

TASMANIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT – COMMONWEALTH IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 2001

Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – 2001

Introduction

Context

The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) was signed by the Prime Minister and the Tasmanian Premier on 8 November 1997. The Agreement is to remain in force for twenty years. Under the RFA there are two major monitoring and reporting requirements (clauses 44 and 45). For the first five years of the Agreement, the Commonwealth and Tasmania provide annual reports on the achievement of agreed undertakings, or milestones (set out in Attachment 3 of the RFA).

A performance review is to be undertaken during the last year of each five-year period. The first five-yearly review is scheduled for completion in November 2002.

Commonwealth RFA implementation report for 2001

This is the fourth Commonwealth implementation report. It provides information on Commonwealth action in 2001 towards implementation of the Tasmanian RFA, including progress on Commonwealth-specific milestones listed in Attachment 3 of the RFA, and the provision of Commonwealth funding committed to Tasmania under the RFA.

The main focus of this report is on those milestones due for completion by the Commonwealth during 2001. However, for the sake of completeness the report lists all milestones for which the Commonwealth is responsible, and reports on the achievement of past milestones.

The Commonwealth has completed all of these milestones or has made significant progress towards their finalisation this year.

A separate report outlines action by the Tasmanian Government towards implementation of specific milestones for which they are responsible.

Clause	2001 Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#8	The State and the Commonwealth to jointly determine the process for extending the RFA.	as part of the third 5 yearly review of the RFA (2012)	Target date not yet reached
#23(a)	The Commonwealth to prepare a policy outline for RFA legislation, which will include provisions as specified in clause 22.	by 31 Dec 1997	The Commonwealth released a policy paper outlining the proposed legislation in December 1997. The paper, <i>Commonwealth Legislation to Complement Regional Forest Agreements</i> , was circulated to all States and Territories as well as to a large number of stakeholders, including industry participants, industry associations, and conservation groups. The paper set out the basis of the proposed legislation to support RFAs and called for submissions by 31 January 1998. In addition, Commonwealth officials discussed the proposal with industry and conservation groups in Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra. Submissions and views expressed in the consultations were considered in finalising the Bill.
#23 (c)	The Commonwealth to introduce legislation to provide certainty to the provisions specified in clause 22.	by 30 June 1998	<p>The Regional Forest Agreements Bill was introduced into Parliament on three occasions since 1998. It first lapsed when Parliament was prorogued in 1998; had a number of amendments proposed by the Senate rejected by the House of Representatives; and was passed in the House in August 2001 but was not addressed by the Senate before the previous Parliament was prorogued.</p> <p>The Bill is scheduled for consideration in the Autumn sitting of Parliament in 2002.</p>
#39	The State and Commonwealth to jointly participate in further world heritage assessment of the relevant themes	by 30 June 1998	<p>Tasmania and the Commonwealth participated on a national expert panel to assess the proposed World Heritage sub-theme of Eucalypt-dominated vegetation. Tasmania provided comment to the draft report and the final report was produced in December 1999. The report can be accessed on the web at:</p> <p>http://www.rfa.gov.au/rfa/national/herwshprpt/index.html</p>

Clause	2001 Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#44	The parties to provide each other with written reports detailing the achievement of the milestones	annually for the first 5 years; then 5 yearly	This report fulfils this milestone for 2001 and completes the cycle of annual reports as required by the Agreement
#45	The State and the Commonwealth to review the performance of the RFA.	5 yearly (during the last year) (2002, 2007, 2012)	The Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments have signed a Scoping Agreement for the Five Year Review of Progress with Implementation of the RFA. This Scoping Agreement sets out the arrangements for the conduct of the review, including principles, timeframe, public consultation, governance and funding. These arrangements are consistent with the process specified in this clause.
#91	The State and Commonwealth to develop a set of appropriate, practical, and cost effective sustainability indicators (paraphrased)	by 1 December 1999	This report has been finalised. The Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments jointly agree that this report forms the basis for reporting against sustainability indicators in 2002, when reviewing performance of the implementation of the RFA for the 5-year review. A copy of the final report is available at: http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/rfa/rfa2002.pdf

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#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 areas listed on the Register of the National Estate were produced for the CRA. Substantial work has been done by Environment Australia, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment and Forestry Tasmania 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 1975</i> and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</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 the legislative amendments. As such, the Australian Heritage Commission is putting places into the Register of the National Estate database with a disclaimer indicating that Tasmania has not yet verified the records.
#Att 12.22	The Parties, based on the Agreement, will promote the sustainability of Tasmanian wood products in domestic and international markets.	ongoing	<p>The Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments, together with other State and Territory governments and forests industries, are sponsoring the development of an Australian Forestry Standard as a basis for voluntary forest management certification. The Standard will provide forest managers with a mechanism to promote wood products based on performance measures that support sustainability of forest management.</p> <p>The Commonwealth government has also been exploring options for international cooperation on forest certification and labelling of forest products following an international meeting in New York in November 1999. The Commonwealth initiated a report on critical elements for establishing comparability and equivalence between certification and labelling schemes. The report was released in October 2000 at the Hobart conference on certification and labelling. The aim is to ensure benefits arising from Australian certification,</p>

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			<p>particularly through the development of the Australian Forestry Standard, will be optimal and promote access to international markets.</p> <p>A joint “Statement on Sustainability” was signed by State and Commonwealth Ministers in 2000 and distributed widely to producers within Tasmania, and the corresponding marketing strategy is being supported principally by the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board and the Forests and Forest Industry Council.</p>
#Att 14, 2.5	Latest versions of all jointly owned data—listed in Schedule 1 of Attachment #14—to be exchanged.	within 3 months of commencement of RFA (March 1998)	Copies of the latest version of all Jointly Owned Data were exchanged by 31 May 1998. A full set of all of the jointly Owned Datasets is now held by each of the nominated custodian agencies: the Bureau of Rural Sciences and Environment Australia (for the Commonwealth), and by Forestry Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries, Water, and Environment (for the State). Reports and associated maps can be accessed at www.rfa.gov.au . The website was archived on compact disks in August 2001.
#Att 14, 3.	The State and the Commonwealth to delete all copies of Data which they do not own but were provided for of the RFA Purposes, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the respective Data owners	not later than one month after RFA is signed (December 1997)	The Commonwealth has deleted copies of data that it does not own but that were provided for RFA purposes. This was completed by 31 May 1998.
#Att 14, 4.1.	The State and the Commonwealth to list and archive Data used for RFA Purposes.	within three months of commencement of the RFA (March 1998)	All custodian agencies have listed and archived key datasets for which they were responsible for providing for RFA purposes. This was completed by 31 May 1998.

Other relevant clauses of the Tasmanian RFA

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#Att 8.18	The Commonwealth will provide funding for the program (to protect CAR Values on Private Land). Tasmania will contribute to the ongoing administrative costs of the program including monitoring.	N/A	The Commonwealth has provided over \$15 m funding to date, Tasmania has contributed \$300,000.
#Att 6.20	Commonwealth Informal Reserves will be included in new and revised Management Plans prepared for these areas.	by the year 2000	Management Plans have been prepared for these areas.