

Response of the Forest Practices Advisory Council and the Forest Practices Authority to the recommendations of the Biodiversity Expert Panel

Table 1 Category 1 - Matters for decision by agencies other than the FPA, or by the State Government generally

The recommended action relates to legislation other than the Forest Practices Act and/or policy areas which are the responsibility of an agency or agencies other than the FPA, or of the Tasmanian Government as a whole. The proposed response to these recommendations is to consider referral to other agencies/forums as appropriate.

Recommendations:1,3,7,18,21,22,23,34,38. (21.4%)

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
1	<i>That the FPA canvass with relevant agencies the establishment of a State-level set of overarching principles and objectives for off-reserve management of forest biodiversity. The establishment of such principles and objectives will require a multi-agency approach in consultation with stakeholders. (Chapter 2 and Chapter 6, Table 6.1)</i>	Agreed. The State should be asked by the FPA to convene a workshop with suitable stakeholder representation, to assist the development of agreed (across agencies) principles and objectives for off-reserve management of forest biodiversity in Tasmania in the context of a Tasmanian biodiversity strategy.	The FPA will consult with DPIPW in the first instance and provide advice to the Minister.
3	<i>The state should review the relevant roles and responsibilities of affected agencies, including interagency working groups, with a view to ensuring a more integrated and coordinated approach to the conservation of biodiversity. (chapter two)</i>	Agreed. FPA should recommend consideration by government.	The FPA will consult with DPIPW in the first instance and provide advice to the Minister.

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
7	<i>Fully implement the RFA and RFA review recommendations for delivery of ecologically sustainable forest management as recommended by the Ramsay Report. (chapter two)</i>	Agreed. Already In progress through the State government RFA Implementation Group.	Agreed. Already In progress through the State government RFA Implementation Group.
18	<i>In the absence of any overarching vegetation management authority, this function [monitoring and reporting of non-forest vegetation losses, both threatened and non-threatened] should be adopted by the Forest Practices Authority. This may require legislative change and adequate resourcing. (chapters two and four)</i>	Not agreed. This issue requires wider consideration. Should be referred to the Vegetation Management Policy Advisory Group (VMPAG) for the development of policy and approach.	Not agreed. This issue requires wider consideration. Should be referred to the Vegetation Management Policy Advisory Group (VMPAG) for the development of policy and approach.

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
21	<i>The state should immediately review the implementation of its Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy because clearance levels are approaching thresholds. (chapter two)</i>	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>The level of clearance is managed within an existing State government policy. Approaching the limit specified in the Policy is not a necessary reason to review policy implementation. However, there may be matters of managing the approach to and after the policy limits that warrant consideration.</p> <p>The FPA should continue to make the State and the stakeholders aware that the maintenance level is rapidly approaching.</p>	<p>The board of the FPA has provided regular advice to parliament on progress with the PNFE policy through its Annual Reports. The FPA wrote to the Minister in mid 2009 to raise concern about the approaching thresholds. The Minister sought a review of the policy and subsequently issued a revised policy on 21/12/09, which addresses the approaching thresholds by imposing a limit of 40 ha per property per year on future conversions in order to slow down the rate of conversion.</p>
22	<i>Maintain forest areas so that a 50% loss since 1750 on a bioregional basis is not approached. In those areas where this is being approached, or has already been exceeded, maintain all existing viable forest areas. (chapter two, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>This is a matter for State government policy. FPAC notes that the existing Statewide policy limits are being approached which will preclude any further broadscale clearing. Any decision to change existing policy should be taken in the context of socio-economic factors as well as biodiversity needs.</p>	<p>Further to Rec 21 above, the revised policy does not address pre-1750 forest loss.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
23	<i>Native forest community bioregional thresholds should be set at a threshold of maintaining 75% of the 1996 area or 2000 ha, whichever is the greater, unless a review of mapping and conservation status determines those communities are not of bioregional significance. (chapter two, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	Not agreed. This is a matter for State government policy. FPAC notes that the existing Statewide policy limits are being approached which will preclude any further broadscale clearing. Any decision to change existing policy should be taken in the context of socio-economic factors as well as biodiversity needs.	Further to Rec 21 above, the revised policy incorporates this recommendation.
38	<i>A formal, regular and transparent process be adopted for review and update of forest and non-forest species which potentially could become threatened. (chapter four).</i>	Agreed. Review and update of the conservation status of species is the responsibility of DPIW. FPA should discuss with DPIW the development of such a process.	The FPA will consult with DPIPWE in the first instance and provide advice to the Minister.

Table 2 Category 2 - Matters relating to the Forest Practices Act itself

The recommended action relates to provisions in the Forest Practices Act itself and requires review and/or amendment of that Act. The proposed response to these recommendations would involve an approach to Government for action with regard to the Act where appropriate.

Recommendations: 2,4,6,9 (9.5%)

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
2	<i>As a result of the Panel's review some changes would be needed in legislation and policies to enable the Forest Practices System to assist forest management systems to achieve sustainable management of biodiversity, such as to allow for the inclusion of measurable objectives in the Code, establishing consistency in threatened species management. (Chapter 2)</i>	Agreed in principle. Needs further consideration with regard to what specific changes to legislation and policy are needed and how objectives are defined and set.	The FPA will consult with DPIPWE in the first instance and provide advice to the Minister.
4	<i>Incorporate biodiversity conservation as a specific objective into the Forest Practices Act and include clear biodiversity objectives, sub-objectives and measurable outcomes in the Forest Practices Code (chapter two)</i>	Agreed in principle. Needs further consideration with regard to how objectives are defined and set.	The FPA will consult with DPIPWE in the first instance and provide advice to the Minister.
6	<i>Incorporate the National Forest Policy Statement's definition of sustainable forest management into the Forest Practices Act and revise the objective of the Forest Practices Act accordingly. (chapter two)</i>	Agreed in principle. The FPA should include a definition of SFM and that this could be developed from the current definition in the NFPS.	The FPA believes that the FP Act should contain a broad definition of sustainable forest management and that a more definitive statement should be articulated by way of a Forest Policy that sets out how the state will seek to achieve a sustainable balance of environmental, social and economic factors. The FPA will provide advice on this matter to

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			the Minister.
9	<i>The concept of adaptive management and its key components should formally be recognised in the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practices Code so that changes can readily be incorporated.</i> (chapter three)	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The Act already includes provision for an emphasis on research, review and continual improvement. This covers the clear intent of this recommendation. No further amendment to the Act is necessary.</p> <p>The FPA should formally document its procedures with regard to implementation of its adaptive management process.</p>	<p>The FPA believes that the term 'adaptive management' needs to be carefully defined within the current statutory requirements for research, review and continual improvement. The FPA will prepare a discussion paper on how this term will be defined and used in the context of the forest practices system.</p>

Table 3 Category 3 - Matters relating to FPA Policies and Procedures – which can be implemented now

The recommended action relates to FPA policies and processes and, in the view of FPAC, should be implemented forthwith.

Recommendation: 10,11,12,19,35,36 (14.3%)

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
10	<i>Sufficient resources should be made available to allow for maintenance of adequate databases, mapping and GIS facilities. (chapters three and four)</i>	Agreed. This is a matter for the FPA to decide in the context of its operations as a whole, including its budgetary process.	The FPA is currently preparing a budget submission to secure ongoing funding for its GIS/database capacity.
11	<i>A review be undertaken into ways of increasing relevant research capacity to support the forest practices system, including reviewing the research role of the Forest Practices Authority, academia, industry and other sources. In any event, the Forest Practices Authority should actively seek to increase its capacity to address biodiversity-related issues especially to facilitate and assimilate relevant research as well as addressing needs for GIS and database establishment and maintenance. (chapter five)</i>	Agreed.	The FPA has continually sought ways to enhance the research capacity within the forest practices system and it will continue to make this a priority, starting with the completion of a document that sets out how research priorities are set and resourced within the FPA.
12	<i>The Forest Practices Authority actively reviews and upgrades a systematic program of effectiveness monitoring for biodiversity conservation. (chapter five)</i>	Agreed.	The FPA has identified this as a priority and it has commenced the development of a systematic program for effectiveness monitoring across all values.

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
19	<p><i>There should be ongoing development of tools required to meet the recommended principles and objectives. The forest practices system planning and information support tools should be captured in a web-based Biodiversity Decision Support System so that it can be easily updated and accessed by planners and practitioners. (chapter four)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Review of planning tools required to assist forest managers.</p> <p>Development of an integrated FPA web-based Decision Support System for forest planners. This would be a 'one-stop shop' for FP system planning tools, including relevant GIS information.</p>	<p>The ongoing improvement of planning tools is a priority and it will remain so subject to funding.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
34	<p><i>That the Forest Practices Code specifically emphasise the importance of ensuring that species currently not threatened do not become threatened through forestry actions. (chapters one and two)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>This reflects existing policy as expressed in the Threatened Species Strategy which has objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “1. Ensure that threatened species can survive and flourish in the wild. 2. Ensure that threatened species in their habitats retain their genetic diversity and potential for evolutionary development. 3. Prevent further species from becoming threatened.” <p>And is consistent with the Objective 3a) in Schedule 2 of the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “3. The objectives of the threatened species protection system established by this Act are, in support of the objectives specified in Part 1 of this Schedule – (a) to ensure that all native flora and fauna in Tasmania can survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild;” 	<p>Agreed. This is a key principle. A systematic process needs to be developed to be able to identify species that may be at risk of becoming threatened, noting that it is not possible to monitor all species and that a more strategic approach needs to be developed to manage habitat at the landscape level in time and space. The FPA will liaise with DPIPW and other land managers to develop more strategic approaches.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
35	<i>The Forest Practices Authority should seek to ensure that there are clear links between its biodiversity conservation measures and processes and the requirements of threatened species Recovery Plans and Listing Statements. (chapters two and four)</i>	Agreed. Requirements of Recovery Plans and Listing Statements for threatened species to be taken into account in the development of any management actions delivered via the FP system.	Agreed. The FPA and DPIPWE will, through the Agreed Procedures Requirements seek to ensure that Recovery Plans and Listing Statements for threatened species are developed in consideration of any management actions that can be delivered via the FP system.
36	<i>The Forest Practices Authority should encourage the development of strategic level planning tools and processes relevant to threatened species. (chapter four)</i>	Agreed.	Agreed, see Rec.34.

Table 4 Category 4 - Matters relating to FPA Policies and Procedures – requiring further consideration

The recommended action relates to FPA policies and processes but needs further consideration before a decision on adoption or otherwise by the FPA, typically to consider matters of balance between natural, social and economic values. **There is no reason such further consideration cannot be undertaken within the timelines of the current Code review.**

Recommendation:5,8,13,15,20,30,37 (17%)

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
5	<p><i>Incorporate those sub-objectives and measurable outcomes identified in table 6.1 into the Forest Practices Code. Reporting on progress should be formally linked to Forest Practices Authority annual reporting and/or to State of Forest reporting as appropriate. (chapter six, table 6.1). Further development and quantification of several sub-objectives identified in table 6.1 [in particular those identified by the panel as requiring further development and consultation] should be carried out by the Forest Practices Authority, in consultation with stakeholders so that implementation is practical and measurable. The panel consider that the consultation process should not be used to delay implementation of the measurable objectives.</i></p>	<p>Agreed in principle.</p> <p>FPA to convene a group to further consider, develop and quantify the measurable objectives provided in table 6.1. As noted in the recommendation, it is important that this should be carried out, “in consultation with stakeholders so that implementation is practical and measurable”.</p>	<p>Agreed, noting that sub-objectives and outcomes must be derived from higher level policy (see Recs.2 and 4)</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
8	<p><i>The forest practices system should increase its capacity to plan and manage strategically to provide more effective landscape level guidance for planners. Four scales of planning should be considered. These scales are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. statewide</i> <i>2. bioregional (IBRA)</i> <i>3. Planning Context Unit (PCU)—a notional contextual area around the planning node which depends on the scale of operation—the panel suggest using the CFEV major drainage basins</i> <i>4. Coupe Context Unit (CCU) which on State forest may be a notional 400 ha unit around the coupe, or may be a private property boundary and surrounding land-use context.</i> <p>(chapter four)</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>FPA should consider, in consultation with stakeholders, proposed planning scales for inclusion in the revised Forest Practices Code and associated planning documents.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The FPA will consider, in consultation with stakeholders, proposed planning scales for inclusion in the revised Forest Practices Code and associated planning documents.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
13	<p><i>The Forest Practices Authority should collaborate with other relevant bodies, including DPIW, FT, PFT and private land stakeholders to prepare a discussion paper on its role in the provision of strategic level planning, with a view to informing government on the need to clarify roles and responsibilities across government for the strategic level conservation of biodiversity outside of reserves. This paper should include discussion on strategies and processes to deal with emerging issues such as the effects of climate change. (chapters three and four)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Discussion paper needed on the role of the Forest Practices System in strategic level conservation of biodiversity outside of reserves.</p>	<p>Agreed, this needs to be done in conjunction with Recs. 2, 4 and 34.</p>
15	<p><i>Biodiversity conservation issues should be considered at each of the four scales (see Recommendation 8) at the planning stage and integrated with other non-wood values (e.g. visual landscape, cultural heritage). (chapter four)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Consider and develop a process to enable consideration of all 'special' values at each of the four scales. This would include provision of integrated advice from FPA specialists early in the planning phase (e.g. development of three year plan, property planning), wherever possible.</p>	<p>Agreed, this needs to be done in conjunction with Recs. 2, 4 and 34.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
20	<i>The history of management for the conservation of biodiversity values under the forest practices system should be formally recorded on an appropriate database to aid in future decision making and ensure continuity of management. The degree to which this is undertaken would vary depending on the measure applied and this should be determined by the Forest Practices Authority. (chapter four)</i>	Agreed. But, implementation in detail needs to be on a basis agreed by FPA in - consultation – with stakeholders, for reasons such as practicality and cost effectiveness..	The FPA will maintain a database of FPPs and biodiversity advice as a record of the prescriptions applied to operational areas. The FPA will investigate the feasibility of maintaining the FPP data as a spatial (GIS) system.
37	<i>Relevant authorities should progress programs to integrate threatened species into landscape level planning, using multi-species approaches where appropriate. (chapter four)</i>	Agreed.	Agreed, see Rec. 34.

Table 5. Category 5 - Matters relating to the Forest Practices Code – which can be implemented now as part of the current Code review

The recommended action relates to provisions of the Forest Practices Code itself (typically review or amendment of existing measures) and, in the view of FPAC, should be implemented forthwith.

Recommendation: 16,17 (17.1 and 17.2), 24,27,31,41.(17%)

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
16	<i>Gene conservation issue such as the current management to ameliorate exotic gene flow from Eucalyptus nitens to E. ovata should be included in the Forest Practices Code.(chapter four)</i>	Agreed. The gene conservation issue should be included in the Code. Exactly how this is done needs further discussion with stakeholders.	This will be addressed as part of the current review of the code.
17(17.1 and 17.2 only)	<p><i>The following elements should be incorporated into the overarching Forest Practices Code principles:</i></p> <p><i>17.1 Change flora and fauna in the Forest Practices Code to biodiversity to include three levels of biodiversity—genes, species and ecosystems. (chapter two)</i></p> <p><i>17.2 Planning should consider appropriate spatial and temporal scales and integrate relevant terrestrial and aquatic systems. (chapters two and four)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Incorporate into principles of Forest Practices Code</p>	This will be addressed as part of the current review of the code.
24	<i>The Forest Practices Code should explicitly recognise the importance of maintaining old growth attributes in the forest and of maintaining structural diversity across the landscape. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Include this as a provision in planning section of revised Forest Practices Code.</p> <p>FPA to provide appropriate planning tool via its</p>	This will be addressed as part of the current review of the code.

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
		web-site and to monitor implementation.	
27	<i>The Forest Practices Code should recognise that there are a number of ways of achieving structural habitat retention and flexibility of prescription application should be used to meet this objective, albeit with a reporting requirement to ensure that appropriate provisions have been made. (chapter four)</i>	Agreed.	This will be addressed as part of the current review of the code.
31	<i>Rehabilitation to become a 'should be considered' requirement in general and a 'will' requirement where required to meet specified ecological objectives. For example, rehabilitation of stream-side vegetation may be required where clear and positive biodiversity outcomes can be achieved in a practical way. (chapter four)</i>	Agree in principle. Exactly how this is done has important socio-economic and biodiversity implications, and therefore needs further discussion with stakeholders.	This will be addressed as part of the current review of the code.
41	<i>That the current revision of the Forest Practices Code evaluate, and where relevant incorporate additional suggestions made by the panel in the body of this report and on existing biodiversity provisions of the Forest Practices Code. (Appendix F)</i>	Agreed. Incorporate into the revised Forest Practices Code where relevant.	This will be addressed as part of the current review of the code.

Table 6. Category 6 - Matters relating to the Forest Practices Code - requiring further consideration as part of the current Code review

The recommended action relates to provisions of the Forest Practices Code itself (typically review or amendment of existing measures) but needs further consideration before that is done, typically to consider matters of balance between natural, social and economic values.

Recommendation: 14,17 (17.3),25,26,28,29,30,32,33,39,40 (26%)

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
14	<p><i>The panel note and endorse that the current Forest Practices Code Wildlife Habitat Strip provision applies to both state and private land where relevant. They encourage the further development on private land where this is achievable. (chapter four)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>FPAC notes/recognises that WHSs are appropriate for large forest holdings in Public and Private estates but are not appropriate across multiple small scale holdings where the principle of ‘duty of care’ should be used to achieve the same aim of WHSs – connectivity, linkages and retention of mature forest elements. A clear objective is needed and flexibility in ways to achieve the objective. The FPA should recommend a clear objective and consult with stakeholders on how to progress this.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The FPA recognises that WHSs are appropriate for large forest holdings in Public and Private estates but are not appropriate across multiple small scale holdings where the principle of ‘duty of care’ should be used to achieve the same aim of WHSs – connectivity, linkages and retention of mature forest elements. A clear objective is needed and flexibility in ways to achieve the objective. The FPA will recommend a clear objective and consult with stakeholders on how to progress this.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
17(17.3)	<p><i>The following elements should be incorporated into the overarching Forest Practices Code principles:</i></p> <p><i>17.3 Adoption of more surrogate habitat approaches and other systems combined with individual prescriptions where these are needed. In some cases the tools for such an approach are already in place e.g. the Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values database. (chapters three and four)</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>FPA should develop further surrogate habitat approaches for incorporation into the Forest Practices Code. Translation from principle to practical measures needs to be done with care.</p>	<p>Agreed, this will be pursued in conjunction with Rec.34.</p>
25	<p><i>In order to maintain structural diversity in the forests, no more than 15% of the native forested area of any CFEV catchment should be harvested by clearfell burn and sow methods in any 10 year period. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i></p>	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>FPAC accepts the principle of an objective to maintain structural diversity within a catchment but the proposed percentage figure is not agreed. Difficulties in implementing this, particularly on private property, including socio-economic implications means that it needs to be discussed a good deal more before moving to implementation.</p>	<p>The FPA believes that the selection and intensity of silvicultural regimes should be covered by a Forest Policy (see Rec.6), which identifies the criteria for the appropriate type and intensity of regimes according to broader environmental, social and economic factors.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
26	<i>Aim to maintain at least 30% of native vegetation (e.g. 30% cover or basal area) with a focus on trees with mature and old growth elements currently available at all four spatial scales. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	Not agreed. FPAC accepts the principle of maintenance of a proportion of mature forest elements at different spatial scales, but the proposed percentage figure is not agreed. This issue has very strong socio-economic implications on both private property and state forest, and therefore needs very careful consultation before moving to implementation.	The FPA believes that the intensity of harvesting practices (including the size and dispersal of coupes) and broad objectives for retaining structural diversity should be covered by a Forest Policy (see Rec.6), which takes account of broader environmental, social and economic objectives.
28	<i>The forest practices system and Forest Practices Code should take appropriate account of biodiversity conservation in the context of planning and management of plantations, and the current code review should address this need as an explicit task. (chapter four)</i>	Agreed. The definition of ‘appropriate account’ is fundamentally important here and must take full account of socio-economic factors.	This will be done as part of the current review of the code –see also Rec.29.

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
29	<p><i>In June 2000, a workshop on Fauna Issues and Plantation Design was convened by the Forest Practices Authority and the CRC for Sustainable Forest Production (Munks and McArthur 2001). The outcomes of the workshop provide a set of principles and recommendations which could be incorporated into the Forest Practices Code after a review to clarify conflicts between some recommendations for browsing control and those for biodiversity maintenance. (chapter four)</i></p>	<p>Agree in principle.</p> <p>The principles and recommendations of the workshop should be considered as part of the Code review.</p> <p>Plantation management has a role in the broader context of biodiversity conservation. That role needs its own consideration and outcomes of this should not be pre-empted.</p>	<p>Agreed, in conjunction with Rec.28.</p>
30	<p><i>The Forest Practices Authority should develop water-specific planning tools to maintain a proportion of unharvested headwater catchments and to maintain the spatial and temporal integrity of longitudinal and lateral connections of river headwater networks. These planning tools should take a flexible approach and the proportion of catchment required may be achieved as part of the CCU planning aim to maintain 30% of native vegetation. The effectiveness of the measures applied need to be monitored and the measures need to be further developed through research. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i></p>	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>FPAC supports the development of specific planning tools by the FPA in partnership with relevant agencies, but the proportion of vegetation to be retained is not agreed and requires economic analysis and consideration before the concept is finalised.</p>	<p>The FPA believes that this is more appropriately the primary responsibility of the DPIPW and that it should be pursued in conjunction with Recs. 1 and 3.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
32	<i>In the absence of an integrated statewide approach to the conservation of remnant vegetation, the forest practices system should specifically address the retention and management of remnant vegetation in different situations, with an emphasis on remnants of high conservation significance.</i> (chapter four)	Agreed. Include as a principle/objective in Forest Practices System. Exactly how this is done needs further discussion with stakeholders and agreed definitions of remnant vegetation and high conservation significance.	This will be done as part of the current review of the code.

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
33	<p><i>The following aspirational objective be included for the management of genetic resources in areas covered by the forest practices system:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Maintain natural levels of genetic diversity and patterns of differentiation in forest tree species and species complexes to ensure their long-term evolutionary potential retain natural values and retain genetic resources for human use. (chapter two)</i></p> <p><i>The panel note that this objective could only be operationalised through the application of specific examples such as the protection of geographically separate or genetically distinct populations, the use of local seed sources, and the management/mitigation of gene incursions by exotic species. Some of these procedures are already in place.</i></p>	<p>Agreed in principle.</p> <p>FPAC notes that wording needs further attention. This goal is already in the Code but needs rewording. Agreement is subject to rewording.</p>	<p>This will be done as part of the current review of the code.</p>

Rec No.	Recommendation	Proposed actions and comments from FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
39	<p><i>That the Forest Practices Code encourages the move away from reliance on large and extensive clearfell burn and sow (CBS) harvesting systems in native forests and that maximum CBS coupe size should generally not exceed 60 ha. Where coupe sizes need to be larger (e.g. for safety and fire management considerations or to avoid adverse environmental outcomes) the reasons should be explicitly stated. (chapter four, chapter 6, table 6.1)</i></p>	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>FPAC accepts that a move away from reliance on large and extensive CBS harvesting systems in native forests is desirable in principle. The context of any detail of such a move, including coupe size, needs much more discussion.</p>	<p>The FPA believes that the intensity of harvesting practices (including the size and dispersal of coupes) and broad objectives for retaining structural diversity should be covered by a Forest Policy (see Recs.6 and 26), which takes account of broader environmental, social and economic objectives.</p>
40	<p><i>That the Forest Practices Code incorporate provisions on the size and dispersal of coupes in relation to both plantations and native forest to ensure the maintenance of structural diversity at multiple spatial scales. (chapter four)</i></p>	<p>Not agreed.</p> <p>FPAC believes that this issue should not be progressed beyond what is currently in the Code, without further analysis.</p>	<p>The FPA believes that the intensity of harvesting practices (including the size and dispersal of coupes) and broad objectives for retaining structural diversity should be covered by a Forest Policy (see Recs.6 and 26), which takes account of broader environmental, social and economic objectives.</p>

Attachment 2 Alternative responses to Specific Recommendations

Whilst the Council reached consensus on the appropriate response to most of the recommendations as outlined in Attachment 1 some members expressed alternative views in respect of some key recommendations. These are detailed below.

Table 1 Category 1 - Matters for decision by agencies other than the FPA, or by the State Government generally

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
21	<i>The state should immediately review the implementation of its Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy because clearance levels are approaching thresholds. (chapter two)</i>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The rapid approach of the clearance thresholds requires an urgent review of the implementation of the policy</p> <p>The FPA should continue to make the State and the stakeholders aware that the maintenance level is rapidly approaching and advocate immediate review.</p>	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 21

Category 2**Matters Relating to the Forest Practices Act itself**

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
4	<i>Incorporate biodiversity conservation as a specific objective into the Forest Practices Act and include clear biodiversity objectives, sub-objectives and measurable outcomes in the Forest Practices Code (chapter two)</i>	<p>The alternative view in respect of recommendations 4,6 and 9 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that they should all be agreed, • that the Forest Practices Act and the Forest Practices Code should be amended to specifically incorporate biodiversity conservation as an objective of the Act, • that the Forest Practices Act incorporate the NFPS definition of Sustainable Forest Management, and • the Act and Code formally recognise the concept of adaptive management. 	See response for Attachment 1 Recs 4,6 & 9
6	<i>Incorporate the National Forest Policy Statement's definition of sustainable forest management into the Forest Practices Act and revise the objective of the Forest Practices Act accordingly. (chapter two)</i>	See above	See response for Attachment 1 Recs 4,6 & 9

Category 2**Matters Relating to the Forest Practices Act itself**

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
9	<i>The concept of adaptive management and its key components should formally be recognised in the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practices Code so that changes can readily be incorporated. (chapter three)</i>	See above The FPA should formally document its procedures with regard to implementation of its adaptive management process.	See response for Attachment 1 Recs 4,6 & 9

Category 3***Matters relating to FPA Policies and Procedures – which can be implemented now***

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
22	<i>Maintain forest areas so that a 50% loss since 1750 on a bioregional basis is not approached. In those areas where this is being approached, or has already been exceeded, maintain all existing viable forest areas. (chapter two, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	Agreed It was argued that this should be agreed on socio-economic and biodiversity grounds. It was further argued that such a policy is required to achieve sustainable forest management on land subject to Forest Practices regulation.	See response for Attachment 1 Rec. 22

Category 3**Matters relating to FPA Policies and Procedures – which can be implemented now**

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
23	<i>Native forest community bioregional thresholds should be set at a threshold of maintaining 75% of the 1996 area or 2000 ha, whichever is the greater, unless a review of mapping and conservation status determines those communities are not of bioregional significance. (chapter two, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>It was argued that this should be agreed on socio-economic and biodiversity grounds. It was further argued that such a policy is required to achieve sustainable forest management on land subject to Forest Practices regulation. Some forest communities in some bioregions have been cleared well beyond the 75% remaining since 1996 threshold (67% and 68% for E.regnans in Ben Lomond and Woolnorth respectively) and are effectively bioregionally threatened.</p>	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 23

Category 3**Matters relating to FPA Policies and Procedures – which can be implemented now**

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
5	<p><i>Incorporate those sub-objectives and measurable outcomes identified in table 6.1 into the Forest Practices Code. Reporting on progress should be formally linked to Forest Practices Authority annual reporting and/or to State of Forest reporting as appropriate. (chapter six, table 6.1). Further development and quantification of several sub-objectives identified in table 6.1 [in particular those identified by the panel as requiring further development and consultation] should be carried out by the Forest Practices Authority, in consultation with stakeholders so that implementation is practical and measurable. The panel consider that the consultation process should not be used to delay implementation of the measurable objectives.</i></p>	<p>Agreed for those sub-objectives and measurable outcomes already finalised by the Panel in Table 6.1. These are marked with an *3 and the panel considered the performance indicators to be sufficiently robust to be implemented immediately.</p> <p>Agreed in principle - for those the Panel identified requiring further development. FPA to convene a group to further consider, develop and quantify the measurable objectives provided in table 6.1 requiring further development. As noted in the recommendation, it is important that this should be carried out, <i>“in consultation with stakeholders so that implementation is practical and measurable”</i>.</p>	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 5

Category 5

Matters relating to the Forest Practices Code - requiring further consideration as part of the current Code review

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
25	<i>In order to maintain structural diversity in the forests, no more than 15% of the native forested area of any CFEV catchment should be harvested by clearfell burn and sow methods in any 10 year period. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	<p>For recommendations 25,26, 30, 39 an 40 below the alternative view is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they should all be agreed; • that there is a degree of urgency; and • that the need for careful consultation should not delay moves to implementation. <p>The 15% threshold is needed to ensure that particular catchments are sustainably managed. The panel has provided evidence that some catchments have had 40% clearfell and conversion to plantation in a 9 year period.</p>	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 25
26	<i>Aim to maintain at least 30% of native vegetation (e.g. 30% cover or basal area) with a focus on trees with mature and old growth elements currently available at all four spatial scales. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	<p>As Above</p> <p>Agreed in principle</p>	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 26

Category 5

Matters relating to the Forest Practices Code - requiring further consideration as part of the current Code review

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
30	<i>The Forest Practices Authority should develop water-specific planning tools to maintain a proportion of unharvested headwater catchments and to maintain the spatial and temporal integrity of longitudinal and lateral connections of river headwater networks. These planning tools should take a flexible approach and the proportion of catchment required may be achieved as part of the CCU planning aim to maintain 30% of native vegetation. The effectiveness of the measures applied need to be monitored and the measures need to be further developed through research. (chapter four, chapter six, table 6.1)</i>	As Above	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 30
39	<i>That the Forest Practices Code encourages the move away from reliance on large and extensive clearfell burn and sow (CBS) harvesting systems in native forests and that maximum CBS coupe size should generally not exceed 60 ha. Where coupe sizes need to be larger (e.g. for safety and fire management considerations or to avoid adverse environmental outcomes) the reasons should be explicitly stated. (chapter four, chapter 6, table 6.1)</i>	As above	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 39

Category 5

Matters relating to the Forest Practices Code - requiring further consideration as part of the current Code review

Rec No.	Recommendation	Alternative views by some members of FPAC	Response of FPA to recommendations
40	<i>That the Forest Practices Code incorporate provisions on the size and dispersal of coupes in relation to both plantations and native forest to ensure the maintenance of structural diversity at multiple spatial scales. (chapter four)</i>	As Above	See response for Attachment 1 Rec 40