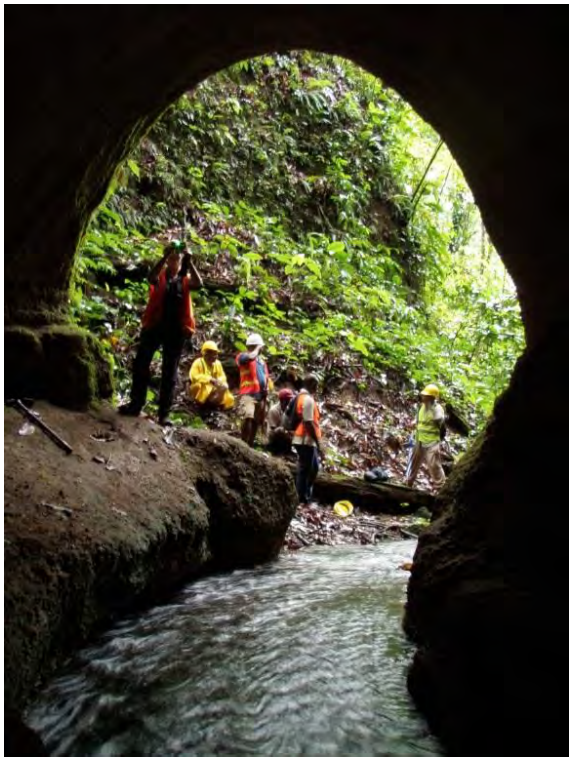
A project with University of Queensland researchers is investigating the origin of the grasslands, sedgelands and woodlands on Surrey Hills in north-western Tasmania. Pollen analysis and radiocarbon dates obtained indicate that the unusual vegetation mosaic is linked to periodic fires extending back at least 10 000 years and possibly to the end of the Last Glacial period about 13 500 years ago. It is likely that the vegetation pattern visible today results from fires lit by Aborigines to prevent rainforest invasion of Last Glacial grasslands and sedgelands when climate ameliorated in the Holocene. A paper outlining this thesis was presented at the Australian Archaeology Association annual conference in Cairns (McIntosh et al. 2014). The research findings have implications for land managers (Forico) who must decide whether the ancient vegetation pattern can and should be preserved by strategic burns attempting to mimic likely Aboriginal land management, or whether the land should be allowed to revert to rainforest.

Pollen analysis indicates that grasslands and open woodlands on Surrey Hills date back at least 10 000 years and probably earlier, and are likely to be the product of regular burning by Aboriginal people.

Two short discussion papers were written during the year. One concerned apparently erroneous interpretations of important geological sections in the south, north-east and north-west of the State, including an important site near Hobart that is listed in the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database, the primary geoconservation database for FPOs. The paper was accepted by *Geosciences Journal*. A second paper concerned use of geomorphology and dated river terraces and cliff faces to date petroglyphs (rock engravings) of probable Last Glacial age on a cliff in Utah, USA. A joint paper with rock art specialist Ekkehart Malotki was published in the digital journal *Academia* (Malotki and McIntosh 2015; link available on the FPA website).

During the year the previously reported Florentine Valley FPA/Norske Skog trial investigating the effect of pine harvest on sinkhole development was inspected with a view to resurveying the sinkhole complex late in 2015. A nearby cave containing disarticulated bones of extinct fauna was investigated with a DPIPWE scientist, who obtained samples for fauna identification. It was concluded that the bone deposit was washed into the cave by a stream system that no longer flows into the cave. Silty unfossiliferous deposits in another Florentine Valley cave discovered by Norske Skog foresters during pre-harvest site investigations were provisionally identified as lake sediments and were dated c. 40 000 years before present by the University of Wollongong. They match other silty sediments of the same age and, if the lake interpretation is correct, indicate a very different Florentine Valley landscape during the Last Glacial period to the forested landscape today. Geological sites like these in the forest estate are scientifically important and are recorded on the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database so that they can be managed and protected during forest operations.

A short report describing two unusual caves in native forests was published in *Forest Practices News* (McIntosh and Nasai 2014). One in the Styx Valley was a vertical slot or crack technically called a 'dilation cave'. Dilation caves form by the pulling apart of jointed bedrock, when rocks are under tension. At this location tension was probably induced by deep-seated landslide movement resulting from downcutting of the Styx Valley by the Styx River. The second was a cave near Kimbe, New Britain discovered by Papua New Guinea foresters, and visited during a consultancy to help develop an improved *PNG Logging Code of Practice*. This cave was highly unusual because it had been formed by dissolution and erosion of ignimbrite (welded volcanic ash). It is not only a unique geological feature, but is home to thousands of bats and many swiftlets. The cave is naturally protected through its position in a very steep-sided gully with native forest within a eucalypt plantation.



A cave in Papua New Guinea forests south of Kimbe, New Britain, formed in welded volcanic ash (ignimbrite), and home to forest bats and swiftlets.

2.2.4 Consultancies

An investigation of the geoconservation values of gravelly deposits exposed in a quarry south of the Arthur River on the west coast was undertaken for DPIPWE. The deposits were interpreted to be the eroded remains of a marine cliff, possibly formed during high sea levels 200 000 years ago (McIntosh 2014).

Four investigations of soil properties and geoconservation values along the Midland Highway were undertaken for the Department of State Growth as part of planning for widening the road (McIntosh 2015a, b, c, d). Most significant was the presence of an old lunette (dune) at White Lagoon, which is also an Aboriginal site.

A short report was written for Clarence City Council concerning management of erosion on a coastal walking track (McIntosh 2015e). Another short report on soil erodibility was written in connection with a proposed barge facility on the Huon River.

A project to provide PNG foresters with enhanced skills in soil science and soil carbon measurement was undertaken by the Manager, Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage together with Dr Richard Doyle of the University of Tasmania.

A major project was undertaken in Papua New Guinea with Dr Richard Doyle of the University of Tasmania to train 16 foresters in the fundamentals of geology and soil science, so that they could supervise sampling for soil carbon in the forthcoming PNG National Forest Inventory, being undertaken with the support of the Food and Agricultural Organisations of the United Nations and the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (UN-REDD). After establishing suitable field sites near Lae (Morobe Province), Dr Doyle and the Manager, Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage conducted an intensive course over five days covering PNG geology, rock types, landforms, soil description and soil classification, with inputs from PNG foresters who described the soils and geology of their own areas. Field techniques developed for accurate sampling of forest soil carbon were tested on rolling land in the Atzera Range and on steeplands at Oomsis, south of Lae. Two reports were written, an account of the course (McIntosh et al. 2015), and a comprehensive field guide detailing the scientific methods to be used when sampling forest soils for carbon (McIntosh and Doyle 2015). The methods developed are generic and can also be applied to forest soils in Tasmania. The course was funded by UN-REDD and The Crawford Fund (Australia).

2.3 Training and education carried out by the FPA

2.3.1 Forest Practices News

Two editions of *Forest Practices News* were published by the FPA in 2014–15, which can be found on the FPA's website. The newsletter provides a channel for communicating new ideas and developments among those interested in the management of Tasmania's forests. Emphasis is placed on practical and applied information, particularly on articles supplied by practising FPOs. The FPA specialists contributed numerous articles to *Forest Practices News*. The Publications Officer and the Manager, Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage edit the newsletter.

Two events were coordinated by the Publications Officer through *Forest Practices News* – the second Forest Practices Photographic Competition and the third Forest Practices Awards.

The Forest Practices Photographic Competition resulted in over 100 entries, many of a high standard, which have become a useful resource for the FPA. The award ceremony took place in September 2014, with seven category winners and one overall winner. The winning photographs were used in the FPA's calendar for 2015. See *Forest Practices News December 2014* for more details.

The Forest Practices Awards ceremony took place in June 2015, when eight people or companies were awarded for their outstanding contributions to Tasmanian forest practices management. See *Forest Practices News June 2015* for more details.

2.3.2 Forest practices system training

All FPA programs contributed to the mandatory one-day FPO Refresher Course which was run in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie in September 2014. An extra session was run in Launceston in December 2014 for FPOs who had missed the first round, and a catch-up process was developed for the few that missed all the courses. In total, 147 FPOs attended these courses. The FPO Refresher Course presentations are available on the FPA's website.

The FPA and Forestry Tasmania jointly ran the Forest Practices for Supervisors Course in Maydena in October 2014. This course was attended by 20 people, with 4 of these being from private companies and 16 being Forestry Tasmania employees. Many of the participants from this course go on to take part in the FPO Training Course. The course provides an overview of the forest practices system covering topics such as the *Forest Practices Act 1985*; the *Forest Practices Code;* workplace health and safety; natural and cultural values*;* roading; harvesting and restoration; soil and water; and silviculture.

The FPA ran two half-day Public Safety Risk Assessment Form Training Courses for FPOs in November 2014, one in the north and one in the south. An additional course was run in Forestry Tasmania's Murchison District in January 2015. These sessions were attended by a total of 66 FPOs. The course explained how to complete the risk assessment form, with FPOs receiving a certificate for having attended the training once they submitted a completed risk assessment form. The form is used to help assess and mitigate any risks caused by trees left for forest practices purposes, such as visual landscape reserves.

FPA staff also ran or contributed to the following educational events, courses and symposia:

Biodiversity Program

- A field day on giant freshwater crayfish was held at the end of March 2015. The course involved presentations and a field trip by researchers from the University of Tasmania and FPA staff. It was designed for those involved in the implementation of the Threatened Fauna Adviser recommended actions for the species. It covered the ecology and conservation requirements of the species, use of the giant freshwater crayfish habitat suitability map and technical guidelines during planning, field identification of potential habitat, and the management approach. There were 29 participants.
- Briefings on the Threatened Fauna Adviser 2014 and other planning tools for industry planners and managers (five statewide small-group workshops with approximately 60 participants in total).
- Briefings for NGOs (three small groups) and a field day on management of threatened species through the forest practices system in the south with five people from the Conservation Assessment Branch, DPIPWE.
- Field day in August 2014 with around eight Timberlands Pacific participants on the devil and quoll management prescription in a plantation context in northern Tasmania.
- Training day in August 2014 for around 18 FPOs on the identification of swift parrot habitat (run by FPA ecologists in conjunction with ANU species specialist).
- A two-day eagle nest management course for forest planners and others involved in natural resource management. This provided participants with general knowledge on eagles and the skills to conduct a nest search and design a nest reserve for any new nests. This year the FPA included a half-day refresher component for past participants of eagle courses to update them on new information which led to changes to the recommended actions delivered through the Threatened Fauna Adviser. Two guest speakers, Nick Mooney (independent eagle specialist) and Vanessa Thompson (Forestry Tasmania), provided presentations on the history of eagle management and helicopter nest search techniques. A total of 33 people attended the course which comprised 7 refresher and 26 full-course participants. The theory component of the course was conducted at Campbell Town, in April 2015. Participants then attended two field sessions run in the Launceston and Hobart regions in June. As well as FPOs and forest planners, there were also participants from ecological consultancy companies, regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations personnel, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, and DPIPWE.
- Initiated a training program for a Papua New Guinea biologist (recipient of a Crawford Fund training grant) in the development of planning guidelines to support the *Papua New Guinea Logging Code of Practice*.

Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program

In November 2014, a field day with around 20 Timberlands Pacific foresters, foresters from other companies and regional NRM organisations staff was held in the Saddleback forests of north-east Tasmania (McIntosh, Ringk and Chuter 2014 in Appendix 1) to showcase the revegetation achieved by Timberlands Pacific along streams and on less productive land, with the aim of limiting stream erosion (and, as a side effect, to increase biodiversity of riparian areas) during the next pine harvest.

2.3.3 Forest Practices Officer training

FPOs act as authorised officers of the FPA in the execution of certain sections of the Forest Practices Act and in the interpretation of Forest Practices Regulations 2007. An important function of the FPA is to train FPOs to ensure that they have the required skills and knowledge to carry out their role prior to their appointment as an FPO.

FPOs must successfully complete the FPO Training Course run by the FPA, which involves one or two days per month between May 2015 and January 2016. The current course has 24 participants. Feedback from the participants has been positive. The majority of the participants (17) are from Forestry Tasmania.

Although this course is no longer run as a nationally accredited course due to the associated expenses, it is run according to the standards of the nationally accredited course. The Training Coordinator has completed a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment in order to achieve this.

The Biodiversity Program ran a four-day Biodiversity Course as module 12 in the FPO Training Course. There were 35 participants including all the FPO Training Course participants as well as some forest planners and others involved in other natural resource management activities. This course is designed primarily for forest management practitioners, in particular FPOs and planners involved in the preparation of FPPs. It provides important information and training for those who need to identify habitats and assess the risk of management activities. It also provides training in survey requirements and the intent of management actions required under the forest practices system.

The Forest Practices Officer Training Course started in May 2015 and will finish in January 2016. The course is a mixture of classroom presentations with theory assessments and field trips with practical assessments. Here three participants from Forestry Tasmania complete a harvesting coupe checklist for a plantation coupe.

3 Administration of forest practices

3.1 The Board of the Forest Practices Authority

The FPA has the statutory responsibility for advancing the State's forest practices system and fostering a cooperative approach in developing policy and management in forest practices matters. The forest practices system is based upon a co-regulatory approach involving a balance between self-management by industry and independent monitoring by the FPA. The Board of the FPA provides independent advice and statutory reports to the Minister for Resources.

The statutory functions of the Board of the FPA as laid down in s. 4C of the Forest Practices Act are to:

- advise the Minister on forest practices policy in respect of both Crown land and private land
- regularly advise and inform the Minister on its work and activities under the Forest Practices Act
- advise the Minister on the operation and review of the Forest Practices Act
- issue and maintain the *Forest Practices Code*
- oversee standards for forest practices plans (FPPs)
- oversee the administration of private timber reserves (PTRs) by Private Forests Tasmania
- monitor and report to the Minister on harvesting, the clearing of trees and reafforestation activity in relation to the maintenance of a permanent forest estate
- implement the State's Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy
- oversee the training of Forest Practices Officers (FPOs)
- make a recommendation on the appointment of the Chief Forest Practices Officer (CFPO) and to appoint FPOs
- perform such other functions as are imposed on it by or under this or any other Act
- perform any prescribed functions.

3.1.1 The directors of the Board of the Forest Practices Authority

The directors of the Board in 2014–15 were as follows:

- Independent Chair, with expertise in public administration, environmental or natural resource management and governance: Gordon Duff (appointed 1 July 2009)
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in environmental or natural resource management: John Whittington (appointed 1 February 2010)
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in sustainable forest management on private land: Ian Whyte (appointed 1 July 2009)
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in sustainable forest management on public land: Steve Luttrell (appointed 1 July 2009)
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in community liaison and local government, from an area in which forestry is a major land use: Meredith Roodenrys (appointed 1 July 2005)

- a person with independent expertise in biological science/nature conservation: this position has been vacant since 31 December 2011.
- the Chief Forest Practices Officer (CFPO): Graham Wilkinson (appointed as a director 1 July 2005).

3.1.2 Qualifications, other relevant positions held and declaration of interest by directors

Professor Gordon Duff: BSc (Hons), PhD, Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD)

- Chairman, Forest Education Foundation

John Whittington: BSc (Hons), PhD

- Secretary (Resources and Information), Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)

Ian Whyte: BSc (Hons) (Botany)(Syd), BSc (For) (ANU), Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD), Member – Institute of Foresters of Australia

Steve Luttrell: BSc (For)

- Workskills board member (employment services provider)

Meredith Roodenrys: AM, M Ed M, Dip Phys Ed, Dip LG Admin, JP

Graham Wilkinson

- Chief Forest Practices Officer (see section 3.3)

3.1.3 Remuneration

Total remuneration paid to non-executive directors of the FPA falls within the following bands: $20 000 to $29 999 (3) and $30 000 to $39 999 (1). John Whittington is employed by the Tasmanian Government under the Senior Executive Service (SES) and he receives no further remuneration as a member of the Board of the FPA.

The CFPO is appointed within the Senior Executive Service at remuneration level SES2.

3.1.4 Activities of the Board of the Forest Practices Authority

The Board had 12 meetings during the year. Major items of business that were dealt with by the Board during the year included:

- amendment of the *Forest Practices Code* to incorporate the G*uiding policy for the operation of the Forest Practices Code* and other minor changes to references
- update of the Board's three-year strategic plan
- reviewing and making determinations with respect to investigations into alleged breaches of the Forest Practices Act
- public safety risk assessments for FPPs
- reviewing and making determinations with respect to applications for Private Timber Reserves (PTRs) or application for the revocation of PTRs
- reviewing and endorsement (after feedback from The Forest Practices Advisory Council) of several technical notes including those dealing with swift parrot breeding habitat, eagle nest management and juvenile giant freshwater crayfish
- appointing FPOs
- overseeing the annual monitoring and assessment program and a review of the protocols
- dealing with the transfer of FPPs for the Receivers and Managers of Gunns Group of Companies to the new forest management entity
- arrangements for transitioning to a new CFPO
- Forest Practices Awards
- dealing with an application before the Supreme Court for a judicial review of an FPA decision to certify an FPP that had previously been the subject of an application for compensation under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- consideration of several strategic issues including changes required to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and Forest Practices Regulations 2007, long-term FPPs, and FPPs for small woodlots.

The Board had three standing committees in 2014–15 as follows:

- Audit Committee – this committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to proper financial, compliance and performance management of the FPA. It was comprised of Ian Whyte (Chair), Gordon Duff and Meredith Roodenrys.

- Work Health and Safety Committee – this committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to work health and safety management within the FPA. It was comprised of Steve Luttrell and Meredith Roodenrys.

- Investigations Committee – this committee reviews a sample of investigations conducted by the FPA into alleged breaches to ensure that the required standards of rigour, fairness and consistency are maintained. The committee was comprised of Steve Luttrell and Meredith Roodenrys.

The Board of the Forest Practices Authority, from left: Graham Wilkinson, Steve Luttrell, Meredith Roodenrys, Gordon Duff, Ian Whyte. Not present: John Whittington and Angus MacNeil.

Table 3.1.1 Attendance of directors of the Forest Practices Authority at meetings and committees

Director	Board meetings attended (12 meetings held in 2014–15)	Other meetings attended/services rendered
Gordon Duff (Chair)	12	Meetings of the Forest Practices Advisory Council Audit Committee
John Whittington	6	
Ian Whyte	12	Audit Committee
Steve Luttrell	12	Investigations Committee
Meredith Roodenrys	11	Investigations Committee Audit Committee
Graham Wilkinson (until 31 January 2015)	6	Day-to-day administration of the forest practices system (see section 3.3 below)
Angus MacNeil (in July/August 2014 and from 1 February 2015)	6	Day-to-day administration of the forest practices system (see section 3.3 below)

3.2 Forest Practices Advisory Council

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

Members of FPAC in 2014–15 were:

- a person with knowledge or expertise in sustainable forest management (Chair): Dr Hans Drielsma (from February 2015)
- a person with knowledge of the State's resource management and planning system in relation to municipal areas in which forestry is a major land use, nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania: Alan Garcia (resigned April 2015); vacant from April 2015
- a person with expertise in, and operational experience of, forest harvesting or forest contracting: Neil McCarthy (from February 2015)
- 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*: vacant since March 2014
- a person with knowledge of administration and legislation in relation to private forests, nominated by Private Forests Tasmania: Tom Fisk
- a person with knowledge of administration and legislation in relation to multiple use forests, nominated by the forestry corporation: John Hickey (until August 2014); Suzette Weeding (from January 2015)
- a person with expertise in, and experience of, forest issues in relation to harvesting and processing, jointly nominated by the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Federation: Terry Edwards (from February 2015)
- a person with expertise in, and experience of, forest issues in relation to forest conservation: Fred Duncan (from February 2015)
- a person with expertise in, and experience of, tree growing on private land, jointly nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania: Andrew Morgan (from February 2013).

The FPA Board Chair and CFPO are invited to attend all FPAC meetings and executive support is provided by the FPA. Four meetings were held during the year. The major issues addressed by FPAC during the year included:

- the amendment of the *Forest Practices Code*
- public safety risk assessments for FPPs
- FPAC membership and protocols
- overview of operating environment
- FPP options for small planted woodlots
- review of the following FPA documents:
    - updated earth sciences and cultural heritage notification form
    - Fauna Technical Notes – assessing juvenile giant freshwater crayfish habitat in class 4 streams, eagle nest management, guidelines for the design and maintenance of stream-crossing culverts.

3.3 Chief Forest Practices Officer

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

- extensive expertise in forestry
- extensive experience in forest operations
- knowledge of the sustainable management of forests
- management skills.

Graham Wilkinson has been the CFPO since March 1996 and retired from the role on 31 January 2015.

Qualifications, other relevant positions held and declaration of interest:

- Bachelor of Science (Forestry) 1st Class Honours (Australian National University 1976)
- Master of Science (University of Tasmania 1996)
- Australian Institute of Company Directors Diploma (2000)
- Registered Professional Forester (General Practising Forester, with recognised skills in forest policy and regulation) (RPF™ 025, 2004)
- Accredited Environmental Lead Auditor (RABQSA 2007)
- Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (2007)
- National Chair, Registered Professional Foresters Scheme
- Member, Accreditation Review Board of the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) for the Australian Forestry Standard
- Member, Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement Implementation Group
- Member, Tasmanian Vegetation Management and Policy Advisory Group
- Member, Montreal Implementation Group (International Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management).

The out-going CFPO Graham Wilkinson received a Forest Practices Award 2015 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Tasmanian forest practices system over many years.

In addition to his duties within the Tasmanian forest practices system, Mr Wilkinson worked on the following international projects in 2014–15:

- *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* – engaged to conduct consultation workshops with stakeholders and to assist with the drafting of legislation for the regulation of sandalwood in Tonga
- Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – technical advice to the project Capacity Building Towards Effective Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue.

Angus MacNeil was appointed as Acting CFPO on 1 February 2015. His qualifications and other relevant positions held include:

- Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) Upper 2nd Class Honours (Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh 1979)
- Australian Institute of Company Directors Diploma (2009)
- Director of NRM South (Tasmanian natural resource management organisation)
- Former Business Manager, Division of Forest Research and Development, Forestry Tasmania
- Former General Operations Manager, Aquatas Pty Ltd

3.4 Forest Practices Officers

The FPA appoints FPOs under s. 39 of the Forest Practices Act. FPOs have powers and responsibilities under the Act. Under s. 43 of the Forest Practices Act, the FPA delegates powers to certify FPPs to FPOs designated as FPO (Planning).

FPOs are employed by forest companies, Forestry Tasmania and Private Forests Tasmania or are engaged as independent consultants to plan, supervise, monitor and report on forest practices and ensure that operations comply with the Forest Practices Act.

The prerequisite qualifications for appointment as an FPO is being deemed competent under the FPO Training Course in addition to relevant forestry experience. More information is available in the *Forest Practice Officer training resource manual* on the FPA's website.

A person who wishes to be appointed as an FPO must successfully complete a training course conducted by the FPA (section 2.3.3), which consists of a number of teaching sessions, field trips, and practical exercises in various parts of the State, and a formal examination. The training course covers legislation, and implementation of the *Forest Practices Code*, with an emphasis on harvesting, roading and reforestation. Specialist subjects include biodiversity, soils and water, geomorphology, cultural heritage, fire management, compliance and visual landscape. Attendance at periodic refresher courses is compulsory.

During 2014–15, four new FPOs were appointed.

Table 3.4.1 Forest Practices Officers appointed by the Forest Practices Authority

FPO (Planning)

	As at 30/6/14	As at 30/6/15
Industry	33	33
Independent consultants	24	23
Forestry Tasmania	33	34
Forest Practices Authority	3	2
Private Forests Tasmania	3	3
Other (currently inactive)[1]	20	21
Total FPO (Planning)	**116**	**116**

FPO (Inspecting)

	As at 30/6/14	As at 30/6/15
Industry	13	14
Independent consultants	7	8
Forestry Tasmania	25	23
Forest Practices Authority	3	3
Private Forests Tasmania	0	0
Other (currently inactive)[1]	32	31
Total FPO (Inspecting)	**80**	**79**
Total (Planning and Inspecting)	**196**	**195**

[1] This category reflects the movement of FPOs who are currently not working or active within Tasmania's forest practices system due to the downturn in the industry.

Disciplinary action

FPOs are a key part of the forest practices system and the FPA expects FPOs to maintain high standards. The FPA has a disciplinary policy for dealing with alleged instances of unsatisfactory performance by FPOs (see Appendix 10 of the *FPA Investigation and enforcement protocols)*. During the year there was disciplinary action against one FPO for substandard planning, resulting in a formal warning being issued to the FPO for certifying a plan prior to receiving signatures from the applicant and landowner.

3.5 Forest Practices Authority staff

Table 3.5.1 Staff attached to the FPA in 2014–15

Compliance Program		
Mick Schofield	BSc (Forestry), Post Grad Cert (Wildlife Mgmt)	Senior Manager, Compliance
Ann La Sala (0.8FTE)	BA (Geography and Environmental Studies)	Forest Practices Advisor
Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage Program		
Peter McIntosh	BSc (Hons), PhD	Manager, Earth Sciences and Cultural Heritage
Biodiversity Program		
Sarah Munks	BSc (Hons), PhD	Manager, Biodiversity Program
Anne Chuter (Maternity leave until Nov 2014)	BSc (Hons)	Ecologist
Tim Leaman	BSc (Hons)	Ecologist
Amy Koch (0.9 FTE)	BSc (Hons), PhD	Senior Research Biologist
Jason Wiersma	BSc (Hons)	Eagle Project Officer
Dydee Mann (Part-time)	BSc (Hons)	Ecologist (Contract labour hire)
Business Support Program		
Angus MacNeil	BSc (Hons), GAICD	Acting Chief Forest Practices Officer and Manager, Business Administration
Adrienne Liddell (0.9 FTE)		Administration Assistant
Christine Grove (0.5 FTE)	BA (Hons), MSc (Forestry)	Publications Officer and Training Coordinator
Daniel Livingston (Casual)	BSc (Hons)	IT Consultant (Contractor)

Training was provided to staff on workplace health and safety, basic security in the field, first aid and various professional development topics. The Training Coordinator completed a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

3.6 Forest Practices Tribunal

The Forest Practices Tribunal is an independent body established under s. 34 of the Forest Practices Act. The tribunal's role is to conduct hearings and make determinations with respect to appeals that are lodged under the Forest Practices Act by aggrieved parties. Appeals may be lodged against decisions of the FPA with respect to the following matters:

- An applicant for a Private Timber Reserve (PTR) may appeal against the refusal of the PTR.
- A prescribed person may appeal against the granting of a PTR.
- An applicant for an FPP may appeal against the refusal, amendment or variation of the plan.
- A person served a notice under s. 41 of the Forest Practices Act may appeal against the notice.
- A person who has lodged a three-year plan may appeal if the FPA varies or refuses the three-year plan.

Members of the tribunal are appointed by the Governor of Tasmania in accordance with s. 34(2) of the Forest Practices Act. Members in 2014–15 are listed below. Some appointment durations expired on dates included in brackets below. The tribunal is awaiting confirmation of reappointment of members.

- barristers or legal practitioners who have practised for at least five years: Keyran Pitt (5/6/15) and Christopher Gunson
- persons with a sound and practical knowledge of forestry, road construction in forests, and harvesting of timber: Marcus Higgs(5/6/15), Bert Witte (5/6/15) and Donald Frankcombe (5/6/15)
- persons with tertiary qualifications and substantial practical experience in the sciences appropriate to land and forest management: John Pretty (5/6/15)
- persons with a sound knowledge of and at least five years' practical experience in agriculture and forestry: John Shoobridge (5/6/15) and Neville Calvert (5/6/15)
- persons with a sound knowledge of and at least five years' practical experience in conservation science: Gintaras Kantvilas (5/6/15), Louise Gilfedder (5/6/15) and Ray Brereton (5/6/15).

The Chief Chairman of the Tribunal in 2014–15 until 5/6/15 was Mr Keyran Pitt QC. The Deputy Chairman was Mr Christopher Gunson for 2014–15. Hearings of individual appeals are conducted by a panel of three, comprising the Chief Chairman or Deputy Chairman and one member appointed by the Chairman from each of two of the above categories, depending upon the nature of the appeal.

There were no appeals lodged during 2014–15.

The contact details for the tribunal are: Forest Practices Tribunal, C/- GPO Box 2036, HOBART 7001, Phone: 6233 6464, Fax: 6224 0825, Email: rmpat@justice.tas.gov.au

3.7 Public interest disclosures and right to information requests

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* commenced on 1 January 2004. The FPA has, in accordance with the Act, prepared procedures for information disclosure which are available on the FPA's website or which can be viewed at the FPA's offices during working hours.

There were no public interest disclosures this year. The right to information requests are detailed below.

Table 3.7.1 Right to information requests 2014–15

Source of requests	
Solicitors for clients	1
Politicians	2
Total for FPA	**3**
Request status	
Decided	3
Outcome of requests	
Decided – full access	1
Decided – partial access	1
Decided – denied access	1
Decision time (days)	
1–30 days	1
Requests with a negotiated extension s. 15(4)	2
Refusal reasons	
s. 31 Legal professional privilege	0
s. 36 Personal information of person	1
Fees and charges	
Total charged and collected	1
Waived or reduced	2
Waiving reasons	
Member of parliament	2

3.8 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). The Act also provides under s. 44 that certain functions of the FPA will be paid out of money allocated by parliament. Full financial details for 2014–15 are presented in section 4 of this report (financial statements).

3.8.1 Self-funding of activities conducted by industry

The industry has self-funded the implementation of the Forest Practices Act by providing the following services:

- the employment of FPOs and other staff involved in the preparation, certification, monitoring and reporting of FPPs
- training and education of contractors and operators.

3.8.2 Self-funding of activities conducted by the Forest Practices Authority

The self-funding activities of the FPA are primarily related to the cost of the advice and services provided by FPA staff in relation to the processing of FPP applications (see section 2 of this report). The funding for these activities of the FPA is derived from an application fee for FPPs in accordance with s. 18 of the Forest Practices Act.

In addition to the direct funding of the research and advisory programs, the FPA receives income from research grants and consultancy work. A schedule of consultancy work undertaken by the FPA in 2014–15 is presented in Table 3.8.1.

The FPA also regulates the harvesting of treeferns under a user-pays system. All treeferns must be affixed with a tag issued by the FPA prior to removal from the harvesting area. Revenue collected from the sale of treefern tags is used to cover the cost of regulatory activities and to fund further research into the long-term sustainability of harvesting treeferns. The schedules of fees for FPPs and treefern tags are detailed in the Forest Practices Regulations 2007.

Table 3.8.1 – Consultancy work[1] undertaken by the FPA in 2014–15

Project	Client	Status	FPA Officer(s)
Bridge Flora & Fauna Surveys 2014	Environment and Heritage Unit, Department of State Growth	Active	Tim Leaman
Bridges Forward Program – Central North Burrowing Crayfish Surveys and Ballahoo Creek Survey	Environment and Heritage Unit, Department of State Growth	Completed	Tim Leaman, Amy Koch
Derby Ground-truthing Report stage 2	Dorset Council	Completed	Tim Leaman and Sarah Munks
Eagle industry nest checks	FT Huon, Derwent East and West	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	FT North-east	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	FT North-west	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	Timberlands Pacific	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	SFM Environmental Solutions	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	Norske Skog	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	Forico	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	CBM Sustainable Design Pty Ltd	Active	Jason Wiersma
Eagle industry nest checks	River Power	Active	Jason Wiersma
Perth to Breadalbane Additional Study Area	Environment and Heritage Unit, Department of State Growth	Active	Tim Leaman, Peter McIntosh
Gannet Quarry – investigation of geoconservation significance	DPIPWE	Completed	Peter McIntosh
Lauderdale walking track erosion investigation	Clarence City Council	Completed	Peter McIntosh
Preparation of field guide for sampling and describing forest soils in Papua New Guinea for the National Forest Inventory	FAO/UN-REDD+ and The Crawford Fund	Completed	Peter McIntosh
Report on UN-REDD/Crawford Fund Soils Training Course, Lae, Papua New Guinea, 10–14 November 2014	FAO/UN-REDD+ and The Crawford Fund	Completed	Peter McIntosh
Soils and Land Capability in the Kempton–Melton Mowbray Road Corridor	Environment and Heritage Unit, Department of State Growth	Completed	Peter McIntosh

Project	Client	Status	FPA Officer(s)
Soils and land capability in the White Lagoon–Mona Vale Road Corridor	Environment and Heritage Unit, Department of State Growth	Completed	Peter McIntosh
Soils and Land Capability of the Mangalore–Bagdad Road Corridor	Department of State Growth Environment & Heritage Unit	Completed	Peter McIntosh

[1] The FPA's consulting work is governed by a policy statement that ensures that any work is undertaken in accordance with the principle of competitive neutrality, at full commercial rates, does not present a conflict of interest and does not impair the capacity of the FPA to deliver its core services. The policy is available on the FPA's website.

In accordance with s. 4E(1)(a) of the Forest Practices Act, the FPA reports that the forest practices system satisfied the principle of self-funding in 2014–15.

3.8.3 Funding of the Forest Practices Authority from parliament

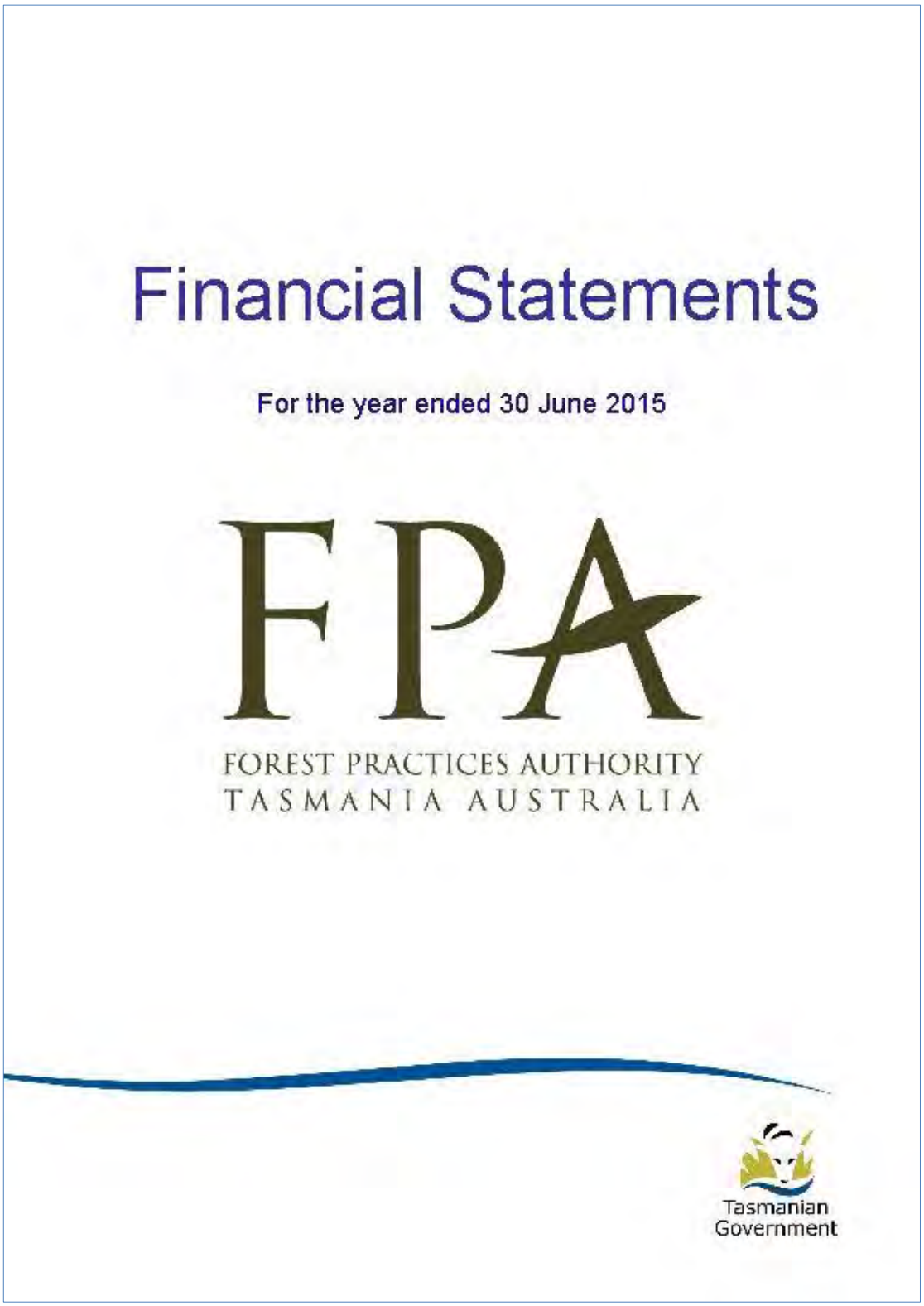
Section 44 of the Forest Practices Act provides that the costs and expenses incurred for the following activities are to be paid out of monies provided by parliament:

- annual assessment of the forest practices system and FPPs
- preparation of the annual report to parliament under s. 4X
- detection and investigation of breaches of the Forest Practices Act
- laying of complaints and prosecuting offences
- payment of compensation for the refusal of PTRs
- remuneration of the Chief Forest Practices Officer
- administrative support for the Chief Forest Practices Officer
- exercise of the FPA's powers and functions.

The independent regulatory functions of the FPA were funded by the income received under s. 44 of the Forest Practices Act in 2014–15.

4 Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

The following statement is a copy of that received from the office of the Auditor General.



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Forest Practices Authority

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Grants and Industry contributions	1.5(b)	1,404	1,389
Sales of goods and services	1.5(c), 3.1	644	935
Fees and fines	1.5(d)	5	13
Interest	1.5(e)	64	31
Other revenue	1.5(f)	...	18
Total revenue and other income from transactions		**2,117**	**2,386**
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	1.6(a), 4.1(a)	1,155	1,117
Superannuation	1.6(a), 4.1(b)	143	136
Depreciation and amortisation	1.6(b). 4.2	5	8
Grants and subsidies	1.6(c)	...	3
Supplies and consumables:			
Consultants		50	28
Property services		25	26
Communications		12	13
Information technology		54	61
Travel and transport		52	37
Advertising and Promotion		3	...
Operating lease costs		103	125
Audit fees		3	3
Other supplies and consumables	4.3	159	193
Other expenses	1.6(d), 4.4	11	10
Total expenses from transactions		**1,775**	**1,760**
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		**342**	**626**
Comprehensive result		**342**	**626**

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Forest Practices Authority

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	1.8(a), 8.1	1,564	1,276
Receivables	1.8(b), 5.1	25	36
Other financial assets	1.8(c), 5.2	67	20
Non-financial assets			
Plant and equipment	1.8(d), 5.3	1	6
Total assets		**1,657**	**1,338**
Liabilities			
Payables	1.9(a), 6.1	24	13
Employee benefits	1.9(b), 6.2	270	304
Total liabilities		**294**	**317**
Net assets (liabilities)		**1,363**	**1,021**
Equity			
Accumulated funds		1,363	1,021
Total equity		**1,363**	**1,021**

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Forest Practices Authority

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash inflows			
Grants and Industry contributions		1,405	1,408
Other cash receipts		686	1,010
Total cash inflows		**2,091**	**2,418**
Cash outflows			
Employee benefits		(1,334)	(1,218)
Other cash payments		(469)	(509)
Total cash outflows		**(1,803)**	**(1,727)**
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	8.2	**288**	**691**
Net increase (decrease) in cash held and cash equivalents		**288**	**691**
Cash and deposits at the beginning of the reporting period		**1,276**	**585**
Cash and deposits at the end of the reporting period	8.1	**1,564**	**1,276**

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Forest Practices Authority

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Accumulated funds $'000	Total equity $'000
Balance as at 1 July 2014	**1,021**	**1,021**
Total comprehensive result	342	342
Balance as at 30 June 2015	**1,363**	**1,363**

	Accumulated funds $'000	Total Equity $'000
Balance as at 1 July 2013	**395**	**395**
Total comprehensive result	626	626
Balance as at 30 June 2014	**1,021**	**1,021**

This Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

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Note 1 Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objectives and Funding

The Forest Practices Authority (the Authority) is a body corporate, established by the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

The role of the Forest Practices Authority is to advance the objective of the State's forest practices system and to foster a cooperative approach towards policy development and management. The Authority 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 Authority 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*.

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

Self-funding Activities

These activities comprise the Research and Advisory program which is funded by fees for forest practices plans. Other revenue received is primarily for Tree Fern Tag sales, the recovery of training and publication costs, consultancies undertaken and grants.

The Authority reports in accordance with Section 4E(1)(a) of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* that the forest practices system in 2014-15 satisfied the principle of self-funding.

Independent Regulation Activities

These activities are primarily supported by State Government funding and relate to administration, independent monitoring and investigations into the standards of planning and implementation of forest practices plans and compliance with the Act. Fines collected by the Authority relate to penalties imposed under s.47B of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

1.2 Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as the AAS include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The Authority is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under the AAS that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and, except where stated, are in accordance with the historical cost convention. The accounting policies are generally consistent with the previous year except for those changes outlined in Note 1.4.

The Financial Statements have been prepared as a going concern. The continued existence of the Authority in its present form, undertaking its current activities, is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Authority's administration and activities.

1.3 Functional and Presentation Currency

These Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Authority's functional currency.

1.4 Changes in Accounting Policies

(a) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards

In the current year, the Authority has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period. These include:

- 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments [Operative dates: Part A Conceptual Framework – 20 December 2013; Part B Materiality – 1 January 2014; Part C Financial Instruments – 1 January 2015] - The objective of this Standard is to make amendments to the Standards and Interpretations listed in the Appendix:

  a) as a consequence of the issue of Accounting Framework AASB CF 20131 Amendments to the Australian Conceptual Framework, and editorial corrections, as set out in Part A of this Standard;

  b) to delete references to AASB 1031 Materiality in other Australian Accounting Standards, and to make editorial corrections, as set out in Part B of this Standard; and

  c) as a consequence of the issuance of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – Hedge Accounting and amendments to IFRS 9, IFRS 7 and IAS 39 by the IASB in November 2013, as set out in Part C of this Standard.

  There is no financial impact.

(b) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards yet to be applied

The following applicable Standards have been issued by the AASB and are yet to be applied:

- AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers – The objective of this Standard is to establish the principles that an entity shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing, an uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer. This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017. Where an entity applies the Standard to an earlier annual reporting period, it shall disclose that fact. The Authority has not yet determined the potential effect of the revised Standard on the Authority's Financial Statements.
- 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & AASB 138] – The objective of this Standard is to make amendments to:

  a) AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment; and

  b) AASB 138 Intangible Assets;

  as a consequence of the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation (Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 38) by the International Accounting Standards Board in May 2014. . It is anticipated that there will not be any financial impact.
- 2015-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 134 & AASB 1049] – The objective of this Standard is to make amendments to various standards (as noted) as a consequence of the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Disclosure Initiative (Amendments to IAS 1) by the International Accounting Standards Board in December 2014, and to make an editorial correction. It is anticipated that there will not be any financial impact.
- 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality - The objective of this Standard is to effect the withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality and to delete references to AASB 1031 in the Australian Accounting Standards, as set out in paragraph 13 of this Standard. The Authority has determined that the potential impact is nil.
- 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – *Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* - The objective of this Standard is to extend the scope of AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* to include not-for-profit public sector entities. There will be no material financial impact, however there will be additional disclosures.

1.5 Income from transactions

Income is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an increase in future economic benefits related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

(a) Revenue from Government

Revenue from Government, whether recurrent or capital, is recognised as revenue in the period in which the Authority gains control of the appropriated funds.

(b) Grants and Industry Contributions

Grants payable by the Australian Government and Industry are recognised as revenue when the Authority gains control of the underlying assets. Where grants are reciprocal, revenue is recognised as performance occurs under the grant.

Non-reciprocal grants are recognised as revenue when the grant is received or receivable. Conditional grants may be reciprocal or non-reciprocal depending on the terms of the grant.

(c) Sales of goods and services

Amounts earned in exchange for the provision of goods are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer. Revenue from the provision of services is recognised in proportion to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. The stage of completion is assessed by reference to surveys of work performed.

(d) Fees and fines

Revenue from fees and fines is recognised when an obligation to pay arises, pursuant to the issue of an assessment.

(e) Interest

Interest on funds invested is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method.

(f) Other revenue

Revenue from sources other than those identified above are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an increase in future economic benefits related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

1.6 Expenses from transactions

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

(a) Employee benefits

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

(b) Depreciation and amortisation

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

The following table details the asset lives, and depreciation rates and the methods for the various classes of assets employed in the current and previous reporting periods. Asset useful lives depreciation methods are reviewed annually and adjusted according to the expected rate and/or pattern of consumption, asset condition, and industry best practice. Depreciation methods as detailed below have not changed since the previous reporting period.

Asset	*Estimated Useful Life (years)*	*Depreciation Rate (per annum)*	*Method*
Plant and Equipment	5	20.00%	Straight Line
Computer equipment	3	33.33%	Straight Line
In-house computer software (eg FPA Cover Page)	3	33.33%	Straight Line

(c) Grants and subsidies

Grant and subsidies expenditure is recognised to the extent that:

- the services required to be performed by the grantee have been performed; or
- the grant eligibility criteria have been satisfied.

A liability is recorded when the Authority has a binding agreement to make the grants but services have not been performed or criteria satisfied. Where grant monies are paid in advance of performance or eligibility, a prepayment is recognised.

(d) Other expenses

Expenses from activities other than those identified above are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

1.7 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

(a) Gain/(loss) on sale of non-financial assets

Gains or losses from the sale of Non-financial assets are recognised when control of the assets has passed to the buyer.

(b) Impairment – Financial assets

Financial assets are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any objective evidence that there are any financial assets that are impaired. A financial asset is considered to be impaired if objective evidence indicates that one or more events have had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset.

An impairment loss, in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount, and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the original effective interest rate.

All impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

An impairment loss is reversed if the reversal can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised. For financial assets measured at amortised cost and available-for-sale financial assets that are debt securities, the reversal is recognised in profit or loss. For available-for-sale financial assets that are equity securities, the reversal is recognised directly in equity.

(c) Impairment – Non-financial assets

All non-financial assets are assessed to determine whether any impairment exists. Impairment exists when the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. The Authority's assets are not used for the purpose of generating cash flows; therefore value in use is based on depreciated replacement cost where the asset would be replaced if deprived of it.

All impairment losses are recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income.

In respect of other assets, impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

(d) Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows

Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows includes gains or losses from reclassifications of amounts from reserves and/or accumulated surplus to net result, and from the revaluation of the present values of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bond interest rate.

1.8 Assets

Assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the Authority and the asset has a cost or value that can be measured reliably.

(a) Cash and deposits

Cash means notes, coins, any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution, as well as funds held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund. Deposits are recognised at amortised cost, being their face value.

(b) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any impairment losses, however, due to the short settlement period, receivables are not discounted back to their present value. Impairment losses are recognised when there is an indication that there is a measurable decrease in the collectability of receivables.

(c) Other financial assets

Investments are initially recorded at fair value.

All investments are held to maturity and are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment losses subsequent to initial recognition.

(d) Plant and equipment

(i) Valuation basis

Plant and equipment are recorded at historic cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. The costs of self-constructed assets includes the cost of materials and direct labour, any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

When parts of an item of plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of plant and equipment.

(ii) Subsequent costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of plant and equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Authority and its costs can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. The costs of day-to-day servicing of plant and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

(iii) Asset recognition threshold

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Authority is $10,000. Assets valued at less than $10,000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are material in total).

(e) Intangibles

An intangible asset is recognised where:

- it is probable that an expected future benefit attributable to the asset will flow to the Authority; and
- the cost of the asset can be reliably measured.

Intangible assets held by the Authority are valued initially at cost. After initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at fair value where an active market exists and are amortised on a straight line basis over their estimated useful life. Where no active market exists, intangibles are valued at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

1.9 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will result from the settlement of a present obligation and the amount at which the settlement will take place can be measured reliably.

(a) Payables

Payables, including goods received and services incurred but not yet invoiced, are recognised at amortised cost, which due to the short settlement period, equates to face value, when the Authority becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services.

(b) Employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities expected to be realised within 12 months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Other employee entitlements are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June 2015, where the impact of discounting is material, and at the amount expected to be paid if discounting is not material.

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. 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 liability for on-costs (payroll tax and workers compensation premiums) is recognised and disclosed as part of Other Liabilities. On-costs are not classified as an employee benefit.

(c) Superannuation

The Authority does not recognise a liability for the accruing superannuation benefits of employees. This liability is held centrally and is recognised within the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

During the reporting period, the Authority paid 12.75 percent of salary in respect of contributory members of the Retirement Benefits Fund to finance general Fund. The Authority paid the appropriate Superannuation Guarantee Charge into the nominated superannuation fund in respect of non-contributors. Under these arrangements the Authority has no further superannuation liability for the past service of its employees.

1.10 Leases

The Authority has entered into a number of operating lease agreements for property, plant and equipment, where the lessors effectively retain all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the items leased. Equal instalments of lease payments are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the lease term, as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

1.11 Judgements and Assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, the Authority is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by the Authority that have significant effects on the Financial Statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the Financial Statements. This includes Employee benefits, refer note 6.2.

The Authority has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1.12 Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect any changes in accounting policy or the adoption of new standards. Details of the impact of changes in accounting policy on comparative figures are at Note1.4.

1.13 Rounding

All amounts in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated. Where the result of expressing amounts to the nearest thousand dollars would result in an amount of zero, the financial statement will contain a note expressing the amount to the nearest whole dollar.

1.14 Taxation

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and the Goods and Services Tax.

1.15 Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable, or payable, to the ATO is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

Note 2 Events Occurring After Balance Date

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which would have a material effect on the Authority's Financial Statements as at 30 June 2015.

Note 3 Income from transactions

3.1 Sales of goods and services

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Fern Tree Tag Sales	14	10
Recovery of Training and publication costs	36	10
Plan Fees	491	613
Consultancy fees	103	301
Sales of Services Other	...	1
Total	**644**	**935**

Note 4 Expenses from transactions

4.1 Employee benefits

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
(a) Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	1,097	1,085
Long service leave	50	24
Fringe Benefits Tax	8	8
Total Employee benefits	**1,155**	**1,117**
(b) Superannuation		
Superannuation	**143**	**136**

Superannuation expenses relating to defined benefits schemes relate to payments made to the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance. The amount of the payment is based on an employer contribution rate determined by the Treasurer, on the advice of the State Actuary. The current employer contribution is 12.75 per cent of salary.

Superannuation expenses relating to the defined contribution scheme are paid directly to the superannuation fund at a rate of 9.25 per cent of salary. In addition, the Authority is also required to make a "gap" payment equivalent to 3.5 per cent of salary in respect of employees who are members of the contributory scheme.

4.2 Depreciation and amortisation

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Depreciation	5	5
Amortisation	...	3
Total	**5**	**8**

4.3 Other supplies and consumables

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Printing, publications and training costs	17	6
Contract labour	68	137
Miscellaneous expenses	74	50
Total	**159**	**193**

4.4 Other expenses

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Workers compensation	5	3
Other employee expenses	6	7
Total	**11**	**10**

Note 5 Assets

5.1 Receivables

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Receivables	25	36
Less: Provision for impairment	...	...
Total	**25**	**36**
Sales of goods and services (inclusive of GST)	24	29
Other receivables	1	7
Total	**25**	**36**
Settled within 12 months	25	36
Total	**25**	**36**

5.2 Other financial assets

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Prepayments	16	...
Accrued revenue	41	20
Accrued interest	10	...
Total	**67**	**20**
Settled within 12 months	67	20
Total	**67**	**20**

5.3 Plant and equipment

(a) Carrying amount

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Plant and equipment		
At cost	24	24
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(23)	(18)
Total	**1**	**6**

(b) Reconciliation of movements

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below.

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Carrying amount at 1 July	**6**	**11**
Less: Annual Depreciation	(5)	(5)
Carrying amount at 30 June	**1**	**6**

Note 6 Liabilities

6.1 Payables

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Creditors	23	11
Accrued expenses	1	2
Total	**24**	**13**
Settled within 12 months	24	13
Total	**24**	**13**

Settlement is usually made within 30 days.

6.2 Employee benefits

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Accrued salaries	48	37
Annual leave	66	93
Long service leave	156	174
Total	**270**	**304**
Settled within 12 months	137	228
Settled in more than 12 months	133	76
Total	**270**	**304**

(a) Remuneration of key management personnel

2015	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits				Total
	Salary	Other Benefits	Superannuation	Post-Employment Benefits	Termination Benefits	Other Benefits & Long-Service Leave	
Name, position, appointment date	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Key management personnel							
Gordon Duff, Chair, 1/07/2009	35	...	3	...	...	...	38
Ian Whyte, Board Member,1/07/2009	21	...	2	...	...	...	23
Steve Luttrell, Board Member, 1/07/2009	21	...	2	...	...	...	23
Meredith Roodenrys, Board Member, 1/07/2005	21	...	2	...	...	...	23
Graham Wilkinson, Chief Forest Practices Officer, 1/07/1999 to 31/1/2015	124	16	21	...	...	...	161
Acting Key management personnel							
Angus MacNeil, A/Chief Forest Practices Officer, 1/02/2015	67	...	9	...	...	...	76
Total	**289**	**16**	**39**	...	...	...	**344**

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the agency, directly or indirectly, those being the Board of Directors including the Chief Forest Practices Officer.

Remuneration during 2014-15 for key personnel is set by the *State Service Act 2000*. Remuneration and other terms of employment are specified in employment contracts. Remuneration includes salary, motor vehicle and other non-monetary benefits. Long-term employee expenses include long service leave, superannuation obligations and termination payments.

Note 7 Commitments and Contingencies

7.1 Schedule of Commitments

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
By type		
Lease Commitments		
Operating leases	180	248
Total lease commitments	**180**	**248**
By maturity		
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	125	119
From one to five years	55	129
More than five years	...	...
Total operating lease commitments	**180**	**248**
Total	**180**	**248**

NB: Commitments are shown as GST exclusive.

The majority of the Authority's leases are represented by building rental costs and vehicle lease costs. The total lease commitment excludes local government and other executory costs where they are paid directly to a party other than the lessor. These costs are included elsewhere in the Authority's expenditures.

The Authority also has entered into contingent rental arrangements. Contingent rental costs relate to 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.

The Authority does not have any purchase rights flowing from the lease of the land and buildings. Some buildings have renewal options exercisable by the lessee. There are no building leases that have renewal rights exercisable at the sole discretion of the lessor.

The minimum lease payment for vehicles is based on the average age of the vehicle fleet and a standard lease period of 36 months.

7.2 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position due to uncertainty regarding the amount or timing of the underlying claim or obligation.

(a) Quantifiable contingencies

A quantifiable contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

A quantifiable contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

The Authority has not identified any quantifiable contingent assets or quantifiable contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2015.

(b) Unquantifiable Contingencies

As at 30 June 2015, there were no unquantifiable contingent liabilities.

Note 8 Cash Flow Reconciliation

8.1 Cash and deposits

Cash and deposits includes the balance of the Special Deposits and Trust Fund Accounts held by the Authority, and other cash held, excluding those accounts which are administered or held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Special Deposits and Trust Fund balance	291	130
Total Special Deposits and Trust Fund	**291**	**130**
Deposits:		
Tascorp	73	1,146
National Australia Bank term deposit	1,200	...
Total Deposits	**1,273**	**1,146**
Total Cash and deposits	**1,564**	**1,276**

8.2 Reconciliation of Net Result to Net Cash from Operating Activities

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Net result	342	626
Depreciation and amortisation	5	8
Decrease (increase) in Receivables	11	...
Decrease (increase) in other financial assets	(47)	(3)
Increase (decrease) in Employee entitlements	(34)	65
Increase (decrease) in Payables	11	(5)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	**288**	**691**

Note 9 Financial Instruments

9.1 Risk exposures

(a) Risk management policies

The Authority has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk;
- liquidity risk; and
- market risk.

The Board of the Forest Practices Authority through the Chief Forest Practices Officer has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Authority's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Authority, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

The Authority does not hold any derivative financial instruments.

(b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Authority if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations.

Financial Instrument	Accounting and strategic policies (including recognition criteria and measurement basis and credit quality of instrument)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount. Timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Assets		
Receivables	Recognised upon the provision of a good or service and the issuance of an invoice or claim eg BAS, measured at face value	Payment terms generally 30 days. Collectability of receivables is reviewed at balance date and a provision for impairment raised when collection of a debt is judged to be doubtful.
Cash and deposits	Recognised upon receipt of cash, measured at face value	At call
Other financial assets (accrued revenue)	Recognised upon the accrual of the future benefit, measured at face value	Majority of accrued revenues are settled within 6 months

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk. The Authority is not exposed to credit risk of any significance.

The following tables analyse financial assets that are past due but not impaired:

Analysis of financial assets that are past due at 30 June 2015 but not impaired

	Past due 31 to 60 days	Past due 61 to 90 days	Past due over 90 days	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Receivables	...	...	...	...

Analysis of financial assets that are past due at 30 June 2014 but not impaired

	Past due 31 to 60 days	Past due 61 to 90 days	Past due over 90 days	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Receivables	2	1	...	3

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

Financial Instrument	Accounting and strategic policies (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount. Timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Liabilities		
Payables	Recognised upon the receipt of a good or service that has not been paid for, measured at face value	Settled within 30 days

The Authority is not exposed to liquidity risk of any significance in the short-term. Appropriation funding is provided to the Authority from State Treasury as funds are spent by the Authority, provided the Authority does

not exceed its budget. The following tables detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Authority by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities:

2015

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities:

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	More than 5 Years	Undiscounted Total	Carrying Amount
Financial liabilities								
Payables	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Total	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

2014

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities:

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	More than 5 Years	Undiscounted Total	Carrying Amount
Financial liabilities								
Payables	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the Authority is exposed to is interest rate risk.

At the reporting date, the interest rate profile of the Authority's interest bearing financial instruments was:

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Fixed rate instruments		
Financial assets	1,200	...
Financial liabilities	...	...
Total	1,200	...
Variable rate instruments		
Financial assets	73	1,276
Financial liabilities	...	...
Total	73	1,276

Changes in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would have the following effect on the Authority's profit or loss and equity:

Sensitivity Analysis of Authority's Exposure to Possible Changes in Interest Rates

	Statement of Comprehensive Income		Equity	
	100 basis points increase	100 basis points decrease	100 basis points increase	100 basis points decrease
30 June 2015				
Cash at Tascorp and NAB	13	13	...	...
Net sensitivity	13	13	...	...
30 June 2014				
Cash at Tascorp and Westpac	11	11	...	...
Net sensitivity	11	11	...	...

This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2014.

9.2 Categories of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,564	1,276
Loans and receivables	25	36
Total	**1,589**	**1,312**
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	24	13
Total	**24**	**13**

There has been no change, during the period and cumulatively, in the fair value of any receivables or financial liabilities that is attributable to changes in the credit risk of that asset or liability.

9.3 Reclassifications of Financial Assets

The Authority has not reclassified any financial assets.

9.4 Derecognition of Financial Assets

The Authority has not transferred financial assets in such a way that part or all of the financial assets do not qualify for derecognition.

9.5 Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Carrying Amount 2015 $'000	Net Fair Value 2015 $'000	Carrying Amount 2014 $'000	Net Fair Value 2014 $'000
Financial assets				
Cash at Tascorp and NAB	1,273	1,273	1,146	1,146
Cash in Special Deposits and Trust Fund	291	291	130	130
Receivables	25	25	36	36
Accrued revenue and interest	67	67	20	20
Total financial assets	**1,656**	**1,656**	**1,332**	**1,332**
Financial liabilities (Recognised)				
Trade creditors and accrued expenses	24	24	13	13
Total financial liabilities (Recognised)	**24**	**24**	**13**	**13**

9.6 Net Fair Values of Administered Financial Assets and Liabilities

2015

	Net Fair Value Level 1 $'000	Net Fair Value Level 2 $'000	Net Fair Value Level 3 $'000	Net fair Value Total $'000
Financial assets				
Cash at Tascorp and NAB	...	1,273	...	1,273
Cash in Special Deposits and Trust Fund	...	291	...	291
Receivables	...	...	25	25
Accrued revenue and interest	...	...	67	67
Total financial assets	...	**1,564**	**92**	**1,656**
Financial liabilities (Recognised)				
Trade creditors and accrued expenses			24	24
Total financial liabilities (Recognised)	...	...	**24**	**24**

2014

	Net Fair Value Level 1 $'000	Net Fair Value Level 2 $'000	Net Fair Value Level 3 $'000	Net fair Value Total $'000
Financial assets				
Cash at Tascorp and Westpac	...	1,146	...	1,146
Cash in Special Deposits and Trust Fund	...	130	...	130
Receivables	...	...	36	36
Accrued revenue and interest	...	...	20	20
Total financial assets	...	**1,276**	**56**	**1,332**
Financial liabilities (Recognised)				
Trade creditors and accrued expenses	...	...	13	13
Total financial liabilities (Recognised)	...	...	**13**	**13**

The recognised fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are classified according to the fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making these measurements. The Authority uses various methods in estimating the fair value of a financial instrument. The methods comprise:

Level 1 – the fair value is calculated using quoted prices in active markets;

Level 2 – the fair value is estimated using inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices); and

Level 3 – the fair value is estimated using inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data.

The Authority uses various methods in estimating the fair value of a financial instrument. The methods comprise:

Financial Assets

The net fair values of cash and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

The net fair values of receivables are based on the nominal amounts due less any provision for impairment.

The net fair values of other financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

Financial Liabilities

The net fair values for trade creditors and other financial liabilities are approximated by their carrying amounts.

Certification of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

The accompanying financial statements of the Forest Practices Authority have been prepared in compliance with the *Forest Practices Act 1985* from proper accounts and records.

In the Opinion of the Directors of the Forest Practices Authority;

a) The financial statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results and cash flows for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and the financial position at 30 June 2015 of the Authority;

b) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Forest Practices Act 1985*; and

c) At the date of this statement, there were reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

In addition to above, although the Authority is not bound by the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*, it has elected to prepare these financial statements in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

John Ramsay
(CHAIR – FOREST PRACTICES AUTHORITY)

Angus MacNeil
(ACTING CHIEF FOREST PRACTICES OFFICER)

Date: 14 August 2015

Tasmanian Audit Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Forest Practices Authority

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Forest Practices Authority (the Authority), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of compliance by the Chairman and Acting Chief Forest Practices Officer of the Authority.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Authority's financial report:

(a) presents fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2015, and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended

(b) is in accordance with the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and *Forest Practices Act 1985*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based upon my audit. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

...1 of 2

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, I considered internal control relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Authority, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of State Entities but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Tasmanian Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

Tasmanian Audit Office

R Luciani
Manager Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Launceston
29 September 2015

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Appendix 1
Publications, reports and presentations by staff or associates of the FPA

Staff or associates of the FPA are indicated in bold type.

Published journal articles

Chuter, A, Koch A and Duncan, F 2015, 'Monitoring the effectiveness *of Acacia pataczekii* (Wally's wattle) management following partial harvesting in north-eastern Tasmania', *Tasmanian Naturalist* vol 12 no 2, p. 2.

Macgregor JW, Holyoake C, **Munks S**, Connolly JH, Robertson I, Fleming PA and Warren K 2015, 'Novel use of in-stream microchip readers to monitor wild platypuses', *Pacific Conservation Biology* vol 20 no 4, pp. 376-384.

Malotki E and **McIntosh PD** 2015, 'Paleoamericans, Pleistocene terraces and Petroglyphs: the case for Ice Age mammoth depictions at Upper Sand Island, Utah, USA', *Academia*, 26 April 2015.

Newsletter and magazine articles

Grove, C 2015, 'Forest Practices Awards 2015', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 3, pp 1–15.

Grove, C 2015, 'CFPO reflections', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 3, pp 15–19.

Grove, C 2015, 'FPA Photographic Competition', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 20–24.

Grove, C 2015, 'Rediscovery of Shanna's cottage opens a window on the life of timber-getters near Esperance', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 25–29.

Koch, A and Cawthen, L 2014, 'Intern studying nest-box use by pygmy possums', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 18–19.

Koch, A, Yee, M and Bonham K, 2014, 'Has the strategic approach to managing keeled snail habitat on State Forest worked?', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 1, pp 4–5.

Lyall, J 2014 'A camera study of Tasmanian devil, spotted tailed quoll and feral cats in north-western Tasmania', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 13–14.

MacNeil, A 2015, 'Updates from the Acting Chief Forest Practices Officer', F*orest Practices News* vol 12 no 3, pp 15–19.

McIntosh PD and Nasai L 2014, 'Two unusual caves', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 6–7.

Mann, D and Webb, J 2014, 'Tasmanian Devils 'pine-ing' for a place to call home', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 12–13.

Munks, S, McIntosh, P and Schofield, M 2014, 'FPA specialists contribute to capacity building in Papua New Guinea' *Forest Practices News* vol 12, no 2, pp 16–17.

O'Sullivan, T 2014, 'The breeding ecology of wedge-tailed eagles', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 4–5.

Stojanovic, D 2014, 'Sugar gliders are eating swift parrots – but why?', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 8–9.

Wilkinson, G 2015, 'FPA releases a Guiding policy for the application of the *Forest Practices Code', Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 1–3.

Wilkinson, G 2015, 'FPO refresher courses', *Forest Practices News* vol 12 no 2, pp 3–4.

Reports and technical notes

Cawthen, L 2015 *Tasmanian bats and their habitat – a guide,* booklet published by the CRC for Forestry and FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority 2014, *Assessing the suitability of headwater (Class 4) streams for the giant freshwater crayfish,* Fauna Technical Note 16 (revised), FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority 2014, *Guidelines for the design and maintenance of stream crossings-culverts,* Fauna Technical Note 15, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority 2015, *Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management,* Fauna Technical Note 1 (revised), FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority and Threatened Species and Marine Section, DPIPWE 2014, *A survey for burrowing crayfish at 108 McKay Road, Somerset, NW Tasmania*, report to the FPA and DPIPWE, Hobart, Tasmania.

Koch, A and **Munks, S** 2015, *Monitoring the effectiveness of the biodiversity provisions of the Tasmanian* Forest Practices Code, *2014–15 summary report*, report for the Board of the FPA and the Secretary of the DPIPWE, FPA Scientific Report 19, Hobart, Tasmania.

Mann, D and Jackson, J 2014, *Summary of dwarf galaxid surveys of NW Tasmania*, report to FPA, DPIPWE, and Inland Fisheries Service, October 2014, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh PD, Ringk C, and **Chuter A** 2014, Sustainable plantation landscapes: field guide to Timberlands Pacific Landscape-scale Revegetation Project: 21 November 2014, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart and Timberlands Pacific Party Ltd, Launceston.

Munks, S and Crane, A 2015, *Procedures for the management of threatened species under the forest practices system: report on implementation during 2014–15*, report to the Board of the FPA and the Secretary of DPIPWE, Hobart, Tasmania.

Consultancy reports

Environment and Development Approvals Section, Department of State Growth 2014, *A guide to managing threatened burrowing crayfish in the Department of State Growth road reserves*, (prepared by the FPA and Department of State Growth), Department of State Growth, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority 2014, *Derby mountain bike trails stage 2 flora and fauna report,* October 2014*,* report to Dorset Council, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority 2015, *Central north burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus granulatus*) survey – Ballahoo Creek (February 2015)*, report to State Growth Environment and Development Approvals Section, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Forest Practices Authority 2015, *Surges Creek bridge flora and fauna report (April 2015)*, report to State Growth, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh, PD 2014. *Gannet Quarry investigation, c*ontract report for DPIPWE, August 2014, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh, PD 2015a, Soils and land capability in the White Lagoon–Mona Vale road corridor, contract report for Department of State Growth, January 2015, FPA, Hobart.

McIntosh PD 2015b, Soils and land capability in the Perth–Breadalbane road corridor, with supplementary notes on the Breadalbane extension, contract report for Department of State Growth, March 2015, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh PD 2015c, Soils and land capability in the Kempton–Melton Mowbray road corridor, contract report for Department of State Growth, April 2015, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh PD 2015d, Soils and land capability of the Mangalore–Bagdad road corridor, contract report for Department of State Growth, March 2015, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh PD 2015e, Lauderdale walking track erosion investigation, contract report for Clarence City Council, March 2015, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh PD and Doyle R 2015, Field guide for sampling and describing forest soils in Papua New Guinea for the National Forest Inventory, FPA contract report, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh PD, Doyle R and Nimiago P 2015, Report on UN-REDD/Crawford Fund Soils Training Course, Lae, Papua New Guinea, 10–14 November 2014, FPA contract report, Hobart, Tasmania.

Wiersma, J April 2015, *Eagle nest search report Forward Mining Rogetta Project, Upper Natone north-west Tasmania,* report to Forward Mining Rogetta Project, FPA, Hobart, Tasmania.

Conference presentations, abstracts and posters

Chuter, A, Koch, A and **Munks, S** 2014, 'Landscape-scale planning for biodiversity in Tasmanian production forests,' paper presented to *International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)*, Salt Lake City, USA.

Koch, A 2014, 'Landscape scale planning for threatened species,' paper presented to *ESA knowledge exchange Hobart,* Hobart, Tasmania.

Macgregor, JW, Holyoake, C, **Munks, S**, Fleming, PA, Robertson, I, Connolly, J, Lonsdale, RA and Warren, K 2015, 'A multidisciplinary approach to platypus conservation research: a model for other wildlife populations', paper presented to *Australian Mammals Society Conference*, Hobart, Tasmania.

McIntosh, P, Moss, P, Watson, E and Onfray, R 2014, 'Aboriginal vegetation management in Northwest Tasmania: When did it begin?' page 120 in: S Ulm, G Mate, J Jerbic (eds), *Culture, Climate, Change: Archaeology in the Tropics: Conference handbook*, Cairns, Queensland, Australian Archaeological Association and Australian Society for Historical Archaeology (presented paper).

Mann, D. 'Whose den is that? Identification and management of threatened mammals in a forestry landscape: a case study', poster presentation to *Australian Mammals Society Conference*, Hobart, June 6-10 2015, Hobart, Tasmania.

Munks, SA, Koch AJ, Cawthen, L and Flynn, E 2015, 'Research informing practice: managing hollows for arboreal mammals in the production forest landscape', paper presented to *Australian Mammals Society Conference,* Hobart, Tasmania.

Theses submitted for projects supported or co-supervised by the FPA staff

Macgregor, J 2015 'Conservation of the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*): Development of a framework to assess the health of wild platypus populations' PhD thesis, Murdoch University.

Appendix 2
Major reference documents related to forest practices

Title	Date published
A guide to planning approvals for forestry in Tasmania	Updated 2007 (on the FPA's website)
Atlas of Tasmanian Karst	1995
Fauna Conservation in Production Forests in Tasmania	1991
Fauna Technical Note series	1998 onwards
Forest Practices Act 1985	1985
Forest Practices Botany Manuals	1991–2005
Forest Practices Code 2000	2000
Forest Practices Geomorphology Manual	1990
Forest Practices News	Twice yearly
Forest Sinkhole Manual	2002
Forest Soils of Tasmania	1996
Manual for Forest Landscape Management	Updated 2006 (five chapters on the FPA's website)
Native Forest Silviculture Technical Bulletin series	1990 onwards
Rehabilitation Guidelines for Forest Construction	1990
Tasmanian Forest Soil Fact Sheets 1–26	2001 onwards (on the FPA's website)
Threatened Fauna Adviser (expert systems program)	2014
Visual management topic papers on skyline and roadside management	2006 onwards (on the FPA's website)

Appendix 3
Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans

The scoring system used for all questions in the assessment of forest practices plans

Performance Rating Definitions and Scores

Performance Rating	Description	Score
Sound	Addressed all judgment criteria and achieved an acceptable result.	**3.0**
Below sound	Have not addressed all judgment criteria and/or implemented plan as prescribed, which may result in adverse impact.	**2.0**
Unacceptable	Non-compliant and has not adequately addressed judgment criteria or achieved an unacceptable result.	**1.0**
Not assessable	• The condition/situation does not occur e.g. high erodibility • Operations have has not commenced • Insufficient or no objective evidence to make a judgment	**NA**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Procedural issues		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
1	Has a complete copy of the original FPP and variations been made available to the assessor?	56	3.0	21	3.0	18	3.0	17	2.9
2	Had the FPP and any variations been uploaded to Coverpage?	56	3.0	21	3.0	18	3.0	17	3.0
3	Has the FPP, including variations, been fully signed and dated?	56	2.8	21	2.9	18	2.7	17	2.8
4	Is the FPP and variations in accordance with the Code?	56	2.8	21	3.0	18	2.7	17	2.7
5	Were State and local government consulted, as required, and were resulting management conditions incorporated in the FPP or variation?	10	3.0	1	3.0	4	3.0	5	3.0
6	Was local government notified of the operational start date?	47	2.9	20	3.0	12	2.9	15	2.9
7	Have all adjacent landholders been identified and notified?	43	2.9	20	3.0	14	2.8	9	3.0
8	Does the FPP indicate that a fire management plan was prepared where necessary?	50	3.0	21	3.0	14	2.9	15	3.0
9	Have compliance reports on discrete operational phrases been completed, where required?	43	2.5	19	2.5	10	2.4	14	2.6
10	Is the FPP map clear?	56	2.8	21	2.8	18	2.8	17	2.8
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**2.9**		**2.8**		**2.9**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0.2**		**0.1**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Roading		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
11	Have roads been located to minimise soil erosion and stream sedimentation?	11	3.0	3	3.0	3	3.0	5	3.0
12	Where roads are located in close proximity to streams has the potential for stream sedimentation been minimised?	2	3.0	0		1	3.0	1	3.0
13	Where roads are located in areas of high or very high soil erodibility have precautions to reduce erosion been taken?	0		0		0		0	
14	Has the road standard proven adequate to the haulage task and been sufficiently compacted or continuously repaired to avoid environmental problems?	18	3.0	5	3.0	4	3.0	9	3.0
15	Have road drainage measures been effective?	27	2.9	9	3.0	6	3.0	12	2.8
16	Have access tracks been suitably located, drained and stabilised after use?	8	2.9	4	2.8	2	3.0	2	3.0
17	Are cuts and fills balanced and/or spoil disposed of properly?	2	3.0	1	3.0	0		1	3.0
18	Are batter slopes stable?	3	3.0	1	3.0	0		2	3.0
19	Have Code statements been followed on steep country roads?	1	3.0	0		0		1	3.0
20	Has clearing width and top soil stripping been minimised?	4	3.0	1	3.0	0		3	3.0
21	Have new or upgraded stream crossings been suitably located, designed and constructed?	3	2.7	2	3.0	0		1	2.0
22	Have temporary crossings been confined to class 3 and 4 and dry class 2 watercourses and been properly removed and drained or upgraded?	1	3.0	1	3.0	0		0	
23	Have all roads and access tracks that are nonconforming or environmentally hazardous been upgraded or closed?	1	2.0	1	2.0	0		0	
24	Have quarries and borrow pits been properly located, managed and rehabilitated?	1	3.0	0		0		1	3.0
25	If the operation has been completed, is there evidence of ongoing maintenance of the road system?	21	3.0	14	3.0	0		7	3.0
	Weighted mean		**3.0**		**3.0**		**2.9**		**2.9**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.2**		**0.1**		**0.2**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Harvesting		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
26	Is the extraction design and harvesting equipment consistent with the Code?	52	3.0	21	3.0	15	3.0	16	2.9
27	Is coupe dispersal consistent with the Code?	27	3.0	12	3.0	3	3.0	12	3.0
28	Has the harvesting boundary been clearly marked or defined?	13	2.8	5	2.8	2	3.0	6	2.8
29	Has the harvesting been confined within the harvesting boundary?	50	2.9	20	3.0	14	2.8	16	3.0
30	Has harvesting complied with wet weather limitations?	50	2.9	21	2.9	13	2.7	16	3.0
31	Has cartage complied with wet weather limitations?	9	3.0	4	3.0	1	3.0	4	3.0
32	Have snig tracks been located and constructed to minimise environmental harm and enable effective drainage?	41	3.0	19	2.9	7	3.0	15	3.0
33	Has snig track management effectively minimised damage to retained trees and protected soil and water values?	36	2.8	19	2.8	4	2.8	13	2.8
34	Have snig tracks been restored, including the removal of temporary crossings?	35	2.8	17	2.9	4	2.8	14	2.8
35	Are landings (and continuous roadside landings) appropriately located, sized, and constructed?	46	3.0	21	3.0	10	3.0	15	2.9
36	Have landings been properly managed and stablilised?	38	2.9	18	3.0	7	2.7	13	3.0
37	Is the width of SSRs and MEZs correct and is marking correct?	16	2.8	2	2.5	4	2.5	10	2.9
38	Have class 4 streams been upgraded according to Class 4 guidelines, where necessary?	4	3.0	0		0		4	3.0
39	Has felling and machinery avoided unreasonable damage to SSRs and MEZs?	13	3.0	3	3.0	2	3.0	8	3.0
40	Has approved felling in SSRs and MEZs complied with the Code?	9	3.0	3	3.0	0		6	3.0
41	Has harvesting of trees in plantation SSRs complied with Code requirements?	21	2.9	17	2.9	3	3.0	1	3.0
42	Have cables been pulled through Class 1,2,3 SSR without causing unacceptable damage?	0		0		0		0	
43	Have potential erosion channels on cabled areas been stabilised?	1	3.0	0		0		1	3.0
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**2.9**		**2.9**		**2.9**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0.1**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Reforestation		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
44	Has an appropriate reforestation technique and stocking standard been prescribed?	20	2.7	2	3.0	4	2.0	14	2.8
45	Have fuel reduction, low or high intensity burns, been effectively carried out?	6	2.7	0		3	2.7	3	2.7
46	Have streamside reserves and MEZs been protected from fire?	1	2.0	0		0		1	2.0
47	Has appropriate seed been selected for native forest regeneration?	7	3.0	0		2	3.0	5	3.0
48	Has stocking standard as prescribed in the plan been achieved, or is it likely to be achieved?	13	2.7	1	3.0	3	1.7	9	3.0
49	Have trees been effectively protected from grazing & browsing damage?	5	3.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	3	3.0
50	Has burning been effectively carried out and streamside reserves protected?	0		0		0		0	
51	Was soil cultivation carried out in a manner that minimises the risk of unacceptable soil erosion?	5	3.0	5	3.0	0		0	
52	Has cultivation been excluded from within 2 m of the edge of drainage depressions?	5	3.0	5	3.0	0		0	
53	Have class 1,2,3 and 4 streams and their streamside reserves and/or MEZs been protected?	7	3.0	7	3.0	0		0	
54	Has the specified stocking standard been achieved, or is it likely to be achieved?	6	3.0	5	3.0	1	3.0	0	
55	Have trees been effectively protected from grazing and browsing damage?	6	3.0	6	3.0	0		0	
56	Have firebreaks been located and managed to protect soil, water and visual values?	15	3.0	7	3.0	2	3.0	6	3.0
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**3**		**2.5**		**2.9**
	Weighted std		**0.2**		**0.0**		**0.5**		**0.2**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

	Fuels and rubbish	Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
57	Have fuels, oils, greases and chemicals been properly and effectively managed and rubbish removed?	52	2.9	21	2.9	14	2.9	17	3.0
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**2.9**		**2.9**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0**

	Soils and water	Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
58	Has the soil erodibility rating been correctly determined?	56	2.9	21	2.9	18	2.9	17	2.9
59	Has landslip potential been correctly determined?	53	3.0	21	3.0	15	3.0	17	3.0
60	Has burning intensity been appropriate for the soil erodability and nutrient status of the soils?	8	3.0	1	3.0	3	3.0	4	3.0
61	Have coupes with high and very high erodibility soils or with land exceeding the landslide threshold been referred to the FPA for comment?	7	3.0	2	3.0	1	3.0	4	3.0
62	Is there evidence of significant post-operational erosion?	47	2.9	19	2.9	11	2.9	17	2.9
63	Have all watercourses been identified and correctly classified?	40	3.0	16	2.9	13	3.0	11	2.9
64	Is there evidence of significant post-operation stream erosion?	26	3.0	14	3.0	5	3.0	7	3.0
	Weighted mean		**3.0**		**3.0**		**3.0**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.0**		**0.0**		**0.0**		**0.0**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Flora		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
65	Has the flora section of the biodiversity evaluation been completed correctly, including a map detailing the results of the field assessment?	56	2.9	21	3.0	18	2.7	17	2.9
66	Have flora values been referred to FPA Biodiversity Section as required?	35	3.0	12	3.0	9	3.0	14	3.0
67	Have important flora values and advice been taken into account in FPP?	33	3.0	11	2.9	7	3.0	15	3.0
68	Have the flora prescriptions of the FPP and variations been implemented?	25	2.9	8	3.0	6	2.7	11	3.0
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**3.0**		**2.8**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.0**		**0.1**		**0.0**

Fauna		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
69	Has the fauna section of the biodiversity evaluation been completed correctly, including a map detailing the results of the field assessment?	51	2.8	21	2.8	14	2.8	16	3.0
70	Have fauna values been referred to FPA Biodiversity Section as required?	42	3.0	16	3.0	9	3.0	17	3.0
71	Were prescriptions for threatened species incorporated clearly in FPP text and map?	47	2.8	19	2.7	11	2.5	17	2.9
72	Have threatened fauna prescriptions, and other fauna provisions (wildlife habitat strips and wildlife habitat clumps) in the FPP been implemented?	36	3.0	15	3.0	7	3.0	14	3.0
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**2.9**		**2.8**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0.2**		**0.0**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Landscape		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
73	Was the Landscape Management Objective (LMO) assessed correctly?	53	2.9	21	2.9	15	3.0	17	3.0
74	Were the Code provisions included in the FPP?	26	3.0	12	3.0	3	3.0	11	3.0
75	Have landscape prescriptions been implemented?	23	3.0	10	3.0	5	3.0	8	3.0
76	Was the recommended LMO in the Evaluation Sheet achieved?	42	3.0	18	2.9	10	3.0	14	3.0
	Weighted mean		**3.0**		**2.9**		**3.0**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.0**		**0.1**		**0.0**		**0.0**

Cultural heritage		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
77	Has Management Decision Classification zoning been complied with on PTPZL?	19	2.9	2	3.0	0		17	2.9
78	Has the Aboriginal Known Sites Report and Conserve been consulted?	48	2.7	21	2.8	11	2.2	16	3.0
79	Have areas of sensitivity for Aboriginal cultural heritage been identified using the Archaeological Potential Zone maps, or the potential zoning predictive statements?	38	2.8	13	2.9	8	2.4	17	3.0
80	Was specialist advice sought where necessary?	28	2.9	12	2.9	6	2.5	10	3.0
81	Have specialist advice and cultural heritage prescriptions been incorporated into the FPP?	26	3.0	13	3.0	3	3.0	10	3.0
82	Were the FPP prescriptions implemented?	18	2.9	9	3.0	0		9	2.8
83	Have site recording and management been in accordance with the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*?	0		0		0		0	
	Weighted mean		**2.9**		**2.9**		**2.5**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.1**		**0.1**		**0.3**		**0.1**

Appendix 3 Results of the 2014–15 assessment of forest practices plans (continued)

Geomorphology		Total for all tenures		Industrial forest companies		Independent forest owners		PTPZL	
		No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean	No.	Mean
84	Has the geoscience evaluation been correctly completed?	55	3.0	21	3.0	17	2.9	17	3.0
85	Has the FPA Geoscientist been consulted or a consultant engaged as required?	29	3.0	13	3.0	6	3.0	10	3.0
86	Have appropriate prescriptions been included in the FPP?	27	2.9	12	3.0	5	2.6	10	3.0
87	Have geomorphology prescriptions been implemented satisfactorily?	21	3.0	9	3.0	3	3.0	9	3.0
	Weighted mean		**3.0**		**3.0**		**2.9**		**3.0**
	Weighted std		**0.0**		**0.0**		**0.1**		**0.0**

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate

1 Background

Section 4C(fa) of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* requires the FPA to monitor and report on the clearing of trees, harvesting and reforestation activity in relation to the maintenance of a permanent native forest estate.

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy was established through the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA), and was most recently revised in December 2014. The policy is available on the Department of State Growth's website.

The policy aims to maintain a permanent native forest estate by placing limits on conversion of native forest communities to other land uses. The policy does not restrict management activities such as harvesting and grazing. Harvesting is permitted in all forest types where the silvicultural system ensures successful regeneration and long-term maintenance of that forest community.

The 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 RFA. The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy requires the following levels of retention of native forest in Tasmania:

- **State-wide extent of native forest**: 95 per cent of the estimated 1996 area of native forest is to be maintained.
- **Threatened (rare, vulnerable and endangered) forest communities** (as listed in the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*) are to be maintained in accordance with the Forest Practices Act. Conversion is only permitted where it will not substantially detract from the conservation of that forest community or conservation values within the immediate area.
- **Non-threatened forest communities** must be maintained at a level no less than 75 per cent of the 1996 area of the community or a minimum of 2000 hectares (whichever is the higher) in each Interim Biogeographic Region for Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This requirement was introduced in December 2009.
- **Clearing and conversion may not exceed 40 hectares per property per year.** This requirement was introduced in September 2011.

The above forest community and property thresholds may only be exceeded where the Minister administering the *Forest Practices Act 1985* accepts a case for substantial public benefit and there is no substantial loss of conservation values.

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy also specifies that forestry operations do not result in the incidental clearance and conversion of threatened non-forest vegetation communities, except in those conditions where the activity will not substantially detract from the conservation of that non-forest vegetation community or conservation values within the immediate area. This requirement is supported by changes in 2007 to the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and the Forest Practices Act. Non-forest communities are not considered further in this report.

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy is given effect through the FPA's consideration of applications for FPPs under the Forest Practices Act. Planning tools and instructions ensure that forestry operations affecting communities with a priority for conservation are referred by Forest Practices Officers to the FPA's scientific staff for specialist advice. Administrative instructions ensure that policy requirements for threatened communities are incorporated into FPP planning. The FPA maintains a database which contains details of all certified FPPs, including (for each FPP) the communities in the FPP area and the type of operation affecting each community; this database forms the basis for the FPA's monitoring and reporting on Tasmania's permanent native forest estate.

The extent of forest communities as mapped in 1996 is the benchmark for reporting on the permanent native forest estate. Until 2007, FPA annual reports used the 1996 figures as identified in the Tasmanian RFA (1997) and associated documents. The 1996 mapping was reassessed during preparation of the '*State of the forests Tasmania 2002 report'*. For most communities, differences between the 1997 and 2002 figures are minor, with the most substantial differences being an increase in the mapped extent of some rainforest communities in the 2002 assessment. The revised (2002) figures are used in this annual report.

From 1997 to 2006, suitable areas of private land that contain forest communities with a priority for conservation, or other values specified in the RFA, were referred to the Private Forest Reserves Program, DPIPWE, so that this program could assess and, if appropriate, negotiate conservation options with the landowner. The Private Forest Reserves Program was replaced by the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund from 2006 to 2009. No dedicated forest reserve programs currently exist. However, persons who have an application for an FPP refused or amended because of threatened native vegetation may apply for compensation under the Nature Conservation Act.

2 The permanent native forest estate figures

The tables below provide the bioregional extent and conversion of forest communities to 30 June 2015. Figures given for the 1996 RFA forest community extent (in hectares) are based on the *State of the forests Tasmania 2002 report* revision of the 1996 RFA mapping data. Care is needed in interpreting the data, for the following reasons:

- The figures relate to planned operations, not all of which will have been completed in the reporting period.

- Areas of forest communities given in FPPs are generally gross areas that may not exclude reserves such as streamside reserves or additional areas excluded due to operational contsraints. The figures relating to the conversion of native forest are therefore likely to be overestimates for some communities.

- Conversion of threatened forest communities was permitted under the 1997 Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy. The FPA imposed a moratorium on further conversion of threatened communities in 2002, pending a review by the government of its Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy. The moratoriums were supported by bilateral agreements (signed in May 2003 and May 2005) between the Australian and Tasmanian governments. Under the revised Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy (2007), the FPA was given discretionary power to allow conversion of threatened communities in exceptional circumstances, where the conversion will not substantially detract from the conservation of that forest community or conservation values within the immediate area. Such clearance, in many cases, has been accompanied by reservation (offsets) of other areas of equal or greater conservation value.

- The proportions of forest communities converted are based on the area of each community as mapped in 1996 (from RFA mapping and revised *State of the forests Tasmania 2002* r*eport* mapping, as discussed above). The mapping of forest communities is also subject to other reviews (e.g. through mapping undertaken by DPIPWE and the *Sustainability indicators report 2007*). Such revisions have provided more accurate information on the extent and distribution of forest communities, and have assisted the FPA to supply advice for operations affecting threatened forest communities or other communities approaching regional thresholds. Some figures given in previous annual reports have been revised in the light of more accurate information.

- In the 2005–06 reporting period, the Tasmanian and Australian governments approved the reclassification of the RFA community 'Inland *E. amygdalina* forest', following a review of this community by the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Private Forest Reserves Program (CARSAG). This community has been replaced by:

    - 'Inland *E. amygdalina – E. viminalis – E. pauciflora* forests and woodlands on Cainozoic deposits'

    - '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone'.

    Conversion figures for these communities are given separately in the tables below for this reporting period (2014–15) and the total conversion since the reclassification (i.e. 1996–15) is also given.

- The analyses do not include figures for clearing not associated with harvesting, which was conducted before such clearing became subject to regulation in 2002, under the Forest Practices Act. A negligible amount of such clearing would have

occurred in more commercial forest types, but may have been significant in some drier forests and woodlands with low timber quality.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

Woolnorth Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
1	Coastal *E. amygdalina* forest	24 646.0		987.9	4.0
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	18 134.0		2347.6	12.9
3✂	Inland *E. amygdalina* forest	902.0		121.6	13.5
4*	*E. amygdalina* forest on sandstone	330.0		16.5	5.0
5	*Allocasuarina verticillata* forest	177.0		9.9	5.6
6*	*E. brookeriana* wet forest	4439.0	6.0	270.9	6.1
7	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on flats	7987.0	19.2	630.6	7.9
8	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on rises	7852.0	17.4	245.8	3.1
9*	*Banksia serrata* woodland	156.0		0.0	0.0
10	*E. coccifera* dry forest	41.0		1.0	2.4
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	3892.0		52.0	1.3
13	*E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest	29 915.0	2.8	1869.7	6.3
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	14 552.0		2324.7	16.0
16*	*E. viminalis* and/or *E. globulus* coastal forest	10.0		1.4	14.0
19*	King Island *E. globulus / E. brookeriana / E. viminalis* forest	2411.0		9.0	0.4
20	*Leptospermum sp.* / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	7304.0	7.7	1803.8	24.7
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	28 659.0		4555.8	15.9
22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	25 623.0	12.7	253.0	1.0
23*	*Melaleuca ericifolia* coastal swamp forest	198.0	0.1	114.9	58.1

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
25	Dry *E. nitida* forest	14 012.0	21.5	1846.7	13.2
27*	*Notelaea ligustrina* and/or *Pomaderris apetala* closed forest	42.0		3.0	7.1
28	Tall *E. nitida* forest	2932.0	22.5	648.6	22.1
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	29 106.0	18.1	4572.7	15.7
30	Tall *E. obliqua* forest	124 714.0	116.7	19 525.6	15.7
31*	Shrubby *E. ovata – E. viminalis* forest	2979.0		80.4	2.7
34	*E. pauciflora* forest on Jurassic dolerite	-		0.3	&
36	*E. pauciflora* forest on sediments	-		3.4	&
37	*E. regnans* forest	2632.0		926.3	35.2
39	*E. rodwayi* forest	104.0		3.0	2.9
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	16 450.0		736.8	4.5
43	*E. subcrenulata* forest	125.0		0.0	0.0
47	*E. viminalis* grassy forest/woodland	2905.0		66.0	2.3
49*	*E. viminalis* wet forest	2610.0		294.6	11.3
50*	King Billy Pine Forest	0.0		0.0	0.0
64* ✂	Inland *E.amygdalina – E. viminalis – E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits	-		0.0	&
65✂	*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone	-		68.0	&
	TOTAL	**375 839.0**	**244.7**	**44 382.7**	**11.8**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. ✂ During 2005–06, Inland *E. amygdalina* was separated into 'Inland *E. amygdalina – E. viminalis – E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits' and '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone', with only the former being considered a threatened forest community.
  5. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

Ben Lomond Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
1	Coastal *E. amygdalina* forest	133 418.0	1048.5	8227.5	6.2
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	42 456.0	21.3	1776.2	4.2
3✂	Inland *E. amygdalina* forest	4567.0	16.0	1187.0	26.0
4*	*E. amygdalina* forest on sandstone	1024.0		207.5	20.3
5	*Allocasuarina verticillata* forest	303.0		0.2	0.1
6*	*E. brookeriana* wet forest	0.0		2.3	&
7	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on flats	259.0	0.2	19.3	7.5
8	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on rises	75.0	0.0	38.0	50.7
10	*E. coccifera* dry forest	28.0		0.0	0.0
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	29 876.0	1.0	1756.5	5.9
13	*E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest	2091.0		901.7	43.1
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	47 552.0		3044.3	6.4
20	*Leptospermum* sp. / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	41.0	4.0	12.8	31.2
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	25 085.0		376.3	1.5
23*	*Melaleuca ericifolia* coastal swamp forest	400.0		10.0	2.5
27*	*Notelaea ligustrina* and/or *Pomaderris apetala* closed forest	20.0		0.0	0.0
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	29 573.0	205.4	10 077.6	34.1
30	Tall *E. obliqua* forest	53 509.0	10.1	7007.8	13.1
31*	Shrubby *E.ovata / E. viminalis* forest	428.0	491.0	580.4	135.6
36	*E. pauciflora* forest on sediments	1851.0		0.0	0.0
37	*E. regnans* forest	27 517.0		9154.1	33.3
39	*E. rodwayi* forest	39.0		77.0	197.4
40	*E. sieberi* forest on granite	16 866.0		223.7	1.3
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	21 434.0	2.3	1486.0	6.9

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
42	*E. sieberi* forest on other substrates	43 278.0		256.7	0.6
47	*E. viminalis* grassy forest/woodland	18 872.0	3.0	113.1	0.6
49*	*E. viminalis* wet forest	92.0	0.6	51.7	56.2
64* ✂	Inland *E.amygdalina / E.viminalis / E.pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits	-		10.4	&
65✂	*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone	-		204.4	&
	TOTAL	**500 654.0**	**1803.5**	**46 799.3**	**9.3**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. ✂ During 2005–06, Inland *E. amygdalina* was separated into 'Inland *E. amygdalina* – *E. viminalis* – *E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits' and '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone', with only the former being considered a threatened forest community.
  5. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

Midlands Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
1	Coastal *E. amygdalina* dry sclerophyll forest	3250.0		5.0	0.2
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	41 279.0	32.0	1103.7	2.7
3✂	Inland *E. amygdalina* forest	19 734.0	7.1	661.6	3.4
4*	*E. amygdalina* forest on sandstone	3935.0		72.8	1.9
5	*Allocasuarina verticillata* forest	269.0		7.5	2.8
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	9642.0		1584.2	16.4
13	*E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest	7608.0		731.5	9.6
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	3812.0		297.5	7.8
16*	*E. viminalis* and/or *E. globulus* coastal shrubby forest	70.0		2.0	2.9
17*	Grassy *E. globulus* forest	2805.0		172.5	6.1
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile soils	108.0		0.0	0.0
22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile soils	113.0		0.0	0.0
24*	*E. morrisbyi* forest	22.0		0.0	0.0
25	Dry *E. nitida* forest	7.0		0.0	0.0
27*	*Notelaea ligustrina* and/or *Pomaderris apetala* closed forest	28.0		8.0	28.6
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	13 599.0		1698.8	12.5
30	Tall *E. obliqua* forest	8315.0		494.5	5.9
31*	Shrubby *E. ovata/E. viminalis* forest	2656.0		39.0	1.5
32	*E. pulchella / E. globulus / E. viminalis* grassy shrubby forest	28 223.0		595.5	2.1
34	*E. pauciflora* forest on Jurassic dolerite	450.0		69.0	15.3
36	*E. pauciflora* forest on sediments	1290.0		0.0	0.0
37	*E. regnans* forest	996.0		84.2	8.5
38*	*E. risdonii* forest	375.0		2.0	0.5
39	*E. rodwayi* forest	113.0		22.0	19.5
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	1911.0	0.0	106.9	5.6

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
43	*E. subcrenulata* forest	10.0		0.0	0.0
46*	Inland *E. tenuiramis* forest	33 913.0		5.6	0.0
47	*E. viminalis* grassy forest/woodland	60 259.0	0.3	436.2	0.7
49*	*E. viminalis* wet forest	61.0		9.5	15.6
64* ✂	Inland *E.amygdalina* – *E. viminalis* – *E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits	-		0.0	&
65✂	*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone	-		309.5	&
	TOTAL	**244 853.0**	**39.4**	**8517.7**	**3.5**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. ✂ During 2005–06, Inland *E. amygdalina* was separated into 'Inland *E. amygdalina* – *E. viminalis* – *E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits'and '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone', with only the former being considered a threatened forest community.
  5. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

Freycinet Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
1	Coastal *E. amygdalina* forest	28 574.0		83.7	0.3
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	70 401.0		1769.1	2.5
3✂	Inland *E. amygdalina* forest	568.0		154.0	27.1
4*	*E. amygdalina* forest on sandstone	24 012.0		314.9	1.3
5	*Allocasuarina verticillata* forest	391.0		0.0	0.0
6*	*E. brookeriana* wet forest	19.0		1.2	6.3
10	*E. coccifera* dry forest	82.0		1.0	1.2
11*	*Callitris rhomboidea* forest	606.0		0.0	0.0
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	66 809.0		2000.3	3.0
13	*E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest	0.0		230.0	&
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	21 263.0		262.1	1.2
16*	*E. viminalis* and/or *E. globulus* coastal shrubby forest	977.0		0.0	0.0
17*	Grassy *E. globulus* forest	10 842.0		352.8	3.3
20	*Leptospermum* species / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	81.0		7.0	8.6
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	627.0		0.0	0.0
27*	*Notelaea ligustrina* and/or *Pomaderris apetala* closed forest	21.0		0.0	0.0
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	30 256.0	17.2	2437.4	8.1
30	Tall *E. obliqua* forest	30 511.0	0.5	1494.0	4.9
31*	Shrubby *E. ovata* / *E. viminalis* forest	719.0		4.9	0.7
32	*E. pulchella / E. globulus / E. viminalis* grassy shrubby forest	110 203.0	0.8	1165.9	1.1
34	*E. pauciflora* forest on Jurassic dolerite	1274.0		3.5	0.3
36	*E. pauciflora* forest on sediments	47.0		0.0	0.0
37	*E. regnans* forest	3280.0		804.6	24.5
39	*E. rodwayi* forest	2149.0		2.5	0.1

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
40	*E. sieberi* forest on granite	829.0		0.0	0.0
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	2079.0		171.0	8.2
42	*E. sieberi* forest on other substrates	2986.0		0.0	0.0
44	*E. tenuiramis* forest on granite	2983.0		4.3	0.1
45	*E. tenuiramis* forest on dolerite	7514.0		45.3	0.6
46*	Inland *E. tenuiramis* forest	2301.0		4.9	0.2
47	*E. viminalis* grassy forest/woodland	20 908.0		238.0	1.1
49*	*E. viminalis* wet forest	815.0		0.0	0.0
64* ✂	Inland *E.amygdalina – E. viminalis – E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits	-		0.0	&
65✂	*E.amygdalina* forest on mudstone	-		21.1	&
	TOTAL	**444 127.0**	**18.5**	**11 573.4**	**2.6**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. ✂ During 2005–06, Inland *E. amygdalina* was separated into 'Inland *E. amygdalina – E. viminalis – E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits' and '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone', with only the former being considered a threatened forest community.
  5. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

Central Highlands Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
1	Coastal *E. amygdalina* dry sclerophyll forest	276.0		0.0	0.0
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	5986.0		1494.1	25.0
4*	*E. amygdalina* forest on sandstone	49.0		15.0	30.6
6*	*E. brookeriana* wet forest	6.0		0.0	0.0
8	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on rises	151.0		18.7	12.4
10	*E. coccifera* dry forest	49 927.0		23.5	0.0
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	165 758.0	0.2	9310.6	5.6
13	*E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest	1093.0		107.9	9.9
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	152 381.0	1.0	6658.5	4.4
15*	King Billy pine – deciduous beech forest	176.0		0.0	0.0
20	*Leptospermum* sp. / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	388.0		0.8	0.2
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	24 755.0		2207.4	8.9
22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	53 914.0		137.3	0.3
25	Dry *E. nitida* forest	5501.0		4.0	0.1
28	Tall *E. nitida* forest	1815.0		0.0	0.0
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	6626.0		1875.9	28.3
30	Tall E. obliqua forest	14 125.0		1164.5	8.2
31*	Shrubby *E. ovata / E. viminalis* forest	104.0		3.0	2.9
32	*E. pulchella / E. globulus / E. viminalis* grassy shrubby forest	1750.0		51.0	2.9
33*	Pencil pine – deciduous beech forest	176.0		0.0	0.0
34	*E. pauciflora* forest on Jurassic dolerite	17 079.0		435.8	2.6
35*	Pencil pine forest	314.0		0.0	0.0
36	*E. pauciflora* forest on sediments	13 026.0		64.7	0.5
37	*E. regnans* forest	7843.0		736.3	9.4
39	*E. rodwayi* forest	6272.0		900.4	14.4

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	7275.0		326.7	4.5
43	*E. subcrenulata* forest	3610.0		3.9	0.1
45	*E. tenuiramis* forest on dolerite	8.0		24.7	308.8
46*	Inland *E. tenuiramis* forest	17 489.0	0.4	27.9	0.2
47	*E. viminalis* grassy forest / woodland	10 141.0		220.3	2.2
49*	*E. viminalis* wet forest	593.0		0.0	0.0
50*	King Billy pine forest	3568.0		0.0	0.0
64*✂	Inland *E.amygdalina* – *E. viminalis* – *E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits	-		0.0	&
65✂	*E.amygdalina* forest on mudstone	-		25.0	&
	TOTAL	**572 175.0**	**1.6**	**25 816.9**	**4.5**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. ✂ During 2005–06, Inland *E. amygdalina* was separated into 'Inland *E. amygdalina* – *E. viminalis* – *E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits' and '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone', with only the former being considered a threatened forest community.
  5. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

West and South-west Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	0.0		2.0	&
6*	*E. brookeriana* wet forest	75.0		0.0	0.0
7	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on flats	744.0		0.0	0.0
8	*Acacia melanoxylon* forest on rises	5074.0		290.0	5.7
10	*E. coccifera* dry forest	600.0		0.0	0.0
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	6148.0		28.0	0.5
13	*E. viminalis / E. ovata / E. amygdalina / E. obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest	0.0		3.0	&
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	21 408.0		104.0	0.5
15*	King Billy pine – deciduous beech forest	622.0		0.0	0.0
16*	*E. viminalis* and/or *E. globulus* coastal shrubby forest	99.0		0.0	0.0
18	Huon pine forest	8503.0		0.0	0.0
20	*Leptospermum* sp. / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	9309.0		431.5	4.6
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	106 311.0		321.6	0.3
22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	275 451.0	0.8	21.0	0.0
25	Dry *E. nitida* forest	136 768.0		72.0	0.1
27*	*Notelaea ligustrina* and/or *Pomaderris apetala* closed forest	95.0		0.0	0.0
28	Tall *E. nitida* forest	67 174.0		326.5	0.5
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	24 924.0		249.0	1.0
30	Tall *E. obliqua* forest	83 500.0	1.0	2432.9	2.9

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
37	*E. regnans* forest	12 588.0		1398.1	11.1
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	499.0		1.8	0.4
43	*E. subcrenulata* forest	2253.0		0.0	0.0
50*	King Billy pine forest	13 907.0		0.0	0.0
	TOTAL	**776 052.0**	**1.8**	**5681.2**	**0.7**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

D'Entrecasteaux Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
1	Coastal *E. amygdalina* forest	61.0		0.3	0.5
2	*E. amygdalina* forest on dolerite	219.0		4.3	2.0
4*	*E. amygdalina* forest on sandstone	798.0		6.0	0.8
10	*E. coccifera* dry forest	3952.0		2.0	0.1
12	Dry *E. delegatensis* forest	7996.0	1.5	100.6	1.3
14	Tall *E. delegatensis* forest	24 803.0	7.0	624.5	2.5
15*	King Billy pine – deciduous beech forest	6.0		0.0	0.0
17*	Grassy *E. globulus* forest	596.0		61.0	10.2
18	Huon Pine forest	9.0		0.0	0.0
20	*Leptospermum* sp. / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	1244.0		10.8	0.9
21	Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	6889.0		14.7	0.2
22	Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	22 944.0	0.3	3.4	0.0
25	Dry *E. nitida* forest	3031.0		28.1	0.9
27*	*Notelaea ligustrina* and/or *Pomaderris apetala* closed forest	54.0		0.0	0.0
28	Tall *E. nitida* forest	2402.0	1.9	18.9	0.8
29	Dry *E. obliqua* forest	29 486.0	14.0	1050.4	3.6
30	Tall *E. obliqua* forest	111 866.0	18.3	7858.7	7.0
31*	Shrubby *E. ovata* / *E. viminalis* forest	222.0	0.5	1.2	0.5
32	*E. pulchella* / *E. globulus* / *E. viminalis* grassy shrubby forest	10 905.0		60.4	0.6
35*	Pencil pine forest	11.0		0.0	0.0
37	*E. regnans* forest	21 388.0	7.4	3806.5	17.8
41	*Acacia dealbata* forest	3890.0		142.0	3.7
43	*E. subcrenulata* forest	4238.0		7.9	0.2
45	*E. tenuiramis* forest on dolerite	766.0		0.0	0.0

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
46*	Inland *E. tenuiramis* forest	1042.0		7.2	0.7
47	*E. viminalis* grassy forest/woodland	194.0		0.0	0.0
50*	King Billy pine forest	2581.0		0.0	0.0
65✂	*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone	-		5.0	&
	TOTAL	**261 593.0**	**50.9**	**13 813.7**	**5.3**

- 1. Only forest communities that occur within each IBRA region are shown.
  2. Results are estimates, based on RFA mapping and area data provided in FPPs. The area shown as a decrease is likely to be an over-estimate as it is generally based on gross area, which excludes informal reserves such as streamside reserves.
  3. * Indicates a threatened native vegetation community (rare, vulnerable or endangered).
  4. ✂ During 2005–06, Inland *E. amygdalina* was separated into 'Inland *E. amygdalina* – *E. viminalis* – *E. pauciflora* on Cainozoic deposits' and '*E. amygdalina* forest on mudstone', with only the former being considered a threatened forest community. This threatened community does not occur in this bioregion.
  5. Anomalies in mapping (shown with an ampersand &) are subject to further field verification. Area data may be modified as mapping is refined.

Appendix 4 Monitoring of the maintenance of the permanent native forest estate (continued)

Furneaux Bioregion as at 30 June 2015

No.	RFA forest community	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)
5	*Allocasuarina verticillata* forest	142.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11*	*Callitris rhomboidea* forest	120.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20	*Leptospermum* sp. / *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest	285.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
23*	*Melaleuca ericifolia* coastal swamp forest	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
26	Furneaux *E. nitida* forest	29 712.0	0.0	63.0	0.2
48*	Furneaux *E. viminalis* forest	135.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	TOTAL	30 405.0	0.0	63.0	0.2

State totals as at 30 June 2015 [1]

Bioregion and state totals	1996 RFA area (ha) (2002 dataset)	2014–15 decrease (ha)	Total decrease 1996–2015 (ha)	% total decrease from 1996 RFA area (2002 dataset)	Area remaining before threshold is reached (ha)
Woolnorth	375 839	244.7	44 382.7	11.8	
Ben Lomond	500 654	1803.5	46 799.3	9.3	
Midlands	244 853	39.4	8517.7	3.5	
Freycinet	444 127	18.5	11 573.4	2.6	
Central Highlands	572 175	1.6	25 816.9	4.5	
West and South-west	776 052	1.8	5681.2	0.7	
D'Entrecasteaux	261 593	50.9	13 813.7	5.3	
Furneaux	30 405	0.0	63.0	0.2	
State total	**3 205 698**	**2160.3**	**156 647.8**	**4.9**	**3637.1**

[1] This table includes the area cleared as a result of dam works permits issued under the *Water Management Act 1999*

Appendix 5
Procedures for the management of threatened species under the forest practices system: report on implementation during 2014–15

Summary

- The *Agreed procedures* are the mechanism by which the requirements for the management of threatened species under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* are delivered through the Tasmanian forest practices system. Clause 9 of the *Agreed procedures* requires an annual report of implementation of the *Agreed procedures*. This report covers the 2014–15 period.
- DPIPWE submitted eight draft listing statements to the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2014–15, including two flora and six fauna species: *Amphibromus macrorhinus* (longnose swampgrass), *Pimelea* sp. Tunbridge (grassland riceflower), *Miselaoma weldi* (Stanley snail), *Roblinella agnewi* (Silky snail), *Tasmaphena lamproides* (keeled snail), *Charopidae* 'Skemps' (Skemps snail), *Pasmaditta jungermanniae* (snail (Cataract Gorge)), *Galaxias pedderensis* (Pedder galaxias). Locality data and species management advice delivered via the Natural Values Atlas and the Threatened Species Link were maintained.
- FPA and DPIPWE collaborated on the completion of Technical Notes designed to clarify habitat descriptions for threatened species and the management recommendations delivered by the 2014 Threatened Fauna Adviser.
- DPIPWE provided input to the FPA Biodiversity Course for FPOs in June 2015.
- FPA ran field days on the identification and management of habitat for giant freshwater crayfish, swift parrot, wedge-tailed eagles and devil and quolls.
- FPA maintained existing planning tools, including minor updates to clarify habitat descriptions and range boundaries.
- FPA ran briefings for FPOs and others on the revised Threatened Fauna Adviser and changes to legislation and policy, including the application of the duty of care provision of the Code to PTPZL.
- FPA provided advice on management actions for threatened species for 151 notifications of proposed FPPs in 2014–15. The majority of advice requests were for the management of habitat for the grey goshawk, wedge-tailed eagle, spotted-tailed quoll, Tasmanian devil and masked owl.
- Six proposed FPPs relating to the management of threatened species habitat were formally referred to the Policy and Conservation Advice Branch, DPIPWE in 2014–15.
- Of the 44 investigations that were completed by the FPA compliance program in 2014–15, one related to a threatened species.
- A report on compliance with strategic management recommendations for threatened fauna species on a PTPZL block in the north-west of Tasmania, Salmon

River forest block was provided by Forestry Tasmania, Forest Management Services, Conservation Branch (Forestry Tasmania, 2015).

- DPIPWE and FPA have been involved in a number of research and monitoring projects in 2014–15 that relate to threatened species management (e.g. wedge-tailed eagle, Wally's wattle, dwarf galaxias, use of plantations by Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls) in areas covered by the forest practices system. These studies provide information that can be used to assess the effectiveness of the threatened species management recommendations. The reports and publications from these studies are available via the FPA website. Two students supervised by FPA and TSS staff received their higher degrees in 2014: Shannon Troy (Spatial Ecology of the Tasmanian Spotted-Tailed Quoll, PhD), and Tierney O'Sullivan (Breeding behaviour and success of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*), Honours).

Background

The *Agreed procedures for the management of threatened species* under the Forest Practices System (‘*Agreed procedures’)* are the mechanism by which the requirements for the management of threatened species under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and the *Forest Practices Code* are delivered through the Tasmanian forest practices system (Section D3.3 of the *Forest Practices Code*). These *Agreed procedures* were introduced in 2000 and incorporated into the *Forest Practices Code (2000)*. They were revised by DPIPWE and the FPA in 2010 and again in 2014 to be consistent with changes to legislation and policy.

Clause 9 of the *Agreed procedures* requires an annual report of implementation of the *Agreed procedures*. Previous reports cover the 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14 financial years. This document provides a summary of the activities that relate to each clause in Part A of the *Agreed procedures* for 2014–15. It contributes to meeting recommendation 16 of the second five-yearly review of progress with implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

Report on implementation

(A) Roles and responsibilities

1 Joint roles and responsibilities of the FPA and DPIPWE

a. The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) will cooperate on the development of procedures , tools, objectives, endorsed management prescriptions and training for the management of threatened species within forests and/or threatened non-forest vegetation types at both the strategic (landscape) level and at the operational (forest practices plan) level.

- After the release of revised versions of the main planning tools in March 2014 (Threatened Fauna Adviser and Biodiversity Values Database) DPIPWE and the FPA agreed to a transition period for FPPs where the planning was substantially completed. This included where scheduling of operations near to eagle nests was largely completed. During this transition period (9/4/2014 – 30/6/14) use of the revised recommended actions delivered by the Threatened Fauna Adviser (ThFA) was considered to be on a voluntary basis.

- FPA Biodiversity Program staff and staff from the Threatened Species Section (TSS) of DPIPWE continued to collaborate on the clarification of the recommended actions delivered through the ThFA in response to feedback from planners.

- Biodiversity Program staff and staff from the TSS collaborated in the running of the Biodiversity Course (Module 12 of the Forest Practices Officer Training Course) in June 2015. This 4-day course is designed for forest practitioners, in particular FPOs and others involved in the preparation of FPPs. There was a particular focus on identifying the values (flora and fauna), assessing the risk of the planned operation, use of planning tools and development of management actions to ameliorate the risk. There were 35 participants (9 private & 26 public) in total.

- A project steering committee was established for the ongoing maintenance of shared planning tools used in the processes and procedures developed for the management of threatened species in areas covered by the forest practices system. This committee includes staff from the FPA and DPIPWE. Topics relating to the revision of range boundaries and habitat descriptions for threatened species delivered through the Natural Values Atlas and the FPA's Biodiversity Values Database were discussed throughout the year as well as proposed minor modifications to the ThFA pathways and management recommendations.

- The FPA sought formal advice from the Conservation Assessment Section of DPIPWE throughout the year on six FPPs that were likely to lead to the certification of an FPP where the proposed management approach (duty of care threshold under the Code and any negotiated voluntary contribution) was not consistent with the DPIPWE/FPA-endorsed recommended actions for a particular species, delivered through the ThFA 2014. There were four cases for FPPs on public land (FN28c, FN008D, KD023F and DN007B), all relating to the management of swift parrot habitat in the Southern Forests. Two were for private-land FPPs, one relating to the clearance and conversion of grey goshawk habitat and one relating to suspected forty-spotted pardalote habitat. In the latter case it was determined by DPIPWE that the location did not contain significant habitat for the species.

- FPA staff continued work on the development of a Threatened Plant Adviser (TPA) in 2014–15. The TPA is a new planning tool which will provide advice on for the

management of threatened flora species within areas covered by the forest practices system. The TPA is intended for use by FPOs, forest planners and others conducting biodiversity evaluations as part of the process of developing an FPP. Like the THFA, the TPA will be a web-based decision-support system to deliver consistent management advice and determine areas or species that are a priority for conservation management. The project team, comprising FPA botanists and consultants, has been meeting on a regular basis since January 2015 to gather up-to-date information and expert opinion and develop draft management recommendations and habitat descriptions for each threatened flora species that has the potential to occur in areas subject to the forest practices system. A series of background reports have been produced, and it is envisaged that a 'draft' TPA will be completed in 2015–16. The project is governed by an FPA and DPIPWE project steering committee and the information produced by the project team will be reviewed by a Scientific Reference Group and a Stakeholder Reference Group in 2015–16.

b. The FPA and the DPIPWE will liaise on any cases that may lead to applications under Part 5 (Conservation Covenants) of the Nature Conservation Act 2002 *relating to the refusal or amendment of applications for FPPs for the purpose of protecting a threatened species. Where such cases proceed to a tribunal, the FPA and DPIPWE will cooperate in providing evidence to the tribunal.*

- Two cases in 2014–15 involved both threatened species and threatened vegetation communities. In one case the Secretary of DPIPWE advised that the proposed duty of care threshold and voluntary contribution are considered to be making a reasonable contribution to the conservation of the species (and threatened vegetation community) in the context of the broader management framework of the species and consistent with the objectives of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. In the second case, the Conservation Assessment Section of DPIPWE advised that it did not consider that formal advice was required from the Secretary of DPIPWE because the agency did not consider that the location contained significant habitat for the species.
- The FPA provided advice to the Department of Public Prosecutions on issues arising from past compensation claims resulting from FPP refusals.

2 Primary roles and responsibilities of DPIPWE

a. Developing strategic plans and other strategic instruments for the management of threatened species as prescribed in legislation, plans and policies for which the department is responsible.

- The Threatened Species Section (TSS) submitted eight draft listing statements to the Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 2014–15, including two flora and six fauna species: *Amphibromus macrorhinus* (longnose swampgrass), *Pimelea* sp. Tunbridge (grassland riceflower), *Miselaoma weldi* (Stanley snail), *Roblinella agnewi* (silky snail), *Tasmaphena lamproides* (keeled snail), Charopidae 'Skemps' (Skemps snail), *Pasmaditta jungermanniae* (snail (Cataract Gorge)) and *Galaxias pedderensis* (Pedder galaxias).
- Updates were made by DPIPWE to the Threatened Species Link and the Natural Values Atlas.

- The SAC agreed to make recommendations to delist five flora species from the schedules of the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995, viz., *Austrodanthonia popinensis, Lachnagrostis scabra* subsp. *scabra, Plantago gaudichaudii, Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer* and *Sporobolus virginicus*. SAC also agreed to make the following final recommendations for listing of species on the TSP Act: *Pimelea* sp. Tunbridge (grassland riceflower) to be listed as endangered, *Thymichthys politus* (red handfish) to be listed as endangered, and *Brachiopsilius ziebelli* (Ziebell's handfish) to be listed as endangered.
- The draft Tasmanian Threatened Orchid Recovery Plan was amended in the light of public submissions and was subsequently sent to the Commonwealth for consideration for adoption under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (at the September 2015 meeting of the Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee).

b. *Coordinating and participating in research and monitoring of the impacts of land use activities and other factors on the maintenance of habitat and populations of threatened species.*

- Staff from the TSS and broader DPIPWE undertook habitat and/or population monitoring for the following RFA priority species in 2014–15: Tasmanian devil, orange-bellied parrot and a number of threatened flora species (to varying degrees). TSS staff also volunteered spare time to carry out or assist with monitoring of Miena jewel beetle, swift parrot and additional threatened flora species, also with the assistance of the Wildcare group Threatened Plants Tasmania.

3 Primary roles and responsibilities of the FPA

a. Organising and coordinating training in threatened species and the use of the planning tools for FPOs and others involved in the FPP planning process.

- Training undertaken by FPA staff relating to threatened species management in areas covered by the forest practices system included:
    - A field day on giant freshwater crayfish was held at the end of March 2015. The course involved presentations and a field trip by researchers from the University of Tasmania and FPA staff. It was designed for those involved in the implementation of the Threatened Fauna Adviser (ThFA) recommended actions for the species. It covered the ecology and conservation requirements of the species, use of the giant freshwater crayfish habitat suitability map and technical guidelines during planning, field identification of potential habitat and the management approach. There were 29 participants.
    - Briefings on the ThFA 2014 and other planning tools for industry planners and managers (x5).
    - Refresher course for FPOs which included an update on policy, planning tools and management requirements related to threatened species. This included information on the FPA's contribution to the management of threatened species and communities in the new legislative environment: the revocation of the *Forestry Act 1920* and its replacement with the *Forest Management Act 2013,* the amendment of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the passing of the *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014*.

- Briefings for non-government organisations and the Conservation Assessment Branch, DPIPWE on management of threatened species through the forest practices system.
- Field day with Timberlands Pacific on the devil and quoll management prescription in a plantation context in northern Tasmania.
- Training day for FPOs on the identification of swift parrot habitat (run by FPA ecologists in conjunction with ANU species specialist).
- Eagle nest management 2-day course for forest planners and others involved in natural resource management. A wedge-tailed eagle management course was run which focused on providing participants with general knowledge on eagles and practical field skills to conduct nest searches and apply nest reserve designs when locating nests. This year the FPA included a half-day refresher component to the theory day informing past participants of eagle courses of the research outcomes of the FPA eagle study which led to recent changes in recommended actions delivered through the ThFA. Two guest speakers, Nick Mooney (independent eagle specialist) and Vanessa Thompson (Forestry Tasmania), provided presentations on the history of eagle management and helicopter nest search techniques.
- A total of 33 people attended the course which comprised 7 refresher and 26 full-course participants. The theory component of the course was conducted at Campbell Town, on 28 April. Participants then attended two field sessions run in the Launceston and Hobart regions on 29 and 30 June respectively. As well as FPOs and forest planners, there were also participants from ecological consultancy companies, regional NRM organisations group personnel, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife service, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and DPIPWE.
- Feedback from the theory and field days included particular interest in the recent results of the FPA eagle research and their application to general land management practices and how this has informed and helped to deliver relevant field skills and techniques to correctly identify nest activity status.
- A four-day Biodiversity Course for forest planners and others involved in natural resource management. This course forms part of the FPO course (Module 12) and as such is designed primarily for forest management practitioners; in particular FPOs and planners involved in the preparation of FPPs. It provides important information and training for those who need to identify habitats and the risk of management activities. It also provides training in survey requirements and the intent of management actions required under the forest practices system. There were 36 participants including forest planners and others involved in natural resource management activities.
- Participated in Forestry Tasmania's eagle nest management coordinators meeting to discuss issues with changes to the management recommendations that have arisen over the past year.

- Many of the management recommendations delivered through the ThFA refer the planner to Technical Notes for further guidance or information. See

http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/fpa_services/planning_assistance/advisory_planning_tools/fauna_technical_notes

Work continued on the development of these Technical Notes, seeking endorsement from the Board of the FPA if required through the FPA document release policy and making them available to planners in 2014–15. This work included:

- a technical note clarifying the management approach for wedge-tailed eagle nests was endorsed and made available to planners via the website
- technical notes on identifying habitat for the swift parrot and giant freshwater crayfish were endorsed and made available to planners
- a draft of a technical note on designing fauna-friendly stream crossings was finalised and endorsed by the Board. This technical note is relevant to the management of road crossings within the range of threatened aquatic fauna. It was based on an earlier version that has been available to planners as a draft since 2000
- development of draft technical notes on the identification of habitat for the masked owl and threatened frogs.

b. *Assessing notifications lodged as part of the FPP planning process as required to ensure that the planned operations are in accordance with the requirements of the* Forest Practices Code *and associated planning procedures.*

- 151 requests for advice on biodiversity issues from FPOs and other forest planners as part of the FPP development process between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015.
- Of these, 88 were on public land, with the remainder a mix of private operations. The data in the notification database indicates that field assessments were undertaken for about 25 per cent of notifications. However, this is an underestimate because some involved multiple visits and in some cases any pre-plan visits were not recorded.
- The FPA compliance program assessed 56 FPPs covering the full range of forest operations in 2014–15 as part of the annual compliance (monitoring and assessment program) audit. The results of this assessment are in Appendix 3 of the FPA annual report.
- The Section Head of TSS, DPIPWE, was notified of any threatened-species-related compliance investigations throughout 2014–15.
- A total of 44 compliance investigations into alleged breaches of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* or an FPP were completed by the FPA compliance program in 2014–15, of which there were 32 investigations which found evidence of a breach. Of the 44 investigations that were completed, one related to threatened species, clearing of trees adjoining a class 2 stream which was found to contain Burnie burrowing crayfish. The investigation found that there was no breach of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* because the clearing was exempt under the Forest Practices Regulations 2007 as clearing for infrastructure and the land had been previously cleared.

c. Developing and providing site-specific management advice for FPPs where the planned operations are not covered by endorsed management prescriptions. This may involve consultation with relevant specialists within DPIPWE and other organisations where specific expertise is required.

- As indicated in (b) FPA Biodiversity Program staff processed 151 requests for advice on biodiversity issues from FPOs and other forest planners as part of the FPP development process between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. DPIPWE and Inland Fisheries Service specialists, specialists from universities and independent specialists were consulted when specific expertise was required.
- Tables 1 and 2 provide the number of requests for advice for threatened flora and fauna species, respectively. The number of requests (151) is slightly lower than the number received in 2013–14 (185). However, a large proportion of biodiversity evaluations, done by forest planners as part of the development of an FPP, still resulted in notifications to the FPA ecologists. This is in part because of the need for interpretation of the management recommendations delivered by the revised ThFA (released in June 2014), particularly in relation to the duty of care provision of the Code. However, it is expected that the number of requests will reduce further in 2014–15 with ongoing support and training of forest planners and others in the use and interpretation of the agreed recommended actions delivered by the revised ThFA and associated planning tools.
- The highest number of requests for advice (>20) were for management issues relating to the grey goshawk, wedge-tailed eagle, spotted-tailed quoll, Tasmanian devil and masked owl. Requests for advice on the swift parrot declined significantly in 2014–15. There were only nine requests for advice on this species for 2014–15, whereas in 2013–14 there were 25. The reasons for this are not clear but may be due to the lack of forestry activity within the breeding range of this species while Forestry Tasmania continues to work with DPIPWE and ANU scientists on a strategic plan for this species. The number of notifications for the Australian grayling and green and gold frog increased in 2014–15. Again the reasons for this are not clear, but may be related to an increase in the number of plans on private land within the range of these species.
- 108 out of the 151 (71%) requests for advice were for native forest operations, the majority being for clearfell operations (59) and clearance and conversion operations (23). A large number of the requests were also for hardwood plantation operations (20%) and the remaining were for softwood operations (5%) or restoration of cleared land (2%) (Table 3). This indicates that the main need for advice is for native forest operations but that specialist advice is increasingly being required for plantation operations. The latter is probably because of the agreed management recommendation for the Tasmanian devil which in some areas requires potential devil denning habitat to be taken into account when planning plantation harvest.
- In 2014–15 the FPA formally advised the Policy and Conservation Advice Branch, DPIPWE of six FPPs (four for PTPZL and two for private forest) because the duty of care thresholds, and any voluntary contribution negotiated, was not considered to fully meet the desired conservation outcomes for the species within the area covered by the FPP (see also *b* above).

Table 1. Number of requests for advice for threatened flora species (note that 123 of the notifications had no data)

Flora	Notifications
Acacia pataczekii – Wally's wattle	1
Aphelia gracilis – slender fanwort	1
Arthropodium strictum – chocolate lily	3
Austrostipa scabra – rough speargrass	1
Barbarea australis – riverbed wintercress	1
Bossiaea obcordata -–spiny bossia	1
Caesia calliantha – blue grasslily	3
Carex longebrachiata – drooping sedge	1
Cyathea cunninghamii – slender treefern	1
Cyathea Xmarcescens – skirted treefern	1
Dianella amoena – grassland flaxlily	2
Discaria pubescens – spiky anchorplant	1
Epilobium pallidiflorum – showy willowherb	2
Eucalyptus radiata subsp. radiata – Forth River peppermint	1
Glycine latrobeana – clover glycine	2
Haloragis heterophylla – variable raspwort	1
Hovea tasmanica – rockfield purplepea	1
Isolepis habra – wispy clubsedge	1
Juncus amabilis – gentle rush	3
Lepidium hyssopifolium – soft peppercress	2
Ozothamnus selaginoides – table mountain everlastingbush	1
Pentachondra ericifolia – fine frillyheath	1
Phebalium daviesii – Davies waxflower	1

Flora	**Notifications**
Pimelea curviflora var. gracilis – slender curved riceflower	2
Pimelea flava subsp. flava – yellow riceflower	1
Pterostylis grandiflora – superb greenhood	1
Pultenaea mollis – soft bushpea	1
Pultenaea prostrata – silky bushpea	1
Rumex bidens – mud dock	1
Schenkia australis – spike centaury	1
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani – river clubsedge	1
Scleranthus brockiei – mountain knawel	1
Scleranthus fasciculatus – spreading knawel	1
Senecio squarrosus – leafy fireweed	1
Senecio velleioides – forest groundsel	3
Stackhousia subterranea – grassland candles	1
Thismia rodwayi – fairy lanterns	2
Triptilodiscus pygmaeus – dwarf sunray	1
Vallisneria australis – river ribbons	3
Westringia angustifolia – narrowleaf westringia	1

Table 2. Number of requests for advice for threatened fauna species (note that 64 notifications had no data)

Fauna	Notifications
Accipiter novaehollandiae – grey goshawk	20
Alcedo azurea diemenensis – azure kingfisher	1
Antipodia chaostola – chaostola skipper	2
Aquila audax fleayi – wedge-tailed eagle	38
Astacopsis gouldi – giant freshwater crayfish	14
Beddomeia briansmithi – hydrobiid snail (Fern Creek)	2
Beddomeia camensis – hydrobiid snail (Cam River)	3
Beddomeia fallax – hydrobiid snail (Heathcote Creek)	1
Beddomeia fromensis – hydrobiid snail (Frome River)	3
Beddomeia fultoni – hydrobiid snail (Farnhams Creek)	1
Beddomeia gibba – hydrobiid snail (Salmon River Road)	1
Beddomeia lodderae – hydrobiid snail (Upper Castra Rivulet)	1
Beddomeia minima – hydrobiid snail (Scottsdale)	4
Beddomeia ronaldi – hydrobiid snail (St Patricks River)	2
Beddomeia salmonis – hydrobiid snail (Salmon River)	1
Beddomeia turnerae – hydrobiid snail (Minnow River)	1
Catadromus lacordairei – Catadromus carabid beetle	3
Cave-dwelling invertebrates	1
Charopidae Skemps – Skemps snail	3
Dasyurus maculatus – spotted-tail quoll	27
Dasyurus viverrinus – Eastern quoll	1
Engaeus granulatus – central north burrowing crayfish	2
Engaeus orramakunna – Mt Arthur burrowing crayfish	3

Fauna	**Notifications**
Engaeus spinicaudatus – Scottsdale burrowing crayfish	1
Engaeus yabbimunna – burrowing crayfish (Burnie)	3
Galaxias fontanus – swan galaxias	3
Galaxiella pusilla - dwarf galaxiid	6
Haliaeetus leucogaster – white-bellied sea-eagle	12
Hoplogonus simsoni – Simson's stag beetle	1
Lathamus discolor – swift parrot	9
Limnodynastes peroni – striped marsh frog	1
Lissotes menalcas – Mt. Mangana stag beetle	1
Litoria raniformis – green and golden frog	14
Pardalotus quadragintus – forty-spotted pardalote	1
Perameles gunnii – Eastern-barred bandicoot	7
Phrantela pupiformis – hydrobiid snail (Tyenna River)	3
Plesiothele fentoni – Lake Fenton trapdoor spider	2
Prototroctes maraena – Australian grayling	10
Pseudemoia pagenstecheri – tussock skink	6
Pseudemoia rawlinsoni – glossy grass skink	1
Pseudomys novaehollandiae – new holland mouse	1
Sarcophilus harrisii – Tasmanian devil	22
Tasmanipatus barretti – giant velvet worm	1
Tasmaphena lamproides – keeled snail	7
Tyto novaehollandiae castanops – masked owl	20

Table 3. Number of requests for advice by operation type

Forest type	Operation type	Notifications
Cleared land	Site preparation	2
	Site preparation and planting with eucalypts	2
Native forest	Advance growth retention	4
	Clearfall followed by sowing of native seed	59
	Clearfall to remain cleared	23
	Overstorey removal	1
	Partial harvesting	2
	Potential sawlog retention	2
	Road construction	2
	Salvage–fire killed, lake, dam, other	3
	Seedtree retention	3
	Selective logging	6
	Shelterwood – first cut	1
	Shelterwood – second cut	2
Plantation hardwood	Clearfall followed by hardwood plantation	11
	Clearfall to remain cleared	8
	Salvage–fire killed, lake, dam, other	1
	Site preparation and planting with eucalypts	3
	Site preparation and planting with pines	1
	Thinning	7
Plantation softwood	Clearfall followed by softwood plantation	2
	Quarry operations	1
	Site preparation and planting with eucalypts	1
	Thinning	4

d. Ensuring that provisions within FPPs make an effective contribution to the management of threatened species in accordance with the duty of care requirements of the Forest Practices Code*.*

e. Monitoring and reporting on the standard of compliance with, and the effectiveness of, the endorsed or site-specific management prescriptions contained within FPPs.

- The FPA compliance program assessed 56 FPPs covering the full range of forest operations in 2014–15 as part of the annual compliance audit. This was slightly higher than last year. The results of this assessment are in Appendix 3 of the FPA annual report.
- A report on compliance with strategic management recommendations for threatened fauna species on a PTPZL block in the north-west of Tasmania, Salmon River forest block, was provided by Forestry Tasmania, Forest Management Services, Conservation Branch (Forestry Tasmania, 2015). This report concludes that, in general, the strategic recommendations for threatened fauna species in areas covered by the Tasmanian forest practices system, delivered through the 2001 Threatened Fauna Adviser, have been met through wildlife habitat strips, widened streamside reserves, other areas set aside from harvesting and coupe dispersal. Formal reserves previously managed by Forestry Tasmania have been transferred to Parks Wildlife Service under the Tasmanian Forest Agreement.

f. Undertaking investigations and taking any enforcement action that is necessary to achieve compliance with the prescriptions contained within FPPs, in conjunction with DPIPWE where relevant.

- The Section Head, TSS, DPIPWE was notified of any threatened-species-related compliance investigations throughout 2014–15.
- A total of 44 compliance investigations into alleged breaches of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* or an FPP were completed by the FPA compliance program in the 2014–15 financial year, of which there were 32 investigations which found evidence of a breach. Of the 44 investigations that were completed, one related to threatened species. This involved the clearing of trees adjoining a class 2 stream which was found to contain Burnie burrowing crayfish (FPA and TSS, 2015). Once the investigation was completed it was determined that there was no breach of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* as the clearing was exempt under the Forest Practices Regulations 2007, infrastructure and previous cleared land.

g. Collaborating with DPIPWE on, and participating in, research and monitoring priorities relating to threatened species management under the forest practices system.

- The Biodiversity Program's staff contributed to 13 research and monitoring projects in 2014–15. These research projects were funded from a variety of external funding sources and involved collaboration with external researchers, students and institutions. Nine were related to threatened species management issues. Four of these projects involve collaboration with the TSS of DPIPWE. More details on these research projects are available in section 2.1.4 of the body of the annual report and Table 2.1.2.

Publications related to threatened species

FPA

(see Appendix 1 of this annual report)

DPIPWE

- Spencer, CP & Richards, K 2014, 'Did *Castiarina insculpta* (Miena jewel beetle) ride on the sheep's back?', *The Tasmanian Naturalist*, 136:49-57.
- Stojanovic, D, Koch, AJ, Webb, M, Cunningham, R, Roshier, D & Heinsohn, R 2014, 'Validation of a landscape-scale planning tool for cavity-dependent wildlife'. *Austral Ecology* 39: 579-586.
- Webb, MH, Wotherspoon, S, Stojanovic, D, Heinsohn, R, Cunningham, R, Bell, P & Terauds, A 2014, 'Location matters: using spatially explicit occupancy models to predict the distribution of the highly mobile, endangered swift parrot', *Biological Conservation* 176: 99-108.

Forestry Tasmania

- Forestry Tasmania 2015, *Implementation of the strategic management recommendations in the Salmon River forest block between 2005 and 2015*, report prepared for Forest Practices Authority by Forest Management Services – Conservation, Forestry Tasmania – September 2015.