

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

17 December 2022

Strategic planning

The Board noted the need to undertake a strategic planning process in 2023 as the current plan expired in June 2023.

Finance

The Board noted the monthly financial report which indicated the FPA expects a deficit at the end of the financial year.

Compliance

The Board considered the evidence and resolved to offer a fine in lieu of prosecution for two separate matters, one involving clearing of trees without a Forest Practices Plan and the other involving clearance and conversion of threatened native vegetation communities without a Forest Practices Plan.

Swift parrot

NRE Tas forest policy staff provided an overview of its swift parrot forest management project.

Vegetation Management Agreements

The Board endorsed a vegetation Management Agreement for the Arthurs Lake pipeline for the purposes of regulation 4(g)(ii), and the board endorsed an Environmental Management System for TasNetworks, for the purposes of regulation 4(l)(i)&(ii).

King Island

The Board noted issues raised by King Island landowners around the FPA's information and communication, and noted the work being done by FPA staff to engage with landowners.

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

23 February 2023

FPO Code of Conduct

The Board requested the CFPO review the draft Code of Conduct and raise any outstanding matters or concerns.

Finance

The Board noted the monthly financial report.

Compliance

The Board resolved to offer a fine in lieu of prosecution for one matter, involving clearance and conversion of threatened native vegetation communities without a Forest Practices Plan.

The Board reviewed a final determination for one matter in light of new material evidence.

Forest Practices Plans

The Board considered and approved one application for clearance and conversion of a Threatened Native Vegetation Community under clause 'c' of s. 19(1AA) of the FP Act due to the small size and highly degraded state of the vegetation.

The Board deferred a decision for an application for a Forest Practices Plan on King Island to its March 2023 meeting, and requested further particulars in relation to the condition of the vegetation.

FPO appointments

The Board approved three new appointments and revoked eight appointments.

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

17 March 2023

Finance

The Board noted the monthly financial report, including the forecast which predicts that the FPA will have a budget deficit at the end of the financial year.

Compliance

The Board considered the evidence and resolved to offer a fine in lieu of prosecution for two matters involving clearing of trees without a Forest Practices Plan in the central highlands.

The Board considered the evidence and resolved to offer a fine in lieu of prosecution for breaches of a Forest Practices Plan, including damage to streams and threatened species habitat, but will consider reviewing the offer of a fine if the environmental damage can be repaired.

FPO appointment

The Board approved one new appointment.

FPP applications

The Board refused one FPP application. The basis of the refusal is that the FPP does not contain adequate prescriptions for threatened species management.

The Board approved two FPP applications on King Island. One application was for the construction of a fence line and the other application involved clearance and conversion to agricultural land with measures to monitor and protect large areas of native vegetation on the property.

FPA IT applications

The Board noted that a number of FPA's internal IT applications are in need of review and upgrade, including Coverpage which receives and stores FPP applications.

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

21 April 2023

Compliance

The Board considered five compliance matters. Four matters involved clearing of trees without a Forest Practices Plan. The offences included unauthorised clearing of trees in a Threatened Native Vegetation Community and clearing of streamside reserves.

One matter involved clearing in contravention of a Forest Practices Plan on private property, including clearing outside the boundary of the plan and damage to a streamside reserve.

Private Timber Reserves

The Board approved the revocation of six Private Timber Reserves.

Procedures and technical notes

The Board considered the FPA Compliance Audit Procedures and referred it to FPAC for advice.

The Board approved two technical notes after receiving advice from FPAC (management of Phytophthora, eagle nest management).

Forest Practices Code

The Board noted an anomaly in relation to stocking standards on page 84 of the Forest Practices Code 2020, and supported the CFPO to issue an instruction that clarifies the intent and correct methodology for determining regeneration success.

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

19 May 2023

Finance

The Board noted the financial position, and that there were a small number of outstanding debtors related to prescribed fines.

Compliance

The Board considered three compliance matters. Two matters involved clearing of trees without a forest practice plan for areas ranging from approximately 4 ha to 17 ha, some of the clearing involving streamside reserve areas. The Board considered these matters to be of a particularly serious kind and offered a prescribed fine, as an alternative to prosecution, pursuant to s. 47B of the Act. One matter involved clearing in contravention of a Forest Practices Plan on private property, including clearing outside the boundary of the FPP and damage to a streamside reserve.

Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2023

The Board referred the Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill to FPAC for their advice.

Right to Information

The Board noted the number of RTI requests, the complexity of one of those requests.

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

June 2023

Work health, safety and wellbeing

The Board noted and expressed concern that FPA compliance staff had been involved in a safety incident on private property. The board discussed strategies to reduce the risk of similar incidents occurring, including situational awareness training, body worn cameras, and reviewing current protocols for risk management.

Compliance

The Board considered two matters, all involving clearing of trees or clearance and conversion of a threatened native vegetation community without authorisation. The Board considered these matters to be of a particularly serious kind and offered a prescribed fine, as an alternative to prosecution, pursuant to s. 47B of the Act.

Clearing for agricultural development

The Board were updated on the number of Forest Practices Plan applications for clearing of trees for agricultural development and made aware that some of these applications are in areas of the State with moderate to low levels of remaining native vegetation. The Board had a general discussion on potential landscape-level impacts from clearing. The Board noted that the review of the Policy for Maintenance of a Permanent Native Forest Estate has commenced.

Forest Practices Officer appointment

The Board appointed two Forest Practices Officers.

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

21 July 2023

Budget

The Board reviewed the draft Budget for 2023-24, asked the CFPO to review project related expenditure and requested an updated budget for finalisation by September 2023.

Work health, safety and wellbeing

The Board continued a discussion from June around the WHS incident that had occurred on private land. The Board requested that the CFPO make FPOs aware that there had been an incident and asked the CFPO to ensure FPA staff are aware that safety is of the highest priority.

Private Timber Reserves

The Board recommended revocation of six PTRs and declaration of one PTR.

Compliance

The Board considered one compliance matter of a particularly serious kind and offered a prescribed fine, as an alternative to prosecution, pursuant to s. 47B of the Act.

Agreed Procedures Annual Report

The Board endorsed the 2022-23 Agreed Procedures Annual Report for publication on the FPA website.

FPA investigation and enforcement program

The Board reviewed the FPA investigation and enforcement program and agreed to send it to FPAC for advice.

Swift parrot

An update on swift parrot matters was provided to the Board, including the challenges with managing habitat within the Lonnavale forest area.