

FPA BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

18 February 2022

Board members

Mr Kim Creak, Ms Jodie Mason and Mr Paul West, being new Directors appointed by the Minister, joined their first meeting.

Chairperson

Mr John Ramsay informed the Board that he had tendered his resignation to the Minister for Resources and that it had been accepted. The resignation is consequent on his appointment as Chairperson and Executive Commissioner of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The resignation takes effect on 31 March 2022.

The Minister has advertised for expressions of interest for a replacement with an aim to make an appointment by 4 April 2022.

Private Timber Reserves (PTRs)

One application for a PTR was deferred and one application was approved.

Four applications for revocation of PTRs were approved.

The installation of a meteorological mast was considered compatible with the purposes of a PTR given the small area, temporary nature, and associated forestry benefit.

Compliance matters

Final determinations to issue prescribed fines under section 47 of the Act were made in three matters where the Authority was satisfied that breaches of the Act had been committed.

Consideration of applications to clear and convert threatened native vegetation communities (TNVCs) under s. 19(1AA)

Two applications for forest practices plans (FPPs) to clear and convert TNVCs were considered by the Board. In both cases the Board requested further particulars from the applicants before the applications could be considered.

The Board generally discussed the continuing applications for FPPs to remove small areas of TNVCs, and the cumulative effect of such applications and approved losses in the various bioregions.

The Board also discussed its limited powers to effectively protect other areas of TNVC offered as offsets for the losses by landowners. It noted that the conservation covenant process administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania did not offer a timely response to the decision making required of the Board and landowners. It also noted that the vegetation management agreement process currently

available to the Board was not an enforceable instrument and thus of no utility for the protection of offsets.

The Board discussed the development of future advice to landowners, applicants and their consultants, on the documentation to be submitted with applications to clear and convert TNVCs.

Instruments of delegation (s.43) and Forest Practices Officer (FPO) appointments (s. 39)

The Board approved the reissuing of Instruments of Delegation in relation to exercising decision making powers of the FPA to 12 FPOs.

Michael Evans, Airon Denwer-Ripper and Bernard Plumpton were appointed as FPOs.

Next scheduled Board meeting – 18 March 2022 in Hobart.