

Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2000

DECEMBER 2000

Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) has required work related to several categories:

- ◆ implementation of the RFA milestones;
- ◆ financial assistance package of the Commonwealth;
- ◆ employment and industries development strategy; and
- ◆ parliamentary commitments by the Tasmanian government.

This report fulfils Tasmania's obligations under clause 44 of the Regional Forest Agreement;

"The Parties agree to provide each other annually for the first five years ... with written reports detailing the achievement of milestones." The milestones are as documented in Attachment 3 to the RFA.

The second purpose of this report is to provide information on the acquittal of RFA funds received from the Commonwealth in the 1999/2000 financial year.

1. RFA milestones report.

This is the third RFA implementation report. Milestones due and completed prior to December 1999 were reported in the previous reports and are not repeated in this report.

The remaining milestones documented in Attachment 3 to the RFA have been sorted so as to report first on those milestones due by December 2000. Although only milestones to be met carried forward from previous years or for the third year are required to be reported, information has been included where significant progress has been made towards meeting these later or non specific milestones. Those milestones, which do not require reporting this year, and have not involved significant action to this point of time, have been omitted. Each action milestone is accompanied by a progress report.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2000 YEAR
Milestones due by December 2000			
#24(d)	The State to proclaim remaining new reserves within 3 months of proclamation of the new land classification system	31 July 1999	Following review of final group of reserves by RPDC, and parliamentary approval, proclamations for 17 new or extended Nature Reserves, 4 new or extended State Reserves, 2 National Park extensions, four new Forest Reserves and 62 new or extended Conservation Areas, Nature Recreation areas or Regional Reserves issued in Dec. 2000. This completes this milestone.
#39	The State and the Commonwealth to jointly participate in further World heritage assessment of the relevant themes	by 30 June 1998	Tasmania has participated in the development of a draft report by a national expert panel assessing the proposed eucalypt-dominated vegetation theme Tasmania is awaiting referral of this report for consideration.
#44	The parties to provide each other with written reports detailing the achievements of Milestones	annually for the first 5 years; then 5 yearly	This report fulfils this milestone.
#91	The State and the Commonwealth to develop a set of appropriate, practical, and cost effective sustainability indicators.	by 1 December 1999	Tasmania and the Commonwealth released a joint discussion paper for public comment on 17 November 1999 which set out the draft sustainability indicators to be reported against in 2002, when reviewing the performance of the RFA. The final agreed indicators paper was released in June 2000. Planning for the measurement and reporting of these indicators in 2002 has commenced.
#94	The State to publish and make publicly available compliance audits of the Forest Practice Act and Code and the code of reserve management. See also #Att 11,3	annually: (1998-2017)	Forest Practices Board completed the annual compliance audit of the Forest Practices Code as part of its Annual Report for 1999/2000, which is publicly available and tabled in Parliament. The Reserve Management Code is not yet completed.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2000 YEAR
#Att 1. 6.	The State and the Commonwealth to jointly fund and accredit digital maps at 1:100 000 scale of all lands in Tasmania listed on the Register of the National Estate	by 31 December 1998.	1:100,000 digital maps of existing NE areas were produced for the CRA. Substantial work has been done by EA, DPWIE and FT to progress the identification of new and revised listings in accordance with Attachment 1 of the RFA. The Commonwealth has announced its intentions to amend the <i>Australian Heritage Commission Act</i> and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> to provide for a National Heritage Places List to replace the Register of the National Estate. It has been jointly agreed to suspend further work on identifying places to add to the Register pending the outcomes of these legislative amendments.
#Att 6. 5.	The State to finalise boundaries (of CAR reserves) on 1:25 000 maps to enable gazettal.	by 30 June 1999	Boundaries have been finalised. Reserve proclamations issued in Dec 2000
#Att 9. 8.	The State to introduce, in respect of Private Land, mechanisms to encourage native vegetation retention and management.	by the year 1999	This issue is being addressed in concert with Tasmanian Nature Conservation Strategy (see Att. 10, 3). An advanced draft is close to finalisation. Options have been prepared for consideration by government. Initiatives already being progressed include: protective covenants, management agreements linked to property management planning, 'Land for Wildlife' and other NHT programs.
#Att 10. 3.	The State to develop and implement a Threatened Species Protection Strategy	by 31 December 1998	A draft Strategy was released for two month period of public comment on 7 th July 1999. The final Threatened Species Protection Strategy has been approved by Cabinet and was released on 8 December 2000.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2000 YEAR
#Att 10. 3.	The State to develop and implement a Tasmanian Biodiversity Strategy	by 31 December 1999	The process to develop a Nature Conservation Strategy [New name to reflect coverage of abiotic components being included in the strategy] commenced January 2000. A State Steering committee has met on 19 occasions. A framework document plus 10 key issues papers have been subject to public comment. A draft strategy is being finalised for Ministerial approval for public release.
#Att 10. 8	Ensure that management plans are implemented for all State Forest and National Parks.	by the year 2000.	<p>FT has completed Forest Management Plans for its Forest Districts, which cover all areas of State forest including all Forest Reserves. All Plans incorporate RFA outcomes.</p> <p>Management plans will be in place for all national parks by 31 Dec. 2000 except for (a) Mt Field and Tasman, which should be in place during January 2001; (b) Mole Ck Karst and Savage River which should be completed by June 2001 and (c) Rocky Cape & Mt William which are not expected to be completed until late in 2001.</p>
#Att. 10.11	Develop and implement a code of practice for reserve management	by the year 2000	The Reserve Management Code of Practice has reached an advanced draft stage. Completion around June 2001 is anticipated.
#Att 11. 3.	Relevant State agencies to include in their annual reports a report on outcomes of the compliance audits for codes of practice, and the monitoring of Forest regeneration success and trends.	annually by financial year: (1997/98-2016/7)	<p>The Forest Practices Board has published relevant information in its Annual Report for 1999/2000. Changes to the <i>Forest Practices Act</i> from 1/7/99 require certificates of compliance to be lodged with the Forest Practices Board upon the completion of operations. The certificates include reporting on compliance with reforestation objectives as prescribed within Forest Practices Plans.</p> <p>Forestry Tasmania has published regeneration monitoring information in its Annual Reports since 1999.</p>

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2000 YEAR
Other relevant Milestones			
#55	The State to review and publish a report on its resource estimates for deep red myrtle available supply	during first 4 years of the RFA (2001)	Significant progress has been achieved on reviewing resource information. A project overview report was released on the Forestry Tasmania website in May. Ground checking of potential harvesting areas continues. The report will be released in 2001.
#59	The State agrees to implement a process which will facilitate the voluntary participation by private landowners to protect those values specified in Attachment 8	No date specified	<p>385 properties (90,000ha) were assessed and 19 properties secured (4,560 ha) . Eight of these have been secured by covenants linked to management agreements and a further 11 properties have been purchased. Negotiations are close to completion with a further 21 properties to be secured by covenants and 3 to be purchased. Negotiations are currently proceeding in relation to 154 properties.</p> <p>Negotiations are continuing on the issue of an exemption from of Capital Gains Tax in order to overcome the crippling disincentive posed by CGT to the program.</p> <p>Other strategic issues being pursued include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difficulty being experienced in conserving certain threatened communities; • The importance of strategic reserve design; • Improved governance, documentation and review procedures; and • Preparation of a business risk and management strategy.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2000 YEAR
#93	The State to develop and implement environmental management systems for forest management.	within 5 years of the RFA date	<p>Forestry Tasmania is well advanced in the development and implementation of an ISO 14001 compatible Environmental Management System. It is expected that the system will be completed for certification by mid 2001.</p> <p>DPIWE has undertaken a review of the Management Planning System under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act</i> and recommendations of the review are now being considered by government. The Reserve Management Code of Practice is in an advanced draft stage.</p>
#97	The State to maintain and update the Management Prescription database and the Response to Disturbance database	as necessary	<p>The Management Prescription database was updated to include prescriptions for forest communities. Work has progressed on non-forest vegetation communities. Prescriptions for all of the RFA priority species and communities have been completed. These are available via the WEB and continue to be accessed by the Private RFA Reserve project, Bushcare and other NHT projects. The Response to Disturbance database has needed no substantial updates and has been integrated with the Threatened Species Database.</p>
#98	The State to review sustainable high quality sawlog supply levels to reflect the changes in the forest inventory and new intensive management forest management initiatives concluded in the RFA.	during first year of the RFA; thereafter at the 5 yearly review (1998, 2002, 2007, 2012)	Preliminary planning for the next resource review has commenced
#Att 9, 11.	The State to review the policy for maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate as part of the ongoing review of the Forest Practices Code	during reviews of the Forest Practices Code	Progress in the maintenance of the Permanent Forest estate is reported in the Annual Report of the Forest Practices Board for 1999/2000. The Forest Practices Code has been reviewed and has incorporated the provisions of the Permanent Forest Policy.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2000 YEAR
#Att 10. 4.	Implementing the <i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i>	No milestone date	The Tasmanian Heritage Council added 88 new places to the Heritage Register, bringing the total number to in excess of 5,000 places - more than all the other States combined. Despite this very high level of heritage identification, Tasmania enjoys an extremely low rate of objection and appeal against its statutory judgments, which is an indicator that both the development industry and conservation groups are generally satisfied with Heritage Council decisions. Over 400 works or registration decisions were made during the year, with only one appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal.
#Att 10. 5.	The State to develop new legislation in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage to replace the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975	no milestone date	A Discussion Paper was printed and released for public comment. Analysis of public comments received is in progress. The issue is currently under consideration and will be subject to further consultation with the Aboriginal Community.
#Att 10, 7.	The State to develop and implement statewide policies across all tenures on fire management, nature based tourism and recreation management, cultural heritage management in forest, and forest pest and disease management.	within first 5 years of the RFA	Work has commenced on the draft policies.
#Att 10. 13	Ensuring that management plans for Formal Reserve and Informal Reserve elements of the CAR reserve system clearly identify the CAR values identified in the CRA and the actions being taken in each reserve to appropriately manage those values.	No milestone date	Forestry Tasmania's Forest Management Plans have identified CAR values in reserves and the management actions. Draft Management Plans being prepared for reserves under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970</i> all identify CAR values and have measures aimed at conserving them.

2 Financial Acquittal Report

An acquittal for the Regional Forest Agreement funds received from the Commonwealth, for the 1999/2000 financial year is shown in Appendix 1.

This itemises the funding by project numbers assigned by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. A description of these projects and their relationship to the Regional Forest Agreement clause numbers is also included.

Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement Annual Financial Report 1999/2000

Project Number	Project Description	Balance Brought Forward	Received from the Commonwealth	Expenditure Forestry Tasmania	Expenditure DPIWE	Expenditure DIER – Forest Practices	Expenditure Private Forests	Balance Carried Forward
69120	Forest Activities to offset CAR Reserves additions							
69121	Eucalypt Plantation Establishment	11,095,009	18,900,000					20,820,371
	- replanting 1998 age class			770,580				
	- planting 1999 age class			1,806,828				
	- site prep and planting 2000 age class			4,127,706				
	- site prep for 2001 age class			55,869				
	- land purchase /lease			2,413,655				
69122	Blackwood Plantation Enrichment	2,449,683	0	128,721				2,320,962
69123	Silver wattle and Special Species Plantations	350,000	0	0				350,000
69124	Thinning of Existing Forests	2,640,934	0	254,140				2386,794
69125	Supervision and Support Services	5,513,710	0	1,478,361				4,035,358
69130	Forest Activities Public Land							
69131	Eucalypt Plantation Develop	4,082,273	2,084,500	86,745				6,080,028
69132	In Coupe Roding and Equipment for Thinning	1,521,379	774,500	0				2,295,879
69133	Non chemical Pest Management	576,463	431,000	241,360				766,103
69140	Forest Activities Industry Development							
69141	New Processing Technology	933,700	466,300					1,400,000
69142	Special Species Timbers	199,372	134,000	78,417				254,955
69143	Resource Enhancement on Private Land	400,000	200,000				133,148	466,852

69144	New Regs for Forest Practices	200,794	133,700			69571		264,923
69145	Boat Board Wood Bank	134,000	66,000					200,000
69150	Forest Activities Infrastructure Development							
69151	Interpretation Centres	1,000,000	1,000,000		260,832			1,739,168
69152	Roading to increase productivity	463,410	2,000,000	1,449,420				1,013,990
69153	Reserve Establishment	(37925)	300,000		241,000			21,076
69160	Private CAR Reserve							
69161	Private Reserve Program	10,000,000	0		0			10,000,000
TOTAL		41,522,812	26,490,000	12,891,802	501,832	69,571	133,148	54,433,805

LIST OF RFA PROJECT CODES

Linked to *RFA Clauses*

69120 Forest Activities CAR Reserves - RFA clause 101 (i)

- 69121 Eucalypt Plantation Development
- 69122 Blackwood Plantations/Enhancement
- 69123 Acacia and Other Special Species Plantation
- 69124 Intensive Forest Management by Thinning Eucalypt Regrowth
- 69125 A Range of Support Services

69130 Forest Activities Public Land - RFA clause 101 (ii)

- 69131 Additional Eucalypt Plantation
- 69132 Forest Thinning Equipment and Roding for Thinning

69133 Non-Chemical Pest Management Research

69140 Forest Activities Industry Development - *RFA clause 101 (ii)*

69141 New Processing Technology Research to Enhance Industry Transition and Development

69142 Planning and Implementation of Long Rotation Supply of Special Species Timbers

69143 Resource Enhancement on Private Forest Land

69144 New Regulations for Forest Practices

69145 Boat Board Wood Bank

69150 Forest Activities Infrastructure Development - *RFA clause 101 (iii)*

69151 Construction of New Interpretation Centres

69152 Roding To Increase Productivity

69153 New Reserve Management

69160 Private Forest CAR Reserve Program

69161 Funding under *RFA clause 101 (iv)*