



# Extending the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement

The Australian and Tasmanian governments have committed to establish a 20 year rolling extension to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). To inform this process, we are seeking your feedback.

Stakeholders have had an initial opportunity to provide feedback (from 17 April to 12 June 2015) about extending the Tasmanian RFA, as part of the third five-yearly review of the RFA. This initial feedback, and the Independent Reviewer's report to the third five-yearly review of the Tasmanian RFA, has informed the focus of this additional consultation.

The governments will consider any practical improvements to the Tasmanian RFA, to ensure it remains effective and credible in the long term. While the governments are not negotiating a new RFA, or changing the Agreement's fundamental objectives, they have identified the following improvements to the RFA framework:

- **Streamlined and strengthened review and reporting arrangements** – presently the five yearly reviews examine the implementation of the RFA clause-by-clause. The improved review and reporting arrangements will be outcomes focused.
- **Improved and contemporary dispute resolution mechanisms** – these will give the governments more options for resolving issues about the implementation of the RFA.
- **Improved communication and consultation** – the governments will hold annual officials level bilateral meetings, in the interim years between five-yearly reviews, to discuss issues relating to the ongoing implementation of the RFA.
- **Modernisation of the RFA** – where practicable, the governments will update references to superseded legislation and policy.

The Tasmanian RFA is the governments' policy framework for delivering sustainable forest management in Tasmania. In extending the Tasmanian RFA, the governments will maintain the Agreement's key objectives:

- certainty of resource access and supply to Tasmania's forestry industry
- ecologically sustainable forest management and use of Tasmania's productive forests, and
- a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative reserve system.

## Have your say

Please complete the questionnaire and:

- Hand in while visiting a drop-in centre

**Monday 5 December 2016, 4.00–7.30pm** at Peach & Plum Rooms – Huon LINC, 1 Skinner Drive, Huonville

**Wednesday 7 December 2016, 4.00–7.30pm** at Wellers Inn, 36 Queen Street, Burnie

**Thursday 8 December 2016, 4.00–7.30pm** at The LINC, 51 King Street, Scottsdale

- Or, email your completed response to: [reviewrfa@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:reviewrfa@stategrowth.tas.gov.au).

Consultation closes **12.30pm AEDT, Friday, 23 December 2016**. Questionnaires received after this time may not be accepted.

## Your details

Given name

Ian

Family name

Newman

Organisation

Mobile phone

Email

## Please select one of the following

- I confirm that my completed questionnaire does not contain sensitive information and can be published in full on the Department of State Growth website.
- My completed questionnaire should **NOT** be published on the Department of State Growth website.

## Privacy Notice

You are providing personal information to the Tasmanian Department of State Growth (the Department), which will manage that information in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. The personal information collected here will be used by the Department for the purpose of receiving and verifying contact details for stakeholders who have chosen to submit a completed questionnaire on the extension to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement. Failure to provide this information may result in the non-acceptance of your questionnaire or records not being properly maintained. The Department may also use the information for related purposes, or disclose it to third parties, including the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, in circumstances allowed for by law. You have the right to access your personal information by request to the Department and you may be charged a fee for this service.

Copyright in completed questionnaires resides with the author(s), not with the Department.

In providing a completed questionnaire, you agree that:

- unless you indicate otherwise below (or as otherwise determined by the Department), your questionnaire will be published on the Department's website and will remain on the Department's website indefinitely
- the Department can contact you about your questionnaire
- for published questionnaires from individuals, your name will be published with your questionnaire. All other contact details will be removed from your questionnaire
- for published questionnaires from organisations, your name and your organisation's details will be published with your questionnaire.

Please select your interest/s with extending the RFA

- Forest management system
- Resource certainty
- Research and development
- Threatened species
- Comprehensive Adequate and Representative reserve system
- Heritage values
- Socio-economic data
- Value of industry
- Employment figures

Other interests (please list)

Your feedback

Please list any publicly available non-government documents, reports or data that the Australian and Tasmanian governments could consider in extending the Tasmanian RFA, and that have not already been provided to the governments through the third five-yearly RFA review, or by other means?

Where applicable, please list the publication title, date, author and url.

What improvements could be made to the five-yearly RFA review process to make it more outcomes focused?

The RFA was an agreement entered into as a means of securing federal government subsidies for the forestry industry of Tasmania. The RFA was an agreement entered into as a means of securing federal government subsidies for the forestry industry of Tasmania. It is time the subsidies for the Tasmanian forest industry ceased.

The RFA has failed to provide long term stability of the state forests and forestry industries. The RFA ceased to exist 4 years ago.

The Tasmanian forest industry needs to move on and this means removing all old baggage. The Tasmanian forest industry has to advance over the next twenty years without the burden of past mismanagement. The RFA

**What research and development priorities are important to Tasmanian forestry industry stakeholders?**

**What socio-economic data and analysis is important to Tasmanian forest industry stakeholders?**

**How could the governments improve outcomes-focused monitoring and reporting on threatened species and biodiversity, as part of extending the Tasmanian RFA?**

Its exemption from the EPBC Act and Tasmanian land use and threatened species legislation has contributed to the communities distrust Its exemption from the EPBC Act and Tasmanian land use and threatened species legislation has contributed to the communities distrust and scepticism of the Tasmanian forest industry capacity to provide for sustainable ecological management and use of the states forests.

**What other improvements could be made to the RFA framework?**

The Tasmanian forest industry needs to move on and this means removing all old baggage. The Tasmanian forest industry has to advance over the next twenty years without the burden of past mismanagement. The RFA is seen as being one of the tools utilised to support the past and present poor management of the state forests.

Tasmania as a State deserves better than an extension of a failed Regional Forest Agreement.an extension of a failed Regional Forest Agreement.

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