

FPAC Communique

FPAC met on November 7, 2019

Council discussed proposed guidelines prepared by the CFPO for implementation the Policy for Maintaining a Permanent Native Forest Estate. It was agreed that it was imperative that staff and the public had clear guidelines for interpreting the Policy. Council noted some continuing ambiguity and determined to convene a working group to identify further potential improvements for consideration, and subsequent advice to the FPA.

Council reviewed its functions under the Act, and identified a number of areas for improvement, including in its meeting agenda, an annual schedule of matters requiring periodic review and induction of new Council members. It was agreed that the FPA finances and self-finding of the system, including the research program, and FPPs for small forest growers should be placed on a future agenda.

Council reviewed progress with the review of the Forest Practices Code and noted the final draft Code should be available for the statutory consultation with Council early in the new year, following consideration by the FPA Board.

Council was updated on the development of a PAMA by Sustainable Timber Tasmania and on the FPA's Swift parrot protocols. Council identified unresolved issues in the protocols and requested further consultation with affected parties before finalisation.

Council noted the proclamation of recent amendments to the Forest Practices Act, and that three new FPAC members would be soon appointed in line with those amendments.