

Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 2001

DECEMBER 2001

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 2000/2001 financial year.

1. RFA milestones report.

This is the fourth and final annual RFA implementation report prepared by the Tasmanian Government. Clause 44 requires annual reports for the first five years with the fifth year being as part of the five year review due in 2002. Milestones due and completed prior to December 2000 were reported in the previous reports and are not repeated in this report. Most of the milestones were due and met prior to 2001.

The remaining milestones documented in Attachment 3 to the RFA have been sorted so as to report first on those milestones due by December 2001 and not completed at December 2000. Although only milestones to be met carried forward from previous years or for the fourth 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.

The Commonwealth will prepare a separate report for the RFA milestones and commitments it is responsible for.

More detailed reports on all of the RFA milestones and commitments of both Parties will be provided to inform the five year review of the RFA.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2001 YEAR
Milestones due by December 2001			
24(c)	The State introduce legislation to establish required new categories of the revised public land classification system	31 December 1998	The Regional Forest Agreement (Land Classification) Act 1998 provides for the new categories of reserves. All sections of the Act except those amending the Crown Lands Act to provide for public reserves have been proclaimed. It is expected that these remaining sections will be proclaimed by the end of 2001.
#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.
#45	The State and Commonwealth to review the performance of the RFA	5 yearly, first due 2002	Work has commenced to plan and prepare for the review. A scoping agreement defining the process has been agreed by the Parties. Work is well advanced on preparing various reports to inform the review. The formal 3 month review period is planned to commence in mid 2002.
#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)	The Forest Practices Board completed the annual compliance audit of the Forest Practices Code as part of its Annual Report for 2000/2001, which is publicly available and tabled in Parliament. The Reserve Management Code is not yet completed.
#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.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2001 YEAR
#Att. 9.5	State to conduct a formal review of the area of Forest Communities within each IBRA region	2002 as part of the 5 yearly review	Data to inform the review is currently being prepared. The Forest Practices Board monitors changes to the Permanent Forest Estate through the Forest Practices Plan process. Details on changes to the area of forest communities within each IBRA region are provided in the Board's Annual Report for 2000/2001.
#Att 9. 8.	The State to introduce, in respect of Private Land, mechanisms to encourage native vegetation retention and management.	by the year 1999	<p>A package of measures to encourage retention of native vegetation and management was announced in July 2001. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the Forest Practices Act to cover all tree clearing (legislation has been introduced to Parliament) • Review of the Permanent Forest Estate policy (underway) • Extension of vegetation mapping to non-forest vegetation (underway) • Identification of non-forest conservation priorities • Facilitation for private land conservation through incentives, conservation plans and education and awareness.
#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 in January 2000. A State Steering Committee has developed a Draft Strategy which was released for public comment in July 2001. Public comments are being collated. It is expected that the Committee will finalise the Strategy and submit it to the Minister by December 2001.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2001 YEAR
#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 are in place for 13 of the 18 national parks. Plans for Mt Field, Savage River and Mole Creek Karst National Parks are expected to be finalised once comments are reviewed by the RPDC, in line with new legislative requirements. Rocky Cape & Mt William Plans have been deferred pending discussions with the Aboriginal community concerning possible land transfers.</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 with considerable input from land management agencies. A draft is expected to be released for public comment by the end of 2001.
#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 2000/2001. 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>
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)	The report on the review of the deep red myrtle resource is almost completed. Arrangements are being made for independent audit of the resource estimates prior to public release of the report

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2001 YEAR
#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	To June 2001 over 500 properties (125,000ha) have been assessed and 37 properties secured (6,411 ha) . 24 of these have been secured by covenants linked to management agreements and a further 13 properties have been purchased. A further 57 properties (9,000 ha) have been approved for purchase or covenant. Negotiations on the issue of an exemption from of Capital Gains Tax has resulted in a recent announcement by the Federal Treasurer to decrease the CGT impost on private conservation land.
#93	The State to develop and implement environmental management systems for forest management.	within 5 years of the RFA date	Forestry Tasmania has completed development and implementation of an ISO 14001 compatible Environmental Management System The system has recently been assessed for certification to ISO 14001.
#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)	The next State forest resource review has commenced and will be completed prior to the 2002 five yearly RFA review. Private Forests Tasmania are undertaking a five yearly review of the private forest resource.
#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 2000/2001. The policy is currently being reviewed as input to the 5 yearly RFA review and as part of the Government's package to encourage native vegetation retention on private land (see #59)
#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	No legislation has been developed to date. However this reform remains on the Government's agenda. A discussion paper was released for public comment in 1998. Consultation with the Aboriginal community is proceeding but has been overtaken by issues associated with return of land to the community and awaiting outcomes on Commonwealth legislation..

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	ACTION IN 2001 YEAR
#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	Existing policies have been reviewed and an analysis of gaps undertaken. Work is underway to address policy gaps in these areas.
#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 2000/2001 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 2000/2001

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	20,820,371	-					12,714,258
	- replanting 1998/99 age class			163,138				
	- site prep. and planting 2000 age class			2,480,791				
	- site prep and planting 2001 age class			4,127,706				
	- site prep for 2002 age class			206,981				
	- Stand maintenance for earlier age classes			306,745				
	- land purchase /lease			820,752				
69122	Blackwood Plantation Enrichment	2,320,962	0	298,455				2,022,507
69123	Silver wattle and Special Species Plantations	350,000	0	0				350,000
69124	Thinning of Existing Forests	2,386,794	0	313,099				2,073,695
69125	Supervision and Support Services	4,035,358	0	1,357,962				2,677,396
69130	Forest Activities Public Land		0					
69131	Eucalypt Plantation Develop	6,080,028	0	31,670				6,048,358
69132	In Coupe Roding and Equipment for Thinning	2,295,879	0	187,032				2,108,847
69133	Non chemical Pest Management	766,103	0	194,685				571,418
69140	Forest Activities Industry Development							
69141	New Processing Technology	1,400,000						1,400,000
69142	Special Species Timbers	254,955	0	128,245				126,710
69143	Resource Enhancement on Private Land	466,852	0				159,949	306,903

69144	New Regs for Forest Practices	264,923	0			75,623		189,300
69145	Boat Board Wood Bank	200,000				0		200,000
69150	Forest Activities Infrastructure Development							
69151	Interpretation Centres	1,739,168	1,000,000		327,168			2,412,000
69152	Roading to increase productivity	1,013,990	0	13,990		708,154		291,846
69153	Reserve Establishment	21,076	0		21,076			0
69160	Private CAR Reserve							
69161	Private Reserve Program	10,000,000	0		0			10,000,000
TOTAL		54,416,549	1,000,000	10,631,251	348,244	783,777	159,949	43,493,238

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 Roading 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)*