

Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement

2002 – 2007

Prepared by the Tasmanian and Australian
Governments for the 2007 Ten Year
Review of the Tasmanian Regional Forest
Agreement



Australian Government

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 1997 the Tasmanian and the Australian Governments signed the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). The RFA established a framework for the management and use of Tasmanian forests that seeks to implement effective conservation, forest management, and forest industry practices.

The RFA provides for annual reporting against milestones and commitments in the RFA for the first four years and a review of progress on the implementation of the milestones and commitments in the RFA in the fifth year (and subsequently every five years).

The first five year review of implementation of the RFA was completed in 2002 by the Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC).

The RPDC considered that the Parties to the RFA had made “substantial progress with implementing the RFA.” The RPDC reported that seventy – eight of the ninety specific milestones and commitments had been completed as intended.

The RPDC, in its Final Recommendations Report, made thirty recommendations to the Governments where further progress or improvements were needed.

In May 2005 the Tasmanian and Australian Governments signed a Supplement to the Tasmanian RFA, termed the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA). The TCFA contained many additional or amended commitments some of which addressed the recommendations arising from the 2002 five year review.

The Governments have agreed that the 2007 review of implementation will not review those milestones and commitments that were reported in the 2002 review as being met and completed.

This report on implementation has been prepared for the second five-yearly review. It provides details of the progress with implementation of:

- RFA commitments that are ongoing beyond 2002 and RFA commitments that were not completed prior to the 2002 Review;
- recommendations from the RPDC arising from the 2002 Review; and
- new commitments made in the TCFA.

Further substantial progress has been made over the last five years in implementing the commitments in all three of these areas.

A summary of implementation of all milestones and commitments is provided in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Under the RFA, the governments made a total of 100 commitments that are addressed in this report. Of the 100 commitments:

- 37 were fully completed prior to, and reported on, in the 2002 Review;
- a further nine have been completed since 2002;
- four are still being implemented but not yet completed;
- 40 have ongoing commitments that have been met during the review period;

- six no longer require to be implemented, due to subsequent agreements or changes to legislation; and
- four have not yet been required to be implemented.

Of the 30 recommendations from the 2002 Review:

- 13 have been completed;
- nine are ongoing commitments that have been implemented since 2002;
- six are being implemented but are not yet fully completed; and
- two have been superseded by commitments made in the TCFA.

Of the 66 commitments made in the 2005 TCFA:

- 19 have been completed;
- 12 are ongoing commitments that have been implemented since 2005;
- 34 are being implemented but are not yet fully completed; and
- one has not commenced.

A summary of progress with implementation of commitments since 2002 follows.

Conservation of environment and heritage values through the establishment of a CAR Reserve System

Tasmania committed in the RFA to the establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) forest reserve system. The CAR reserve system on public land includes the following elements: Formal Reserves, Informal Reserves, and areas where CAR values are managed by prescription; and on private land areas protected by secure management arrangements by agreement with private land holders.

All reserves have continued to be managed to protect the CAR values they contain.

The RFA commitments for reservation of public land were met prior to the 2002 review.

As a result of the TCFA, commitments were made for further reservation of areas of a range of forest communities, particularly tall wet forest (the Styx valley) and rainforest (the Tarkine) enlarging and enhancing the RFA CAR forest reserve system.

On public land, the TCFA commitments for an expanded reserve system have been substantially implemented, with all State forest commitments met. Reservation of the areas of Commonwealth owned land, unallocated Crown land and Hydro Tasmania land agreed to be protected under the TCFA has been progressed.

Commitments relating to monitoring and reporting of changes to informal reserves on State forest have been met.

RFA commitments to protect all areas of twenty forest communities, such as *Eucalyptus globulus* grassy forest and *E. brookeriana* forest, on public land outside of reserves by application of management prescriptions have been maintained.

On private land, the Private Forest Reserves Program established by the RFA was ceased from 30 June 2006. During the nine years of the Program, 224 properties covering 34,000 hectares were voluntarily protected through either purchase, covenanting or management agreement. A further 59 properties covering 9783 hectares have been approved for completion using remaining allocated funds.

The Australian Government established the Forest Conservation Fund in 2006 under the TCFA with an objective to protect up to 45,000 hectares of forested private land in Tasmania, including at least 25,000 hectares of old growth forest.

As at 30 June 2006 an extended reserve system (both formal and informal) protects 3,030,000 hectares of public and private land (44.3 per cent of Tasmania), an increase of 320,000 hectares or 4 per cent since 2001.

On public land, 1,417,000 hectares of native forest and 964,000 hectares of old growth forest are reserved, an increase since 2001 of 149,000 hectares and 113,000 hectares respectively.

Ecologically sustainable management and use of forests

Strategic policy and planning relating to natural resource management

The Natural Resource Management framework for Tasmania was established, including the proclamation of the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and the establishment of regional Natural Resource Management Committees and Strategies.

Tasmania's Nature Conservation Strategy has now been completed and implementation is ongoing.

The State has completed documentation of statewide fire management, nature based tourism and recreational management, cultural heritage and forest pest and disease management policy frameworks.

New legislation to replace the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* was substantially progressed in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Native vegetation management

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy has been reviewed and revised to incorporate commitments in the TCFA to phase out the clearing and conversion of native forest to other land uses. The policy continues to be implemented and monitored through the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. Tasmania's native forest estate has been maintained above the agreed minimum level of 95 per cent of the 1996 area.

Threatened forest and non-forest vegetation have been given statutory protection under new legislation. The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy was revised to prevent clearing and conversion of all threatened (rare, vulnerable and endangered) forest communities.

Management of threatened species

During the review period five new single-species and four new multiple-species Recovery Plans have been developed and implementation of all but one has commenced. Tasmania is also contributing to the development of national Recovery Plans for the swift parrot and the orange-bellied parrot. The Australian Government has adopted nine Tasmanian Recovery Plans as meeting the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Tasmanian Threatened Species Strategy continues to be implemented.

Threatened Species lists have been reviewed. Mechanisms for protecting threatened species have been improved, including revised prescriptions incorporated into the forest practices system.

Management of the CAR reserve system

The Reserve Management Code of Practice has been completed and implementation has commenced for all formal reserves managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania.

All reserves have continued to be managed to protect the CAR values they contain.

Additional management plans were prepared for formal reserves. All Forest Reserves, 16 of the 19 National Parks and many other reserves are covered by statutory management plans.

Management of production forests

The clearfelling of old growth forest on public land is reducing through the implementation of alternatives funded under the TCFA.

The use of 1080 on State forests to protect tree seedlings in the establishment phase from browsing by native animals ceased at the end of 2005, with alternative methods of browsing control now being used. Use on private forests is reducing through the application of new research information, funded under the TCFA.

Areas of special species-rich forest have been identified and are being managed using long-rotation silviculture to maintain sustainable supplies of special species timber to industry. New low impact roads are being constructed under the TCFA to improve access to special species rich stands and leatherwood stands for apiarists.

Special funding under the TCFA is being used to establish additional areas of eucalypt plantation and to improve the productivity of existing plantations and native forest regrowth in order to maintain high quality sawlog supplies to industry at sustainable levels. This work is to offset the impact of loss of resource from the expanded CAR reserve system.

Sustainability of wood supply

Forestry Tasmania completed and published an interim review of sustainable eucalypt sawlog supply from public forest in 2005. A further full review will be completed and a report published in 2007.

Improvements were made to the transparency of reporting and methodology of the yield calculations.

Private Forests Tasmania undertook a review of the private forest wood resource and published a report.

Forest Practices System

In 2005 the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and *Forest Practices Regulations 1997* were amended to further improve the:

- independence and transparency of the governance arrangements for the administration of the forest practices system;
- certification, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of Forest Practices Plans (FPPs) prepared in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* (the Code);
- operation of the forest practices system, in particular the introduction of an application fee for FPP certification; and
- resources for training, education, monitoring and enforcement of the Code and to provide improved public information to the public on forestry operations.

Public reporting and consultation mechanisms

All commitments to maintain and improve consultation and reporting have been met.

Success of forest regeneration and results of annual forest practices audits are published in relevant annual reports. Forestry Tasmania produces an annual Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) report and places annual reports on the implementation of District Forest Management Plans on its website.

The RFA required the development of a set of appropriate, practical and cost-effective sustainability indicators. Tasmania and the Commonwealth developed a set of indicators, with public input. These indicators have been used as the basis for a separate report for the 2007 RFA Review, *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2002-2007*.

Environmental management systems and forest certification

Forestry Tasmania, Gunns Ltd and Forest Enterprises Australia (FEA) have been externally certified as complying with the international standard for environmental management systems ISO 14001. Forestry Tasmania and Gunns have also been externally certified against the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708), which supports the sustainable management of forests for wood production.

An environmental management system for conservation reserves (those on State forest are already covered) is currently under development. Formal environmental management systems are under development for other organisations in the private sector.

Research

Priority areas for research have been reviewed. A total of 55 priority areas were identified.

A list of 537 forest research publications prepared and published since 2002 has been compiled.

TCFA funds have supported additional research on alternatives to clearfelling of public old growth forests, alternatives to the use of 1080 on private land, Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease and the impact of chemical usage on water catchments.

Growth and development of Tasmanian forest-based industries

Both Governments continued to support a range of initiatives and commitments contained in Attachment 12 of the RFA to facilitate the wood and wood products industry and other forest-based industries.

There was a 35 per cent or 41,000 hectares increase in the area of hardwood plantations in Tasmania from 2001 to 2006. Concurrently there was a decrease of 8,900 hectares in the area of softwood plantation, due partly to areas being converted to hardwood plantation. The total area of plantation in Tasmania now exceeds 230,000 hectares. Up until December 2006, Forestry Tasmania had established 22,247 hectares of new eucalypt plantation and pre-commercially thinned over 3,379 hectares of regrowth native forest under Commonwealth funded programs through the RFA, and more recently the TCFA, to expand the level of intensively managed forest. Approximately 900 hectares of State forest were fenced to establish new blackwood resources.

The Forests and Forest Industry Council has continued research into the development of improved sawing and seasoning methods for young wood from Tasmanian forests.

A wide range of initiatives was undertaken by both Governments to facilitate improved industry employment, training, information, marketing, export facilitation, networking and research.

Under the TCFA, three programs have been established to support the development of the wood and wood products industry through industry retooling and new plant investment. Up to 31 December 2006, \$10.3 million in funding to support 29 projects with a total value of \$37.4 million have been approved under the programs.

Improved management of the State's forest apiary resource was achieved through extensive consultation between the apiary industry and Forestry Tasmania, facilitated by the Forests and Forest Industry Council. A census of the State's apiary industry was commissioned and published by the FFIC. New commercial licensing agreements for access to the leatherwood resource are being developed and improved planning guidelines for forest harvesting operations to protect leatherwood resource were developed. New low impact roads are being constructed under the TCFA to improve access to leatherwood stands for apiarists.

Forest Works has commenced delivery of a \$4 million forest industry skills enhancement and training project.

Development of forest-based tourism and recreational opportunities

Construction of a new visitor centre at Coles Bay (Freycinet National Park) and a range of visitor projects in the Great Western Tiers were completed, with the assistance of RFA funding.

Forestry Tasmania is implementing a state-wide tourism strategy. New visitor and adventure tourism facilities have been completed at Dismal Swamp in the north-west of the State, and visitor facilities have been expanded at the Tahune Airwalk. In the Derwent Valley the Maydena Hauler project is under development and visitor facilities at the Styx River reserve are being upgraded. In the north-east, a tourism and recreation plan is being developed for the Blue Tier.

Many walking tracks have been upgraded as part of the Tasmanian Walking Track Strategy. A range of measures has been introduced at Cradle Valley and on the Overland Track through the Cradle Mountain- Lake St Clair National Park to protect the environment and enhance visitors' experience.

Under the TCFA the Australian Government is funding and administering a \$3 million program to improve tourism and visitor facilities focussing on new reserves, including bushwalking in the Tarkine.

Certainty of resource access to the forest industry

Underpinning the Tasmanian forest industry is a strong legislative and policy framework.

The RFA remains in force for twenty years.

The Commonwealth *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* came into force in 2002.

The Tasmanian Government and Australian Government amended the Tasmanian RFA in 2007 to clarify the intent of the 1997 RFA in relation to the security provided by the RFA under the *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Certainty of resource access to the mining industry

Access to land for exploration and mining continues to be provided under the Tasmanian *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* and *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zone) Act 1993*. All new reserves established as a result of the TCFA are available for mineral exploration and mining. The Mineral Exploration Working Group assessed 104 exploration work proposals in CAR reserves for their potential impact on CAR values during the period 2001 – 2006. The total area disturbed was 5.9 hectares. All disturbed areas are to be rehabilitated following completion of work. The Avebury Nickel Mine near Zeehan was approved for development in an informal reserve on State forest within an area of high quality wilderness after undergoing the above assessment process.

ACRONYMS

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFCS	Australian Forest Certification Scheme
AFS	Australian Forestry Standard
AHC	Australian Heritage Council
BRS	Bureau of Resource Sciences
CAR	Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative
CARSAG	Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve System Scientific Advisory Group
CGT	Capital Gains Tax
CRA	Comprehensive Regional Assessment
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Cwth	Commonwealth
CLAC	Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project
DBH	Diameter Breast Height
DED	Department of Economic Development (Tas)
DPIW	Department of Primary Industries and Water (Tas)
DPIWE	Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (now DPIW) (Tas)
DTAE	Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (Tas)
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
ESFM	Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management
FAFPESC	Forest and Forest Products Employment Skills Company
FCF	Forest Conservation Fund
FFIC	Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania
FPA	Forest Practices Authority
FPB	Forest Practices Board (now FPA)
FPO	Forest Practices Officer
FPP	Forest Practices Plans
FWPRDC	Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	GMO Renewable Resources (business name)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IFM	Intensive Forest Management
IRIS	Infrastructure and Resource Information Service
ISO	International Standards Organisation
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JANIS	Joint Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council / Ministerial Council on Fisheries, Forestry and Aquaculture National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee
LIST	Land Information System of Tasmania
LTER	Long Term Ecological Research
MDC	Management Decision Classification
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality

NFVP	Non-forest Vegetation Program
NHL	National Heritage List
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PAPL	Protected Areas on Private Land Program
PC	Personal Computer
PDA	Small hand held computer
PEFC	Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
PFRP	Private Forest Reserves Program
PEV	Protected Environmental Values
PFT	Private Forests Tasmania
PIRI	Pesticide Impact Rating Index
PLCP	Private Land Conservation Program
PTR	Private Timber Reserve
RAA	Reserve Activity Assessment
R&D	Research and Development
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
RIG	RFA Implementation Group
RNE	Register of the National Estate
RPDC	Resource Planning and Development Commission
SEMS	Safety and Environment Management System
STMU	Special Timbers Management Unit
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
Tas	Tasmania(n)
TASVEG	1:25000 statewide vegetation map of Tasmania
TBA	Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Inc.
TCFA	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement
TCSAP	Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Assistance Program
TFIDP	Tasmanian Forest Industry Development Program
TIGER	State funded database with online search-and-retrieval system
TSIDP	Tasmanian Softwood Industry Development Program
WAPIS	Wood and Paper Industry Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) was signed by the Premier of the State of Tasmania and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on 8 November 1997.

Amendments to the 1997 RFA were agreed in July 2001 and February 2007.

The Tasmanian and the Australian Governments agreed to establish a framework for the management and use of Tasmania's forests that would seek to implement effective conservation, forest management and forest industry practices. In particular the RFA sought to:

- provide certainty for conservation of environment and heritage values through establishing a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system;
- provide for the ecologically sustainable management and use of forests in Tasmania;
- provide for future growth and development of Tasmanian industries associated with forests and timber products;
- assist with developing forest-based tourism and recreational opportunities based on Tasmania's environmental advantages;
- provide certainty of resource access to the forest industry;
- provide certainty of resource access to the mining industry;
- remove relevant controls in the Commonwealth *Export Control Act 1982*;
- introduce a range of new or enhanced initiatives to assist with forest-based development;
- encourage the development of forest-based research; and
- encourage significant employment opportunities and investment throughout Tasmania.

To assist in achieving the objectives of the RFA, milestones were agreed. They are summarised in Attachment 3 of the RFA. In addition, the RFA contained other commitments that the Tasmanian and Australian Governments agreed to implement.

The RFA, in Clauses 45, 46 and 47, outlines the requirements to evaluate the progress by the Governments in meeting the agreed milestones and commitments every five-years.

In 2002 the Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) conducted the first five-year review of progress with implementation of the Tasmanian RFA. Both governments prepared a detailed report for the review on progress with implementation of the milestones and commitments 1997-2002 – see

http://www.rpdc.tas.gov.au/public_land_use/plu_docs/plu_reg_forest_agree.htm. The RPDC provided the Governments with a final report containing a series of recommendations – also available at the above website.

In May 2005 the Premier of the State of Tasmania and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia signed a Supplementary Agreement to the Tasmanian RFA, referred to as the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA).

This report provides details on progress by the Parties with implementation of the milestones and commitments made in the RFA and the TCFA.

The report is presented in three parts:

- Part 1 - RFA commitments that are ongoing beyond 2002 or were not completed prior to the 2002 Review;
- Part 2 - Recommendations from the RPDC arising from the 2002 Review; and
- Part 3 - Commitments made in the TCFA.

This report does not contain details of implementation of RFA commitments that were completed prior to 2002 and reviewed in the 2002 Review, as these are not required to be reviewed again as part of the ten year review. Information provided is current to the end of 2006 but does not repeat details of progress made prior to the 2002 Review.

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments prepared the report jointly with contributions from the following agencies:

Tasmanian Government

- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
- Department of Primary Industries and Water
- Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment
- Department of Economic Development
- Forest Practices Authority
- Forestry Tasmania
- Private Forests Tasmania

Australian Government

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of the Environment and Water Resources.

The format of this report is to state each milestone or commitment identified in the RFA or TCFA followed by a report by the relevant Party on progress achieved since 2002.

The performance against each of the RFA milestones and commitments is summarised in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1 - RFA Commitments and Milestones

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
8	The State and the Commonwealth to jointly determine the process for extending the RFA	Not yet due
22(a) (b)	Commonwealth to seek passage of legislation that includes the provision of an RFA	Completed since 2002
23(a)	The Commonwealth to prepare a policy outline for RFA legislation, which will include provisions as specified in clause 22	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
23(c)	The Commonwealth to introduce legislation to provide certainty to the provisions specified in clause 22	Completed since 2002
24(a) & 51	The State undertakes to manage areas in the CAR Reserve System identified in Attachment 6, with the exception of Commonwealth-owned or -leased land, on the basis outlined in that Attachment and in accordance with the relevant objectives set out in Attachment 7 The Parties will take action to establish the CAR reserve system and to manage the CAR values in a regional context consistent with the management objectives specified in Attachment 7	Ongoing commitment has been met Ongoing commitment has been met
24(b)	The State to proclaim such new reserves having categories provided by existing legislation	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
24(c)	The State to introduce legislation to establish required new categories of the revised public land classification system	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
24(d)	Where any new reserves are to be included in a category specified in Attachment 7 that is not already provided for by existing legislation, Tasmania undertakes to proclaim such new reserves	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
26	The Parties agree to the management of National Estate values as set out in Attachment 1	Ongoing commitment has been met
32	Any new or revised recovery plans will be jointly prepared and funded and implemented cooperatively	Ongoing commitment has been met
33	Multiple-species recovery plans will be developed where appropriate	Ongoing commitment has been met
34	The Commonwealth will continue to consult with the State on the preparation of threat-abatement plans for key threatening processes	Ongoing commitment has been met
35	Commonwealth to adopt State recovery plans where they meet the requirements of Commonwealth legislation	Ongoing commitment has been met
36	National recovery plans and threat-abatement plans will be prepared jointly with other governments where possible	Ongoing commitment has been met
37	The Parties will consult on the priorities for listing threatening species, forest communities and threatening processes, and in the preparation of all recovery plans and threat-abatement plans	Ongoing commitment has been met
39	The State and the Commonwealth to jointly participate in further World Heritage assessment of the relevant themes	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
40	The Commonwealth agrees that it will give full consideration to potential social and economic consequences of any World Heritage nomination of places in Tasmania and that any such nomination will only occur after the fullest consultation and agreement with the State	Not yet required
41	World Heritage nomination to be drawn from the Dedicated Reserve System	Not yet required
42	<p>The Parties agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that before any World Heritage nomination of any part of the Forest Estate is made, all necessary management arrangements, including joint policy coordination arrangements and a statutory management plan under the relevant Tasmanian legislation, will be in place; and • that prior to any World Heritage nomination, all related funding issues will be resolved to the satisfaction of both Parties 	Not yet required
44	The State and The Commonwealth to provide each other with written reports detailing the achievements of milestones	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
45	The State and the Commonwealth to review the performance of the RFA	First review completed, 2 nd review in progress
48	CAR Reserve System is to established for the purpose of ensuring long-term conservation and protection as per Attachment 6 and Attachment 8	Substantially completed
51	The Parties agree that they will establish the CAR Reserve System on the Public Land described in Attachment 6 and manage that system to maintain the CAR Values of that land in a regional context consistent with the management objectives for each element of the reserve system as specified in Attachment 7	Ongoing commitment has been met
52	The State will consult with the Commonwealth prior to rejecting any recommendations of the Resource Planning and Development Commission in regard to tenure to be applied to those reserves listed in Attachment 6 sections 1.7 and 1.8	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
53	All Deferred Forest Lands not included in the CAR reserve system other than those specified in Attachment 6 will be removed from the Register of Deferred Forest Land and added to the Register of Multiple-use Forest Land	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
54	The Commonwealth has requested, and the State has agreed, postponement of any harvesting in the Savage River pipeline corridor. Accordingly the Parties agree: to postpone any harvesting and associated forest roading in the area as shown in map 1, and that this area will continue to be included in the calculation of sustainable yield of special-species timber; and that uses other than timber production will continue to be managed in accordance with clause 78 of the Agreement.	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
55 (a-e)	<p>The Parties agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) during the first four years of this Agreement, the State will review its resource estimates for deep red myrtle available for supply to the furniture and craft industries, in terms of volume, quality and economic accessibility, and will publish a report of the findings; (b) the State will arrange for the review described at (a) above to be independently audited by an auditor agreed by the Parties, and for a report by the auditor to be (c) the further management of the Savage River Pipeline corridor will be considered by the State prior to the first five yearly review of this Agreement in the light of the report and the audit described at subclauses (a) and (b) above; (d) if the resource review and audit confirm the availability, outside the Savage River Pipeline corridor, of adequate resource of acceptable quality and economic accessibility, to maintain a supply of at least 4,500 cubic metres per year of deep red myrtle, for the remainder of the term of the Agreement, then harvesting and associated forest roading within the area will be further postponed for that period; and (e) in the alternative, the area will be further considered by the State to ensure the availability of deep red myrtle for the period. 	<p>(a) and (b) completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review</p> <p>(c) – (e) completed since 2002</p>
56	<p>The Commonwealth agrees that those areas of the Buckland Military Training Area leased by the Commonwealth from the State and not required for the CAR Reserve System will remain available to the State for timber production purposes, including plantation development</p>	<p>Ongoing commitment has been met</p>
57	<p>The Parties agree that any changes to those elements of the CAR reserve system in Informal reserves, will occur only in accordance with this agreement, will maintain the level of protection of identified values at the regional scale and that information on all such changes will be publicly available and provided to the person or body conducting the five-yearly review described in clause 45 for incorporation into the review process</p>	<p>Ongoing commitment has been met</p>
58	<p>The State will continue, with respect to private land, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensure that private forest owners comply with the Forest Practices Code for harvesting and regeneration operations; (b) develop adequate mechanisms to protect nature conservation and catchment values; and (c) undertake the initiatives specified in Attachments 9, 10 and 11 	<p>Ongoing commitment has been met</p>
59	<p>The State agrees to implement a process to facilitate the voluntary participation by private landowners to protect CAR values on private land</p>	<p>Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review</p>
60	<p>The State agrees to adopt the Permanent Native Forest Estate policy framework in Attachment 9</p>	<p>Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review</p>

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
64	The State agrees to amend its forest management systems to reflect the undertakings in this Agreement, particularly those in Attachment 10	Some completed prior to 2002 Five Year review. Ongoing commitment has been met
69	Prior to the first five-year review, the State will, where practical, assess the species listed in Attachment 2 (Part B) and determine management requirements in accordance with clause 96	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
70	Actions in agreed recovery plans or threat-abatement plans will be implemented in accordance with timelines in Plan or as soon as possible thereafter	Ongoing commitment has been met
71	Any changes to the Priority Species in Attachment 2 or altered management prescriptions for Priority Species will be in accordance with processes in clause 96	Ongoing commitment has been met
72	Public reporting and consultation opportunities provided through the processes outlined in Attachment 11 will continue	Ongoing commitment has been met
73	The State will implement the range of reporting and consultative mechanisms in Attachment 11	Ongoing commitment has been met
74	The Parties agree to cooperate in implementing the specified actions in the Employment and Industries Development Strategy (Attachment 12)	Ongoing commitment has been met
79	The Parties recognise that, subject to clauses 80, 81 and 82, mineral exploration and mining can occur in the parts of the CAR reserve system identified in Attachment 6	Ongoing commitment has been met
80	Mineral exploration proposals in CAR reserves to be referred to the Mineral Exploration Working Group	Ongoing commitment has been met
81	All mining activities in CAR reserves will be subject to environmental impact assessment and environmental management conditions	Ongoing commitment has been met
82	In parts of the CAR reserve system with high-quality wilderness value, measures will be taken to minimise the effects of mining exploration and mining activities on wilderness values. Any rehabilitation will aim to restore the site to wilderness condition.	Ongoing commitment has been met
83	Tasmania will introduce legislation to replace the <i>Aboriginal Relics Act</i> after consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community	Progressed but not yet completed
87	The Parties recognise that the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement depends on appropriate mutual access to and accreditation of relevant information owned and held by each of them and have agreed to provide such access and accreditation for the term of this Agreement in accordance with the practices and procedures specified in Attachment 14.	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
89	Relevant research reports will be made publicly available wherever practicable	Ongoing commitment has been met
90	Commonwealth and Tasmania to provide each other with access to data as per Attachment 14	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
91	The Parties agree to develop and establish by the first of December 1999 an appropriate, practical and cost effective set of Sustainability Indicators	Completed prior to the 2002 Five Year Review

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
93	The State agrees, within five years of the date of this Agreement, to further develop its Forest Management Systems and processes through the development of EMSs in accordance with the principles laid out in Attachment 5 and acknowledges that its objective for State Forest is system certification comparable with the ISO 14000 series.	Completed for State forest prior to the 2002 Five Year Review.
94	The State agrees to publish and make publicly available, its: Annual compliance audits of the implementation of the <i>Forest Practices Act 1985 (Tas.)</i> , Forest Practices Code and its code of reserve management specified in Attachment 10.9.	Ongoing commitment met for forest practices, in progress for reserve code
96	The State agrees that any changes to Priority Species, including new or altered management prescriptions, will provide for the maintenance of the species, be scientifically sound, be endorsed by the Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee and will also take note of public comment.	Ongoing commitment has been met
97	The State agrees to maintain and update databases of management prescriptions and responses to disturbance for threatened species and use these as the basis for management of the species. Updated contents of the databases to be periodically available for public comment.	Ongoing commitment has been met
98	The State agrees to undertake a review of sustainable high-quality sawlog levels from public land to reflect changes in forest inventory and new intensive management initiatives.	Completed prior to the 2002 Five Year Review and in progress for the 2007 review
99	The State agrees to undertake by 30 April 1998 a review of pricing and allocation policies for commercial government-owned forestry operations	Completed prior to the 2002 Five Year Review
100	The Commonwealth will provide \$20 million for the Private CAR Reserve system	Partly provided. Superseded by TCFA
101 (i)	Commonwealth to provide \$57 million for intensive forest management initiatives	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
101 (ii)	Commonwealth to provide \$13 million for employment and industry development initiatives, as per Attachment 12	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
101 (iii)	Commonwealth to provide \$10 million for infrastructure development initiatives, as per Attachment 12	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
101 (iv)	Commonwealth to provide \$10 million for protecting conservation values on private land, as per Attachment 8	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 1.6	The Parties agree, by the 31 December 1998, to jointly fund and accredit for land management purposes digital maps at resolution of 1:100 000 of the boundaries of all lands in Tasmania listed on the Register of the National Estate.	Partially met – No longer required
Att 6.2	The CAR reserve system on Public Land, not including values managed by prescription, will total 2,700,000 ha, comprising 2,304,000ha of existing reserves and 396,000 ha of additional reserves	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
Att 6.5	The State will finalise boundaries on 1:25 000 maps to enable gazettal, referred to clause 24 of the agreement. Finalisation will include identifying the best management boundaries.	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 6.17	Forestry Tasmania will identify those Informal Reserve areas on State forest on Management Decision Classification maps as protection zones and manage the areas for the protection of the CAR values identified, subject to field verification of the existence and extent of those values. These informal reserves will be included in new and revised Forest Management Plans by the year 2000.	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 6.18	Any changes to Informal Reserve boundaries to be in accordance with clause 57	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 6.20	Management plans with public participation for Commonwealth informal reserves to be completed by 2000	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att. 6.21	Certain communities will be protected on public land outside of reserves	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att. 6.22, 24	Deferred Forest Land not required for the CAR Reserve system to be removed from the Register of Deferred Forest and entered on the Register of Multiple-Use Forests	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 6.23	Referral of certain Deferred Forest Land to the Public Land Use Commissioner for recommendations on tenure and management	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 8.1	The program will commence after prioritisation of the CAR values and implementation arrangements are established and will continue for an agreed period. Any extension to this would require the agreement of the Parties.	Program ceased in 2006
Att 8.2	Participation in the program by private landowners will be voluntary and no non-voluntary instruments will be used to achieve protection of CAR values on Private Land without proper compensation being paid.	Program ceased in 2006
Att 8.3	The program will seek to maximise agreed CAR values on private lands in a cost-effective manner	Program ceased in 2006
Att 8.18	A variety of commitments were made with respect to a Strategic Plan, identification of priorities, Advisory Committees, and implementation of the CAR Private Reserves Program	Program ceased in 2006
Att 9.5	Appropriate action will be taken by the State if the area of any Forest Community within an IBRA (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia) region decreases to a level approaching the nominated minimum level for that region. The State will conduct a formal review of the area of Forest Communities within each IBRA region on a five-yearly basis and report on the findings in the 5 yearly review of the Agreement.	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 9.8	The State will, in addition, in respect of Private Land introduce by the year 1999 mechanisms to encourage native vegetation retention and management including the protection of riparian vegetation, consistent with the agreed outcomes of the national Vegetation Initiative as set out in the Tasmanian Partnership Agreement.	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 9.11	The State agrees that the policy will be reviewed as part of the ongoing review of the Forest Practices Code and in accordance with the provisions of public comment and review set out in the <i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i> .	Completed separately from review of the Code

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
Att 10.1	Implementation of the State Policy <i>Setting New Standards for Water Quality</i>	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.2	Developing a State policy on integrated catchment management	Not to be progressed
Att 10.3	Developing and implementing a Threatened Species Protection Strategy	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.4	Implementing the <i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i>	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.5	Developing new legislation in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage	Progressed but not yet completed
Att 10.6	Further develop and apply flexible silvicultural systems on public land to promote the sustainable production of special timbers.	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.7	Development of a range of State-wide policies covering fire management, nature-based tourism, recreation, cultural heritage and forest pest and disease management	Completed since 2002 review
Att 10.8.	The State to ensure that management plans are implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for all State forest and National parks; and - for all other formal reserves 	Completed for State forest prior to 2002 Five Year Review, further progressed for other reserves
Att 10.9	Implementing, as a high priority, the mechanisms for improving transparency and independence of the Forest Practices Board	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review with further measures implemented since 2002
Att 10.10	Continue to resource the Forest Practices System and maintain appropriate contributions from industry	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.11	Develop and implement a code of practice for reserve management	Completed since the 2002 Review. Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.12	Ensure that Forest Practices Plans specify best-practice reforestation standards and provide for monitoring <p>Where endangered species have been identified on private land, the plan includes appropriate management prescriptions for those species</p>	Ongoing commitment has been met Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 10.13	Management plans for Formal and Informal reserves identify the CAR values identified in the CRA and actions to manage those values	Ongoing commitment has been met
Att 11.1	The State to complete and publish silvicultural guidelines for the management of commercial forest types	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 11.2	The State to publish a description of the methods of calculating sustainable yield on public land, including for special-species timber sawlogs	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
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. See also #41	Ongoing commitment has been met (in progress for reserve code)

Clause	Commitment and Milestone	Status
Att 11.4	The State to release a document describing the Management Decision Classification System	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 11.5	The State to prepare and release a revised manual for the Management Decision Classification System, including prescription guidelines for special management zones	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 14.2.5	Latest versions of all jointly owned data—listed in Schedule 1 of Attachment #14—to be exchanged	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 14.3	The State and the Commonwealth to delete all copies of data that they do not own but were provided for RFA purposes, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the respective data owners	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review
Att 14.4.1	The State and the Commonwealth to list and archive data used for RFA purposes	Completed prior to 2002 Five Year Review

Table 2 – 2002 RFA Review Recommendations

	Recommendation	Status
3.1	That the State continues to improve forest community mapping. Particular attention needs to be given to improving the mapping of forest communities in reserves through additional field survey.	Ongoing commitment has been met
3.2	That the State reserves areas currently vested in the Hydro-Electric Corporation and identified in the RFA as indicative reserves.	Progressed but not yet completed
3.3	That the Parties commit to designing a program that provides for the long term future of the Private Forest Reserve Program and in particular provides for the future financial resources for management, monitoring and reporting of properties conserved under the RFA Private Forest Reserve Program.	Completed but superseded by TCFA
3.4	That the State reinforces and makes more effective the mechanism for providing the RFA Private Forest Reserve Program with basic forest type and coverage information for areas being assessed under the Private Timber Reserve approval process.	Completed but superseded by TCFA
3.5	That the Parties clarify the commitment in Clause 39 of the RFA and make publicly available information on progress to date and how they intend to pursue the implementation of this commitment including the timelines.	Completed
3.6	That the State makes known its decision on future access to the deep red myrtle resource in the Savage River Pipeline corridor by February 2003.	Completed
4.1	That the State improves the accountability of the Forest Practices System.	Ongoing commitment has been met
4.2	That the State completes the Nature Conservation Strategy and commences implementation of the Strategy by 30 June 2003.	Completed

4.3	That the State completes the Reserve Management Code of Practice and commences implementation of the Code by 30 June 2003. That the State undertakes annual reporting on compliance with the Reserve Management Code of Practice.	Code completed and implementation commenced Ongoing commitment for compliance reporting in progress
4.4	That the Parties complete the preparation of Recovery Plans for all endangered forest-related threatened species within the next five years. Where species listed under the Tasmanian Act meet the criteria for listing under the Commonwealth Act, both Parties should contribute funding.	Implementation substantially progressed but not yet completed
4.5	That the Parties accredit Threatened Species Listing Statements as an alternative to Recovery Plans for listed threatened species, and as providing for adequate management of listed threatened species under the RFA.	Agreed under TCFA not to be implemented
4.6	That the State provides for the protection of threatened Forest Communities through an appropriate statutory framework.	Completed
4.7	That the State provide sufficient resources, including financial resources to be allocated in the 2003-04 Budget, to ensure that the implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy for Tasmania is carried out in an effective and timely manner.	Ongoing commitment has been met
4.8	That the State subjects future substantive changes to management prescriptions for Priority Species to public consultation and take note of public comment.	Ongoing commitment has been met
4.9	That the Parties deliver on the outstanding National Estate commitments contained in Clause 6 and Table 1, Category 3 of Attachment 1 to the RFA, prior to commencement of the next five year review.	Completed
4.10	That the Parties prepare a list of relevant research reports at future five yearly reviews.	Completed
4.11	That the list of priority research areas in Attachment 13 should be reviewed by the Parties, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, at future five yearly reviews to determine if priorities have changed.	Completed
4.12	That the State develops an environmental management system for reserves and other public lands consistent with Attachment 5 of the RFA prior to the next five yearly review.	Progressed but not yet completed
4.13	That the Parties encourage the development of environmental management systems in the private forest sector.	Ongoing commitment has been met
4.14	That the State completes the review of the policy on maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate taking into account public comment. That, subsequent to the review and before the end of May 2003, the State amends the policy to increase the levels of retention of native forest, and specifically to ensure that no further forest communities become threatened and that there is no deterioration in the status of any existing threatened forest community.	Completed
4.15	That, subsequent to the review of the policy on maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate, the State implements the policy through a legislative framework.	Completed
4.16	That the Forest Practices Board considers, during the next review of the Forest Practices Code, the issue of smoke management from forestry operations, including giving effect to the smoke management guidelines.	Progressed but not yet completed

4.17	That the State moves quickly to enable proclamation of the Natural Resources Management Act 2002 (Tas) and facilitate regional natural resource management strategies.	Completed
5.1	That the Parties, as a priority, develop a process to obtain reliable data to inform social and economic indicators for the community and the performance of the forest based industries relevant to Attachment 12 of the RFA. The sustainability indicators relevant to the social and economic aspects of the industry need to be reviewed when such reliable data becomes available.	Some progress made but more to be achieved
5.2	That the Parties clarify the intent of Attachment 12 by 30 June 2003 and that the State prepares an industry development strategy, in consultation with the Commonwealth and the Forests and Forest Industry Council, by 30 June 2004, based on that intent and providing an industry vision and an action plan to achieve it. Table 5.1 provides an incomplete list of issues that should be covered by the industry development plan.	Superseded by Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement
6.1	That the State continues to improve transparency in reporting, and continuously improves the methodology as identified in previous sustainable yield reviews, with the aim of increasing public understanding of, and confidence in, the sustainable yield reviews of high quality sawlogs from public lands.	Ongoing commitment has been met
6.2	That the State develops a strategy for ongoing supply of special species timbers from public lands. The State needs to provide information to the market to clarify the future resource.	Progressed but not yet completed
7.1	That the State finalises its nature based tourism and recreational management policy by 31 March 2003.	Completed
7.2	That the State continues to work with the apiary industry to resolve the issues on public land for bee keeping and the leatherwood resource. That the State and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association jointly prepare a plan for management of the leatherwood resource in the southern forests by 30 June 2003.	Ongoing commitment has been met
9.1	That the Parties support ongoing research and development for sustainability indicators including, where appropriate, consideration of benchmarks and interpretation to guide performance outcomes.	Ongoing commitment has been met

Table 3 – Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement commitments

TCFA Clause	Commitment	Status
3	The Parties to fully implement the actions recommended in the Report of the Inquiry on the progress with Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (2002), subject to the exception outlined in clause 5	Progressed but not yet completed
5	The Parties agree that Recovery Plans for rare and vulnerable species in Tasmania will continue to be the mechanism for compliance with the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Ongoing commitment has been met
6	The Parties to protect one million hectares of old growth forest – 977,000 hectares on public land, 25,000 hectares minimum additional area on private land to be added to the existing 5,000 hectares reserved on private land	Substantially completed on public land, progressed on private
7	The Parties to add approximately 141,000 hectares of public land to the CAR Reserve System	Substantially completed

8	The Parties agree that all additional protected areas on public land will remain available for mineral exploration and mining under the <i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1995</i> in accordance with clause 79 of the RFA and subject to any requirements under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Completed
9	The State to finalise boundaries of the new reserves at a scale of 1:25,000	Completed
10	The State to submit plans of new Formal Reserves to Parliament for approval	Completed
11	The State to finalise informal reserve boundaries and identify on Management Decision Classification maps and manage these areas for protection of CAR values	Completed
12	The State to progressively amend Forest Management Plans to include new reserves	Progressed but not yet completed
13	The Commonwealth to protect approximately 500 hectares of Commonwealth owned land as informal reserves. These reserves will be included in new or revised management plans prepared with public participation.	Progressed but not yet completed
14	The State to protect 3900 hectares of old growth forest on unallocated Crown land pending completion of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project	Ongoing commitment has been met
15	The State to protect 3500 hectares of old growth forest on Hydro Tasmania vested land pending a review of Hydro Tasmania's infrastructure management needs. Old growth forest on land not required by Hydro Tasmania to be protected.	Ongoing commitment has been met
15	Hydro Tasmania to covenant 1300 hectares of sub-alpine forest on its freehold land	Progressed but not yet completed
16	The Parties agree that any changes to those elements of the CAR Reserve System in Informal Reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will only occur in accordance with the RFA; and - will maintain the level of protection of identified values at the regional scale; and - that information on all such changes will be publicly available. 	Ongoing commitment has been met
17	The State to maintain records of all changes to informal reserves and net impact on CAR reserve values changes will be recorded	Ongoing commitment has been met
18	The State to provide digital data of new formal and informal reserves to the Commonwealth	Completed
19	The Parties to ensure access to data continues to be provided in accordance with clause 90 and Attachment 14 of the RFA	Ongoing commitment has been met
20	The Parties to co-operate to improve the protection of Old Growth forest on private land, particularly for forest communities that complement the new reserves on public land	Progressed but not yet completed
21	The Commonwealth to establish, administer and fund a new market-based program to protect and manage up to 45,600 hectares of forested private land, additional to that secured under the Private Forest Reserve Program, targeting old growth forest and under reserved communities.	Progressed but not yet completed
21	The Commonwealth to provide up to \$3.6 million to protect up to 2400 hectares of forested land in the Mole Creek area	Progressed but not yet completed

23	The Parties to jointly develop and manage the Forest Conservation Fund program and consult with stakeholders on design and implementation	Development completed – management ongoing
24	The Parties to develop a strategic plan under which the Forest Conservation Fund will be administered	Completed
25	The State to establish conservation covenants on protected land under Forest Conservation Fund. The Commonwealth to reimburse the State all associated costs.	Ongoing commitment has been met
26	The State to provide monitoring and management support services to owners of covenanted land	Ongoing commitment has been met
26	The Commonwealth to provide \$5.5 million to the State for ongoing monitoring and management support services to owners of covenanted land	Completed
27	The Parties agree that the Private Forest Reserves Program will continue until 30 June 2006, at which time the Program will cease	Completed
28	The Parties to negotiate a new financial agreement for the use of the remaining Private Forest Reserves Program NHT funds	Substantially completed but not yet completed
28	The State to transfer any remaining Private Forest Reserves Program NHT funds to the Forest Conservation Fund program	Completed
29	The State to use any remaining Private Forest Reserves Program State Trust Fund to fund a State Private Property Vegetation Conservation program	Completed
30	The Parties to jointly fund a package of forest management and operations, industry development and research and development activities for reducing clearfelling of old growth forest on State forest	Progressed but not yet completed
31	The State to publicly report the area of public old growth harvested by silviculture technique each year	Ongoing commitment has been met
32	The State to review progress in achieving safety, regeneration and log supply objectives through the new old growth forest silviculture	Progressed but not yet completed
33	The Parties agree that, further to clauses 75 to 77 of the RFA, further Intensive Forest Management will be used to mitigate the impact of the new reserves and the reduction in use of clearfelling in old growth forest	Progressed but not yet completed
34	The State to deliver an integrated program of existing plantation productivity improvement, new plantation establishment and enhanced native forest thinning designed to maintain RFA targets for sustainable sawlog supplies from State Forests	Progressed but not yet completed
36	The State to deliver management and planning of new reserves on public land	Ongoing commitment has been met
37	The Parties agree that the management of new reserves in north west Tasmania will involve community consultation to maintain access for traditional land uses and to maintain cultural links and uses consistent with conservation values	Ongoing commitment has been met
38	The State to phase out the use of 1080 on State Forest	Completed
39	The Parties to work collaboratively on a joint program to accelerate research into and implementation of alternatives to 1080 for browsing animal control on private forest and agricultural lands. The Commonwealth to provide \$4 million.	Progressed but not yet completed

41	The State to develop a pilot wallaby management plan for a forested area on Tasmania's mainland	Progressed but not yet completed
42	The Commonwealth to progress the regulatory process for the wallaby management plans for Flinders and King Islands and the proposed mainland area referred to in clause 41 under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Completed for the Islands
44	The State to deliver low-impact access roading to special timber management units on State forest for selective harvesting and access to leatherwood apiary sites	Progressed but not yet completed
45	The State to revise the Permanent Forest Estate Policy so that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 95 per cent of the 1996 area of native forest will be retained - broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest on public land will be phased out by 2010 - broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest on private land will be phased out by 2015 - regional biodiversity and water quality values will be protected 	Completed
46	The State to design the approach in clause 45 in consultation with the Commonwealth and publicly release the revised Permanent Forest Estate Policy	Completed
48	The State to introduce new statutory mechanisms to Parliament to prevent clearing and conversion of threatened non-forest vegetation communities	Completed
48	The Parties to amend the 2003 Natural Heritage Trust 2 Bilateral Agreement consistent with this Clause	Completed
53	The Parties to jointly manage a program to facilitate industry retooling and investment with the aim to maximise recovery of forest products from use regrowth, plantation and other resource changes	Progressed but not yet completed
54	The Parties to consult with industry to determine priority areas for funding [of the program in clause 53]	Completed
55	The Parties to provide assistance to country sawmillers and to special species timber mills significantly affected by the new agreed reserves in north-west Tasmania	Progressed but not yet completed
56	The Parties to provide assistance for improved marketing, recovery and value adding for special species timbers	Progressed but not yet completed
58	The State to implement publicly accountable systems for monitoring the impact of residue harvesting for biomass energy plants on biodiversity	Not yet commenced
59	The Parties to fund and the State to deliver additional roading and other infrastructure to support implementation of new silviculture in public old growth forests	Progressed but not yet completed
60	The Parties to progress all required assessment processes of the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> for a pulp mill in Tasmania	Progressed but not yet completed
62	The Commonwealth to consider giving the Gunns pulp mill project major project status and facilitation of the project at the national level	Completed
63	The Commonwealth to fund and administer, in cooperation with the State, a \$10 million softwood industry assistance program	Progressed but not yet completed

64	The Commonwealth to consult with the State and the Tasmanian softwood industry to determine priorities for value-added investment	Completed
66	The Commonwealth to fund [\$4 million] and administer a program to support improved training and skills development throughout the forestry sector	Progressed but not yet completed
67	The Parties to fund the development of forest tourism and visitor facilities focusing on new public land reserves	Progressed but not yet completed
68	The Commonwealth to fund and administer, in cooperation with the State, and subject to any State approval processes, a \$1 million program towards the provision of bushwalking infrastructure in north west Tasmania	Progressed but not yet completed
69	The Commonwealth to provide \$1 million to a catchment water quality program to be developed and delivered in consultation with the State	Progressed but not yet completed
70	The Parties to support State research into the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease through a collaborative partnership	Progressed but not yet completed
71	The Commonwealth to provide \$2 million to specific priority projects [on research into the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease] developed in consultation with the State	Progressed but not yet completed
72	The Commonwealth to provide \$2.2 million for a communication program to be delivered in consultation with the State	Progressed but not yet completed
75	The Commonwealth to contribute to the State \$66 million towards intensive forest management activities and \$13 million as a general grant	Progressed but not yet completed
76	The Commonwealth will contribute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$2 million towards research into alternatives to clearfelling - \$42 million towards support for the hardwood sawmill industry - \$4 million towards support for country sawmillers - \$2.2 million towards a communication program - \$2 million towards tourism and recreation projects 	Progressed but not yet completed
77	The State to contribute \$90 million towards the package	Progressed but not yet completed
79	The State to provide the Commonwealth with annual acquittal reports and proposed activity statement on IFM program funds	Ongoing commitment has been met

PART 1

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RFA COMMITMENTS AND MILESTONES

Introduction of Legislation

22. *The Commonwealth undertakes to use its best endeavours to secure the enactment of legislation which includes provisions to the effect that where a Regional Forest Agreement is in force:*
- (a) *no controls may be imposed under the Export Control Act 1982 (Cwth), or under any legislation enacted by the Commonwealth Parliament for a similar purpose, upon the export from the region of which the Agreement was made of woodchips or unprocessed wood; and*
 - (b) *the following Commonwealth legislative provisions do not apply to Forestry Operations on land under which the Agreement may be used for such operations:*
 - (i) *the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, s.30;*
 - (ii) *the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974, s.11;*
 - (iii) *the Administrative Procedures approved under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 s.6; and*
 - (iv) *the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983, s.6.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

All listed legislation has been repealed and replaced by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Section 38 of the EPBC Act makes it clear that approval under the EPBC Act is not required for any RFA forestry operations that are undertaken in accordance with an RFA. In addition, an amending provision to the EPBC Act, which commenced on 19 February 2007, makes it clear that in deciding if approval is required for a proposed development, such as a manufacturing plant which will use timber from an RFA region, then the Minister for the Environment must not consider any adverse impacts of any RFA forestry operations in making the decision."

23. *The Commonwealth undertakes to:*
- (a) *prepare a policy outline of such legislation, and circulate that outline to all States which have regions covered by the Export Control (Hardwood Wood Chips) (1996) Regulations (Cwth), by 31 December 1997; and*
 - (b) *thereupon consult with the State and such other States in relation to the legislation; and*
 - (c) *introduce such legislation into the Parliament of the Commonwealth by 30 June 1998.*

Commitments in Clause 23 (a) and (b) were fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review. Commitment (c) was also met and the legislation was subsequently passed.

The *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* commenced on the 5 April 2002.

Action to Establish and Manage Reserves

24. *The State undertakes to*

- (a) *manage the areas in the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System identified in Attachment 6, with the exception of Commonwealth owned or leased land, on the basis outlined in that Attachment and in accordance with the relevant objectives set out in Attachment 7;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Tasmania continues to manage the CAR reserve system in accordance with the relevant objectives.

- (b) *where any new reserves are to be of a category specified in Attachment 7 which category is provided for in existing legislation, proclaim such new reserves by 31 December 1998;*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review. Some minor areas of land vested in Hydro Tasmania were not reserved prior to the Review. See the response to 2002 Review recommendation 3.2 in Part 2 of this report.

- (c) *Parliament to establish those categories of the revised public land classification system specified in Attachment 7 which are not already by 31 December 1998 introduce legislation into the Tasmanian provided for by existing legislation and use its best endeavours to secure the enactment of the legislation introduced; and*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

- (d) *within 3 months after the commencement of the legislation referred to in sub-clause (c) above, where any new reserves are to be included in a category specified in Attachment 7 which is not already provided for by existing legislation, proclaim such new reserves.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

National Estate

26. *The Parties agree to the management of National Estate Values as set out in Attachment 1*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

See response to Attachment 1 for details.

In 2003, the Commonwealth Parliament amended the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to provide for a National Heritage Places List to replace the Register of the National Estate. At that time it was jointly agreed to suspend further work on identifying places to add to the register, pending the outcomes of the legislative amendments.

Recent amendments to the EPBC Act and the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* have a number of consequences for the Register of the National Estate. These include that the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) must not include a place in the Register of the National Estate or remove a place, part of heritage value of place from it - in effect "freezing" the Register of the National Estate as at the date of commencement of the amendments (19 February 2007.) The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment will no longer be required to consider information in the Register of the National Estate in the course of his *Implementation of the Tasmanian RFA 2002-07 Part 1*

decision-making under the EPBC Act. The Register of the National Estate will cease to operate as a statutory list after five years (from 19 February 2007); from then the AHC is no longer required under its Act to maintain it other than as an information repository. The five-year transition period is to allow the States and Territories to complete the task of transferring places to their heritage registers.

Threatened Species and Communities

32. *Where threatened species are listed under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tas) and the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 (Cwth) any new or revised Recovery Plans will be jointly prepared and funded and implemented cooperatively by the Parties to meet the requirements of both Acts.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Between November 2002 and December 2006, five single species Recovery Plans were prepared and published (see Table 4). Completed Recovery Plans are available at <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LJEM-6H644R?open>. In cases where the species occurs in more than one State, funds have been made available both to, and by, other States and the Australian Government to implement recovery plans.

Table 4 – Single Species Recovery Plans

Scientific Name	Common Name	Publication Year
<i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>	Giant freshwater lobster	2006
<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>	Forty-spotted pardalote	2006
<i>Argentipallium spiceri</i>	Spicer's everlasting	2006
<i>Eucalyptus morrisbyi</i>	Morrisby's gum	2006
<i>Lomatia tasmanica</i>	King's lomatia	2006

33. *The Parties will seek to improve outcomes of Recovery Plans for species listed under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tas) or the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 (Cwth) by developing multiple species Recovery Plans where appropriate.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Both governments have maintained a commitment to developing cost-efficient ways of recovering threatened species. Species were considered for multiple-species recovery plans where they have some commonality, including:

- species of the same genus, family or other group;
- species occupying similar habitat types; and
- species which occupy the same habitat location.

During the review period, four multiple-species recovery plans relevant to forests were prepared and implementation of all but one has commenced (see Table 5). Completed Recovery Plans are available at <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LJEM-6H644R?open>.

Table 5 – Multiple Species Recovery Plans

Multiple Species	Publication Year	Implementation of Recovery Plan initiated?
Tasmanian Galaxiidae	2006	Yes
Tasmanian threatened orchids	2006	Yes
Tasmanian threatened eagles	2006 (State only)	Yes
Tasmanian threatened grasstrees	2006	No

34. *Where threatened Forest Communities restricted to Tasmania are listed under the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 (Cwth), any new National Recovery Plans will be prepared jointly by both Parties. The Commonwealth will also continue to consult with the State on the preparation of Threat Abatement Plans for relevant key threatening processes.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Eucalyptus ovata - Callitris oblonga forest community is currently the only Tasmanian forest community listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. A National Recovery Plan was finalised for this community in 2006 but it has not yet been adopted. The State and Commonwealth are consulting on key threatening processes that affect forest communities and species.

35. *Where a State Recovery Plan for a nationally listed species restricted to Tasmania meets the requirements of the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 Cwth) the Commonwealth intends to adopt the State Recovery Plan under section 46 of that Act.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The Australian Government adopted nine Recovery Plans for species endemic to Tasmania during the review period (see Table 6). Completed Recovery Plans are available at <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LJEM-6H644R?open>.

Table 6 –Recovery Plans that include Tasmanian Endemic Species*

Species	Publication Year	Prepared during review period and adopted at Commonwealth level	In final stages of preparation, not yet adopted at the Commonwealth level
Giant freshwater lobster <i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>	2006	Yes	
Forty-spotted pardalote <i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>	2006	Yes	
Tasmanian Galaxiidae	2006	Yes	
Threatened Tasmanian grasstrees	2006	Yes	
Tasmanian threatened orchids	2006	Yes	
Morrisby's gum, <i>Eucalyptus morrisbyi</i>	2006	Yes	
King's lomatia, <i>Lomatia tasmanica</i>	2006	Yes	
Spicer's everlasting, <i>Argentipallium spiceri</i>	2006	Prepared	Endorsed by State

* *does not include endemic sub-species*

36. *Where threatened species, threatened Forest Communities or threatening processes extend beyond Tasmania, the Parties agree where possible to jointly prepare with other relevant governments:*

- *National Recovery Plans for species or forest communities; and*
- *Threat Abatement Plans for threatening processes listed under the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 (Cwth)*
- *and where available, the Commonwealth intends to incorporate any relevant State Recovery Plan or threat abatement plan prepared pursuant to the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tas) as the Tasmanian component of the National Recovery Plan.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Tasmania is taking a lead role in the preparation of new recovery plans for the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and the orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) in consultation with the Australian and other State Governments. The draft recovery plan for the orange-bellied parrot has been sent to participating States for endorsement and is currently being considered by the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The Swift Parrot National Recovery Team is preparing a new Recovery Plan for the swift parrot. Tasmania has contributed to the preparation of plans by other states. The Tasmanian Threatened Orchids Recovery Plan includes *Pterostylis cucullata*, a species that extends beyond Tasmania and is listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. A number of other recovery plans for listed species such as stag beetles, threatened ferns, land snails, forest epacrids, etc are in various stages of preparation.

37. *The Parties, recognising that priorities can change in the light of new information, will continue to consult on the priorities for:*

- *listing threatened species, forest communities, and threatening processes; and*
- *the preparation of all Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans relevant to this Agreement;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The State and Commonwealth continue to consult on the listing of threatened species on the national lists. A partnership agreement between the Australian and Tasmanian Governments was implemented during the review period to align the state and national threatened species lists for Tasmanian endemic species where sufficient information was available.

The process for dealing with recovery plans and threat abatement plans is that they are prepared with a time-frame of three to five years and then reviewed and re-written. The plans have sufficient flexibility for actions to be changed in the light of new information.

World Heritage

39. *The Parties agree to jointly participate in the further World Heritage assessment of the relevant Australia-wide themes, specified in Table 1.7 of the World Heritage Report, commencing by the 30th June 1998.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Also refer to the report on the 2002 Review Recommendation 3.5 in Part 2 of this report.

Further progress has been made with the Eucalypt theme since the Greater Blue Mountains was listed on the World Heritage List in 2000 for values including its eucalypt ecosystems. At that time the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) noted in technical advice provided to the World Heritage Committee that possible sites for inclusion in a serial eucalypt world heritage site included south west Australia and the Australian Alps.

These areas are being assessed for inclusion on the National Heritage List (NHL) for values including eucalypt vegetation, as is the Tarkine in northwest Tasmania.

Ku-ring-gai National Park and Royal National Park in the Sydney Basin, and the Stirling Ranges National Park in south-west Western Australia have been placed on the NHL, in part, because of their eucalypt vegetation.

40. *The Commonwealth agrees that it will give full consideration to the potential social and economic consequences of any World Heritage Nomination of places in Tasmania and that such nomination will only occur after the fullest consultation and with the agreement of the State.*

There has been no official World Heritage nomination within the review period, although work has commenced to prepare a serial nomination for convict heritage sites that include Port Arthur and Darlington on Maria Island.

41. *The Parties agree that any World Heritage Nominations of any part of the Forest Estate will be from areas within the Dedicated Reserve elements of the CAR Reserve System.*

There has been no official World Heritage nomination within the review period.

The National Heritage Protocol (adopted by Australia's Environment Protection and Heritage Ministerial Council in April 2004) states that as a general principle, future nominations for World Heritage listing will be drawn from the National Heritage List.

42. *The Parties agree:*

- *that before any World Heritage Nomination of any part of the Forest Estate is made all necessary management arrangements, including joint policy coordination arrangements and a statutory management plan under the relevant Tasmanian legislation will be in place; and*
- *that prior to any World Heritage all related funding issues will be resolved to the satisfaction of both Parties.*

There has been no official World Heritage nomination within the review period.

Monitoring the Agreement

44. *This Agreement establishes milestones for the completion of agreed undertakings. These milestones are specified in Attachment 3 and the Parties agree to provide each other annually for the first five years and then as they fall due and as part of the 5 yearly reviews described in clause 45 with written reports detailing the achievement of these milestones using an appropriate reporting mechanism.*

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments have jointly prepared this report on the achievement of commitments and milestones as part of the second five yearly RFA review process.

Five-Yearly Review

45. *A review of the performance of this Agreement is to be undertaken during the last year of each five-year period to assess the progress of the Agreement against its specified milestones and commitments:*

The review is to be conducted:

- (i) by a person or body appointed by the Parties; and*
- (ii) in accordance with agreed priorities, procedures and funding arrangements which are to be agreed no later than six months before the end of each five year period of this Agreement.*

The review will also

- (iii) invite and take account of public comments;*
- (iv) invite and take account of the Sustainability Indicators including trends;*
- (v) be sufficient to satisfy the requirements for a State of the Forests Report as required by Section 59D of the Forestry Act 1920 (Tas);*
- (vi) be completed within three months of its commencement; and*
- (vii) develop a report detailing the review process and its findings.*

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments have signed a *Scoping Agreement for the 2007 Five-Year Review of Progress with Implementation of the RFA*. This agreement sets out the arrangements for the conduct of the review, including principles, timeframe, public consultation, governance and funding. It is available at the following web-site: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/rfa. These arrangements are consistent with the process specified in the RFA.

The review is planned commencement in May 2007 and completed within the specified three-month timeframe. This report and any public comment on the report will be included in the documentation for the review.

The Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System

48. *The Parties agree that the CAR Reserve System is to be established for the purpose of ensuring the long-term conservation and protection of the values defined by the JANIS Reserve Criteria and the land required to achieve this specified in Attachments 6 and 8.*

This commitment was substantially met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review. Some minor areas of land vested in Hydro Tasmania were not reserved prior to the 2002 Review. See the report on the 2002 Review Recommendation 3.2 in Part 2 of this report for progress on reservation of these remaining areas.

Public Land

50. *The Parties agree that they will each take appropriate action:*

- *To establish the CAR Reserve System on the Public Land described in Attachment 6 and, where appropriate, shown in Map 1; and*
- *To manage that system to maintain the CAR Values of that land in a regional context consistent with the management objectives for each element of the reserve system as specified in Attachment 7.*

See responses to Clause 24 (a) and 48 and Attachment 8.

As part of the TCFA the governments agreed to add further areas to the CAR reserve system.

52. *The State agrees that it will consult with the Commonwealth prior to rejecting any recommendations made by the Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission in regard to the tenure to be applied to those areas listed in sections 1.7 and 1.8 of Attachment 6.*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

53. *The Parties intend that all Deferred Forest Lands not included in the formal CAR Reserve System, other than those specified in Attachment 6, will be removed from the Register of Deferred Forest Land and added to the Register of Multiple-Use Forest Land.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

54. *The Commonwealth has requested and the State has agreed to postpone any harvesting in the Savage River Pipeline corridor. Accordingly the Parties agree:*

- *to postpone any harvesting and associated forest roading in the area shown on Map 1; and*
- *that this area will continue to be included in the calculation of sustainable yield of special species timber; and,*
- *that uses other than timber production will continue to be managed in accordance with clause 78 of the Agreement.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

As a result of the TCFA all of the Savage River Pipeline corridor area is now within the CAR reserve system and is no longer available for timber production. The State and the Commonwealth agreed that all additional protected areas under the TCFA will remain available for mineral exploration and mining under the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995 in accordance with clause 79 of the RFA and subject to any requirements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*.

55. *The Parties agree that:*

- (a) *during the first four years of this Agreement, the State will review its resource estimates for deep red myrtle available for supply to the furniture and craft industries, in terms of volume, quality and economic accessibility, and will publish a report of the findings;*
- (b) *the State will arrange for the review described at (a) above to be independently audited by an auditor agreed by the Parties, and for a report by the auditor to be*
- (c) *the further management of the Savage River Pipeline corridor will be considered by the State prior to the first five yearly review of this Agreement in the light of the report and the audit described at subclauses (a) and (b) above;*
- (d) *if the resource review and audit confirm the availability, outside the Savage River Pipeline corridor, of adequate resource of acceptable quality and economic accessibility, to maintain a supply of at least 4,500 cubic metres per year of deep red myrtle, for the remainder of the term of the Agreement, then harvesting and associated forest roading within the area will be further postponed for that period; and*
- (e) *in the alternative, the area will be further considered by the State to ensure the availability of deep red myrtle for the period.*

Commitments (a) and (b) were completed prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review. Commitments (c) to (e) were met during this review period.

The review report indicated that the supply of deep red myrtle could not be maintained from areas outside of the corridor at the specified level for the remainder of the term of the Agreement.

The Tasmanian Minister announced the Government's decision on 4 June 2003 to allow harvesting of deep red myrtle in the pipeline corridor but at a reduced rate of 2,000 cubic metres per year for the first five years pending a further review of the resource and operational issues.

As a result of the 2005 TCFA all of the Savage River Pipeline corridor area is now within the CAR reserve system and is no longer available for timber production.

56. *The Commonwealth agrees that the Commonwealth owned or leased land specified in Attachment 6 will form part of the CAR Reserve System as Informal Reserves. The Commonwealth further agrees that those areas of the Buckland Military Training Area leased by the Commonwealth from the State and not required for the CAR Reserve System will remain available to the State for timber production purposes, including plantation development.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Those areas of the Buckland Military Training Area leased by the Australian Government from the State and not required for the CAR reserve system remain available to the State for timber production purposes.

57. *The Parties agree that any changes to those elements of the CAR Reserve System in Informal Reserves:*

- *will only occur in Accordance with this Agreement; and*
- *will maintain the level of protection identified at the regional scale; and*
- *that information on all such changes will be publicly available and provided to the person or body conducting the five-yearly review described in clause 45 for incorporation into the review process.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Minor changes to the boundaries of Informal Reserves on State forest have been made for operational or conservation reasons. Each proposed change was evaluated by Forestry Tasmania for the level of protection it afforded identified values at the regional scale. Approved changes were made in accordance with the requirements detailed in Forestry Tasmania's Management Decision Classification (MDC) system manual. MDC maps are available for public viewing through Forestry Tasmania District offices and are published in District Forest Management Plans. See also Attachment 6, clause 17.

Table 7 shows the area of each forest community in informal reserves on State forest in 2001 and compares this with the area of informal reserves at 30 June 2006, both prior to and after implementation of the 2005 TCFA. The total area of forest within informal reserves, prior to the TCFA increased by 9,500 hectares since 2001, and increased by an additional 83,500 hectares following the TCFA, with almost all forest types also increasing in area within the informal reserve system.

Changes to informal reserves on other public land (Table 8) are primarily due to inclusion within the formal reserve system. Since 2001 2,240 hectares has been removed from informal reserves on public land and included in formal reserves.

Table 7: Changes to informal reserves (ha) on State forest⁶, by forest community, since 2001

1996 RFA Forest Community	A. Informal Reserves on State forest at June 2001	Changes since 2001				F. Area of Informal Reserves on State forest at June 2006	G. Additional Informal Reserve - implementation of TCFA (May 2005)	H. Total Area of Informal Reserves as at June 2006	I. Percentage increase in area of Informal Reserves between 2001 and 2006 (%) <small>1,4,5</small>
		B. Added to Formal Reserve system	C. Converted to non-reserved status	D. New Informal Reserves	E. No Change				
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on flats	340	0	0	10	340	360	0	360	4%
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on rises	570	0	0	30	570	590	550	1,140	101%
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>Banksia serrata</i> woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Callidendrous and thamnic rainforest on fertile sites	10,570	0	120	190	10,450	10,640	17,600	28,230	167%
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i> forest	80	0	0	0	80	80	10	80	8%
Coastal <i>E. amygdalina</i> dry sclerophyll forest	4,750	0	20	480	4,730	5,220	1,690	6,900	45%
Dry <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	18,450	0	160	1,200	18,280	19,490	5,550	25,040	36%
Dry <i>E. nitida</i> forest	2,170	0	30	10	2,140	2,150	4,170	6,320	191%
Dry <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	11,200	0	80	360	11,110	11,470	4,200	15,680	40%
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on dolerite	6,160	0	10	210	6,150	6,360	2,310	8,670	41%
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on sandstone	680	0	0	160	680	840	2,330	3,170	364%
<i>E. brookeriana</i> wet forest	40	0	0	20	40	60	10	70	76%
<i>E. coccifera</i> dry forest	3,480	0	0	30	3,470	3,500	300	3,800	9%
<i>E. morrisbyi</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>E. pauciflora</i> on Jurassic dolerite	1,460	0	110	90	1,350	1,440	30	1,470	1%
<i>E. pauciflora</i> on sediments	1,050	0	10	220	1,040	1,270	90	1,360	29%
<i>E. pulchella</i> / <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	8,210	0	10	250	8,200	8,450	2,360	10,820	32%
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	6,210	0	100	680	6,110	6,790	980	7,770	25%
<i>E. risdonii</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>E. rodwayi</i> forest	160	0	0	30	160	190	0	190	19%
<i>E. sieberi</i> forest on granite	1,700	0	20	10	1,680	1,690	70	1,760	3%
<i>E. sieberi</i> on other substrates	2,910	0	10	80	2,900	2,980	150	3,140	8%
<i>E. subcrenulata</i> forest	890	0	0	30	890	920	90	1,010	13%
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> on dolerite	550	0	10	10	550	560	380	930	69%
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> on granite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>E. viminalis</i> and/or <i>E. globulus</i> coastal shrubby forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a

<i>E. viminalis</i> / <i>E. ovata</i> / <i>E. amygdalina</i> / <i>E. obliqua</i> damp sclerophyll forest	2,260	0	30	280	2,230	2,510	40	2,550	13%
Furneaux <i>E. nitida</i> forest ⁷	60	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	-100%
Furneaux <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Grassy <i>E. globulus</i> forest	100	0	0	0	100	110	0	110	5%
Grassy <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	230	0	0	10	230	230	60	290	28%
Huon Pine forest	130	0	0	0	130	130	10	130	6%
Inland <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest	340	0	0	0	340	340	20	360	5%
Inland <i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest	450	0	0	20	450	460	130	590	32%
King Billy Pine forest	330	0	0	0	330	330	1,010	1,340	308%
King Billy Pine with deciduous beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	100%
King Island <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. brookeriana</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	320	0	0	10	320	340	0	340	4%
<i>Leptospermum</i> spp./ <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> swamp forest	330	0	20	0	310	310	100	410	25%
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i> and/or <i>Pomaderris apetala</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Pencil Pine forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Pencil Pine with deciduous beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Shrubby <i>E. ovata</i> forest	60	0	0	0	60	60	10	70	19%
Silver wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) forest	4,910	0	70	440	4,840	5,290	590	5,880	20%
Tall <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	19,200	0	420	1,470	18,780	20,250	5,030	25,280	32%
Tall <i>E. nitida</i> forest	550	0	30	20	520	530	950	1,490	171%
Tall <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	31,420	0	580	2,930	30,840	33,770	7,390	41,170	31%
Thamnic rainforest on less fertile sites	13,010	0	380	130	12,630	12,760	27,530	40,290	210%
Wet <i>E. viminalis</i> forest on basalt	80	0	0	40	80	120	0	120	43%
Grand Total	155,410	10	2,290	9,460	153,120	162,580	85,770	248,350	60%

NOTES:

- Column I is the proportion of the 2001 Informal Reserves that are reserved in 2006.
- Actual areas have been used for calculations and total columns, which are then rounded to nearest 10 hectares.
- Although some communities show drop in reservation in Informal Reserves, as well as some moving to Formal Reserves, more communities are being identified in ground-truthing, which were not mapped in the 1996 RFA Vegetation Community spatial data, and are being reserved (both as Informal and Formal Reserves). This is not identifiable using the 1996 Vegetation Community layer.
- Where a community is not Informally Reserved on Forestry Tasmania managed-land, the percent column (Column I) is shown as n/a.
- Where a community was not Informally Reserved in 2001, but is now reserved in 2006, the increase in reservation (Column I) is shown as 100% increase.
- Data for this table (columns A-I) is drawn from Forestry Tasmania, and reflects changes to Informal Reserves on State forest.
- Furneaux *E. nitida* forest area is now under the management of DPIW, due to tenure change.

Table 8 Extent of changes to informal reserves on other public land, by forest community, since 2001 (hectares) ^{2,3}

	A. Informal Reserves on other public land at June 2001	Changes since 2001			F. Total Area of Informal Reserves as at June 2006	G. Percentage of area of Informal Reserves still in Informal Reserves c.f. 2001 (%) ^{1,4}	
		B. Added to Formal Reserve system	C. Converted to non-reserved status	D. New Informal Reserves			E. No Change
1996 RFA Forest Community							
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on flats	440	380	10	0	50	50	11%
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on rises	70	0	40	0	30	30	43%
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> forest	30	0	0	0	20	20	67%
<i>Banksia serrata</i> woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Callidendrous and thamnisc rainforest on fertile sites	110	10	10	0	90	90	82%
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i> forest	10	0	0	0	10	10	100%
Coastal <i>E. amygdalina</i> dry sclerophyll forest	3,250	30	130	0	3,100	3,100	95%
Dry <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	810	20	90	0	700	700	86%
Dry <i>E. nitida</i> forest	190	0	20	0	160	160	84%
Dry <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	1,400	0	120	0	1,280	1,280	91%
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on dolerite	1,080	370	40	0	670	670	62%
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on sandstone	290	0	10	0	280	280	97%
<i>E. brookeriana</i> wet forest	440	390	10	0	50	50	11%
<i>E. coccifera</i> dry forest	20	0	0	0	20	20	100%
<i>E. morrisbyi</i> forest	20	20	0	0	0	0	0%
<i>E. pauciflora</i> on Jurassic dolerite	730	370	20	0	340	340	47%
<i>E. pauciflora</i> on sediments	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>E. pulchella</i> / <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	2,670	10	160	0	2,500	2,500	94%
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	120	0	0	0	120	120	100%
<i>E. risdonii</i> forest	10	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<i>E. rodwayi</i> forest	70	0	10	0	70	70	100%
<i>E. sieberi</i> forest on granite	30	0	0	0	30	30	100%
<i>E. sieberi</i> on other substrates	70	0	10	0	50	50	71%
<i>E. subcrenulata</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> on dolerite	80	0	0	0	70	70	88%
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> on granite	70	0	0	0	60	60	86%
<i>E. viminalis</i> and/or <i>E. globulus</i> coastal shrubby forest	30	0	0	0	20	20	67%
<i>E. viminalis</i> / <i>E. ovata</i> / <i>E. amygdalina</i> / <i>E. obliqua</i> damp sclerophyll forest	50	0	10	0	40	40	80%
Furneaux <i>E. nitida</i> forest ⁵	100	0	10	60	90	150	150%
Furneaux <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Grassy <i>E. globulus</i> forest	90	0	10	0	70	70	78%
Grassy <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	150	0	10	0	140	140	93%
Huon Pine forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Inland <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest	200	140	30	0	40	40	20%
Inland <i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest	220	10	60	0	150	150	68%
King Billy pine forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
King Billy pine with deciduous beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
King Island <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. brookeriana</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	10	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<i>Leptospermum</i> spp./ <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> swamp forest	190	80	0	0	110	110	58%
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i> and/or <i>Pomaderris apetala</i> forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Pencil pine forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Pencil pine with deciduous beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Shrubby <i>E. ovata</i> forest	60	0	10	0	50	50	83%
Silver wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) forest	230	20	60	0	150	150	65%
Tall <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	320	90	20	0	210	210	66%
Tall <i>E. nitida</i> forest	20	0	0	0	20	20	100%
Tall <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	1,120	230	100	0	790	790	71%
Thamnisc rainforest on less fertile sites	150	60	10	0	80	80	53%
Wet <i>E. viminalis</i> forest on basalt	10	0	0	0	10	10	100%
Grand Total	15,030	2,240	1,030	60	11,670	11,730	78%

NOTES:

1. Column G is the proportion of the 2001 Informal Reserves that are still reserved in 2006
2. Actual areas have been used for calculations and total columns, which are then rounded to nearest 10 hectares
3. The forest extent is as-at the first quarter of 2005
4. Where a community is not in Informal Reserves on other public land, the per cent column (Column G) is shown as n/a.
5. A portion of Furneaux *E. nitida* forest came from informal reserve on State Forest due to tenure change

Private Land

58. *The Parties reaffirm their commitments made in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) to the conservation and management of the Private Forest Estate and in particular the State reaffirms its commitments:*

- *to continue to ensure that owners of Private Forest comply with the Forest Practices Code (Tas.) for timber harvesting and regeneration operations;*
- *to continue to develop adequate mechanisms to protect State and regional nature conservation and catchment values on Private Land; and*
- *to undertake the initiatives specified in Attachments 9, 10 and 11, which are relevant to Private Land.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The *Forest Practices Act 1985* and Forest Practices Code apply equally to public and private land in Tasmania. Compliance with the Forest Practices Act and Code is monitored and enforced by the Forest Practices Authority. The Authority's annual reports describe the level of compliance on private land.

Mechanisms to encourage the retention of native vegetation on private land are detailed in the report on Attachment 9.8.

See the report on Attachments 9, 10 and 11 for detail on these initiatives on private land.

59. *The Parties recognise the importance of the CAR Reserve System of Environment and Heritage Values on Private Land and the State agrees to implement a process which will facilitate the voluntary participation by private landowners to protect those values specified in Attachment 8.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

See report on Attachment 8.

Maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate

60. *The State agrees to adopt the broad policy framework specified in Attachment 9 which is designed to maintain an extensive and permanent Native Forest Estate and to maintain the sustainability of the total Forest Estate.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

See also reports on 2002 Review recommendations 4.14 and 4.15.

Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM)

64. *The State agrees that in providing for ESFM, its Forest Management Systems will be amended to reflect the undertakings of this Agreement and in particular those undertakings specified in Attachment 10.*

Some of the undertakings specified in Attachment 10 were fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review. Others were in progress at that time and have since been further developed.

Full details are reported against Attachment 10.

Protection of priority species

68. *The Parties agree that the CAR Reserve System, established in accordance with this Agreement, and the application of management strategies and management prescriptions developed under Tasmania's Forest Management Systems, protect rare and threatened fauna and flora species and Forest Communities.*

(NOTE: On 23 February 2007 the Parties amended clause 68 of the RFA to the above wording)

Information on the CAR reserve system and the application of management strategies and prescriptions for the protection of rare and threatened fauna and fauna species and forest communities are provided in many places in this Report.

Key clauses on the CAR reserve system include: Part A clauses 24, 48, 51 and 59, and Attachments 6 and 8; Part C clauses 7, 13-15, and 21.

Key clauses on the application of management strategies and prescriptions for the protection of rare and threatened fauna and fauna species and forest communities include: Part A, clauses 32,60, 64,69, 70, 96 and 97; Part C – 45 and 48.

69. *Prior to the first five- yearly review, the State will where practical assess those species in Attachment 2 (Part B) and determine management requirements in accordance with clause 96 below.*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

However, work continues to further review and refine management prescriptions for Priority Species.

State-listed species are currently being reviewed by the Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee as part of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* five-yearly review. Management prescriptions for threatened fauna are based on the Threatened Fauna Adviser, which has been reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee. Management requirements for threatened flora are based on the Forest Botany Manuals and individual prescriptions are determined on a case by case basis. The report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006* documents the status of individual species on the Priority Species list and a draft revised list in Appendix 1.2.b (Flora and Fauna) and are discussed in Indicator 1.2.b.

70. *The Parties agree that where a Recovery Plan for a forest-related species in Tasmania or a Threat Abatement Plan concerning a Priority Species (Attachment 2 Part A) is in force, any recommended actions in the Recovery Plan or the Threat Abatement Plan that are within the jurisdiction of the Parties will be carried out in accordance with the timelines specified in the relevant Plan. If an action has not been carried out in accordance with the timelines in the relevant Plan, it will be carried out as soon as possible afterwards.*

(NOTE: On 23 February 2007 the Parties amended clause 70 of the RFA to the above wording)

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Actions in Recovery Plans given the highest priority are those that will give the best conservation outcomes. In Recovery Plans that are funded through the Natural Heritage Trust Program, actions are implemented as a matter of course - and of priority – each year. Recovery Plans implemented through joint funding from the State and Commonwealth are

dependent on the availability of funds. If the Commonwealth funding sought is not provided, or reduced from that indicated in the relevant Recovery Plans, the program is scaled down to match available funds and resources.

71. *The Parties recognise that Priority Species may change and that new or altered management prescriptions may be needed during the term of this agreement to take account of changes in the status of species, additional information and evolving forest management practices. Alterations in prescriptions will be in accordance with processes described in Clause 96.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

As part of its statutory requirements, the Scientific Advisory Committee constituted under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* is currently undertaking a five-yearly review of all species, including forest species, listed under the Act. In addition, the Committee has examined and endorsed prescriptions in the Forest Practices Authority's Threatened Fauna Adviser, which contains specific prescriptions for all RFA priority fauna species. Additional prescriptions are presented in Recovery Plans and State Listing Statements as well as for the Commonwealth Species Profile and Threats Database. The process for identifying new priority forest-dwelling species or delisting existing priority species will normally be based on the Scientific Advisory Committee assessment and recommendations for listing (under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* of species accepted for listing under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) and may also be based on taxonomic review of listed species. The exception is for special species groups or habitat surrogates (eg karst species, hollow-dependent fauna) identified under the Forest Practices Code.

The revised list of priority species is given in Appendix 1.2.b (Flora and Fauna) and discussed in Indicator 1.2.b of the report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006*.

Consultative Mechanisms

72. *The Parties recognise that they already have in place a range of processes and instruments which provide for public participation and consultation. The public reporting activities and consultation opportunities provided through these processes are outlined in Attachment 11 and it is agreed that these will continue through the term of this Agreement.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The Parties continue to implement the existing public reporting and consultative mechanisms relevant to Tasmania's forests as detailed in the response to Attachment 11.

73. *The State further agrees that it will also implement the range of reporting and consultative mechanisms specified in Attachment 11.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Employment and Industry Development

74. *In recognition of the unique contribution of forest-based industries to the Tasmanian economy, the Parties intend that this Agreement will have the effect of enhancing the future growth and development of Tasmania's industries associated with forests and timber products by the implementation of the RFA Forests – Employment and Industries Development Strategy. The Parties agree to cooperate in implementing the specified actions in that Strategy described in Attachment 12. In particular, future growth and development will be achieved through:*
- *certainty of resource access to the forest industry;*
 - *removal by the Commonwealth of the need for export licences for unprocessed wood and woodchips sourced in Tasmania;*
 - *active encouragement of the development of downstream processing in Tasmania such that the preferred market for growers is within the State;*
 - *a range of new or enhanced initiatives designed to encourage investment, plantation development, downstream processing, value-adding and jobs growth in Tasmania's forest-based industries;*
 - *the implementation of new intensive forest management initiatives, including eucalypt and blackwood plantations, and Native Forest thinning, to balance changes in Forest inventory resulting from this Agreement and expand that inventory;*
 - *security of access to the mining industry by providing defined land tenures as outlined in Attachment 6 which allow for exploration and mining together with the protection of Environment and Heritage Values; and*
 - *the provision for the development of tourism and recreation opportunities based on Tasmania's environmental advantages.*

The Parties have implemented a range of actions to facilitate the Employment and Industry Development Strategy. Further progress has been made and this progress is detailed in the response to Attachment 12. See also the report on 2002 Review recommendation 5.2.

Other Forest Uses

79. *The Parties recognise subject to clauses 80, 81 and 82 that mineral exploration and mining can occur in those specified parts of the CAR Reserve System which are identified in Attachment 6.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Mineral exploration in Tasmania is permitted in the following areas under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*:

- Crown land (uncommitted);
- Crown land allocated for public purposes but not reserved and reserved Crown land below 15 metres below the surface;
- State forest;
- Forest Reserves (if brought back under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*);
- Land vested in electricity authorities;

- Public Reserves, unless specifically excluded;
- private property;
- Conservation Areas;
- Regional Reserves; and
- Nature Recreation Areas.

Mineral exploration in areas within the CAR reserve system is subject to the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice.

80. *The State confirms that mineral exploration in areas covered by the CAR Reserve System will be subject to the Tasmanian Mineral Exploration Code of Practice and that all exploration proposals will be referred to the Mineral Exploration Working Group, who will investigate the potential impact on CAR values and recommend appropriate conditions to protect those values.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

During the period under review, mineral exploration in areas covered by the CAR reserve system, including those areas with high-quality wilderness values, has been subject to the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice. It has been agreed that this Code, as far as it relates to CAR reserves, be maintained in conjunction with the Code of Practice for Reserve Management (see Attachment 10) and that both codes be reviewed on the same five-year cycle. The Mineral Exploration Code of Practice is under review at present and will reflect sections of the Code of Practice for Reserve Management to ensure that clauses relating to the protection of CAR values are common to both codes.

The State has a Mineral Exploration Working Group that is responsible for investigating matters related to mining or mineral exploration and providing comment on their potential impacts on CAR values (eg. conservation, historical, cultural and other natural values). The members of the group, who are scientists with a good understanding of CAR values, are from Mineral Resources Tasmania, the Department of Primary Industries and Water, the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment, and Forestry Tasmania.

All applications for mineral exploration work approval during the review period have been referred to the Mineral Exploration Working Group for comment and recommendations where applicable.

Compliance auditing of the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice began in 2000-01. In the past three years the auditing system has been redeveloped and incorporated into Mineral Resources Tasmania's Tasmanian Information on Geoscience and Exploration Resources (TIGER) database. The new system is being currently implemented and it will track exploration work approvals to allow detailed audits and automatic reporting of statistics.

During the last five years there were 104 exploration work proposals in CAR reserves and all were referred to the Mineral Exploration Working Group for comment. The total area disturbed was 5.90 hectares. Approximately half that area was rehabilitated immediately on completion of the work with the remainder to be rehabilitated over the life of the tenement.

81. *The State will ensure that all proposed mining activities in areas covered by the CAR Reserve System will be subject to environmental impact assessment and environmental management conditions as required by the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1993 (Tas), the State Policies and Projects Act 1993 (Tas), and/or the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995 (Tas).*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

All proposals for mining activities in areas covered by the CAR reserve system are accompanied by environmental-impact information. This information is assessed by Mineral Resources Tasmania, the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment, Forestry Tasmania and any local government whose jurisdiction the Mining Lease falls into. Mineral Resources Tasmania incorporates recommendations from these organisations where conditions need to be placed on activities to ensure values are not permanently affected adversely and impacts on wilderness values are minimised.

It should be noted that a Mining Lease does not permit an operation to proceed. Approval for the operation is through the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, which automatically triggers assessment through the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (except for Level 1 – minor operations). The environmental assessment, including natural values, is carried out. The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment and / or the relevant local council set permit conditions. The permit and conditions are subject to third party appeal.

During the review period the Avebury Nickel Mine near Zeehan has been approved for development in Informal Reserves on State forest within an area of high-quality wilderness. The development approval process was as described above.

82. *The Parties agree that in relation to those parts of the CAR Reserve System with high quality wilderness values, as identified through the CRA, measures will be taken under State processes to minimise the effects of mineral exploration and mining activities on wilderness values. Rehabilitation of any exploration activity impacts and rehabilitation of any mine site will be in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995 (Tas), and the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas) in so far as any permit conditions are relevant, and will aim both to achieve world's best practice and to return the site to its wilderness condition.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Mineral exploration in areas within the CAR reserve system is subject to the Mineral Exploration Code of Practice. The Code provides for minimising the effects of mineral exploration activities on environment and heritage values, including wilderness values in identified high-quality wilderness areas.

During the review period (the last five years) the total area disturbed by mineral exploration work in CAR reserves or State forest with high-quality wilderness was 2.10 hectares. All exploration work proposals were referred to the Mineral Exploration Working Group for comment. A running total of rehabilitation of works in high-quality wilderness areas over the reporting period shows that as of the 30 June 2006 1.02 hectares remains to be rehabilitated over the life of the tenements.

Indigenous Issues

83. *The State undertakes that it will introduce into State Parliament legislation to replace the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975 (Tas.). This will occur following formal consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to ensure the appropriate management of Aboriginal heritage, including the maintenance of traditional and historic sites, uses and values in Tasmania.*

This commitment is still being implemented.

Tasmania has not yet introduced legislation to replace the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*. However, considerable progress has been made towards achieving this objective.

In 2003, the then Premier launched a project in his State of the State address to develop new Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Legislation. The purpose of the new legislation will be to provide effective recognition, assessment, protection and management of Aboriginal heritage, including the empowerment of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in relation to that heritage. Public consultation began in July 2005. The second of three stages of public consultation has now been completed.

A Consultation Package, with information on the concepts being considered for the new legislation, is available at <http://www.tahl.tas.gov.au>. A third stage of consultation on a draft Bill is scheduled for late 2007.

It is expected that State Parliament will consider new legislation in the 2007-08 financial year.

Competition Principles

87. *The State confirms its commitments under the Competition Principles Agreement, which provides that legislation relevant to the allocation and pricing of hardwood logs from State forests, will be reviewed before the 31 December 1999. Competitive neutrality principles will be taken into account in any changes following the review.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Research

89. *The Parties agree to make publicly available, wherever practical, research reports relevant to the substance of this agreement.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

All research and other reports produced to satisfy the substance of the RFA are publicly available, as is documentation of recommendations by the Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee. Research reports from relevant agencies are generally listed in the annual reports of those agencies.

Data Use and Access

90. *The Parties recognise that the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement depends on appropriate mutual access to and accreditation of relevant information owned and held by each of them and have agreed to provide such access and accreditation for the term of this Agreement in accordance with the practices and procedures specified in Attachment 14.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Sustainability Indicators

91. *The Parties agree to develop and establish by the first of December 1999 an appropriate, practical and cost effective set of Sustainability Indicators which:*
- *have regard to the Montreal Process Criteria (as amended from time to time) the current form of which is specified in Attachment 4 and take account of the processes and regional framework of indicators developed by the Montreal Process Implementation Group;*
 - *assess the criteria for sustainable forest management for the whole of the Tasmania Region;*
 - *take account of the results of the Warra Case Study to develop effective regional indicators;*
 - *include appropriate social and economic indicators in the development of those indicators the Parties agree to;*
 - *determine the frequency of monitoring and reporting;*
 - *provide for public consultation and to take account of public comments; and*
 - *develop efficient linkages to the ongoing work being carried out on the Commonwealth and Tasmanian State of the Forests and State of the Environment Reports to avoid duplication of effort.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

The report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006* has been released to inform the 2007 RFA Review.

Forest Management

93. *The State agrees, within five years of the date of this Agreement, to further develop its Forest Management Systems and processes through the development and implementation of environmental management systems in accordance with the principles specified in Attachment 5 and acknowledges that its objective for State Forest is system certification comparable with the ISO 14000 series.*

This commitment was reported on and reviewed in the 2002 Review as being fully met in relation to State forest.

Some private forestry companies have either obtained or are continuing to develop environmental management systems (EMS) for all or part of their operations that are certified as meeting the ISO 14001 requirements. During the reporting period Forest Enterprises Australia received ISO 14001 certification for its forest management system.

Since 2002, Forestry Tasmania and Gunns Ltd have further received independent certification of their forest management as meeting the requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) (AS4708), which is internationally recognised by the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The reserve system on State forest is covered by Forestry Tasmania's EMS. The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment is developing an EMS for national parks, reserves and other public land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service. Major components of the proposed EMS are an environmental policy, upgraded environmental impact assessment process, monitoring and evaluation framework, auditing of compliance with the Reserve Management Code of Practice and a supporting information management system. At least in

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the short-medium term, the EMS will be consistent with, but not accredited under, ISO 14001.

See also the report on the 2002 Review recommendations 4.12 and 4.13 in Part 2 of this report.

94. *The State agrees to publish, and make publicly available, its:*

- *annual compliance audits of the implementation of the Forest Practices Act 1985 (Tas.), Forest Practices Code and its code of reserve management specified in Attachment 10.9*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The Forest Practices Authority, in accordance with s.4 of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*, undertakes an independent audit of a sample of forest practices plans on private property and State forest. The audit uses a random sample, stratified to ensure the activities of all forestry organisations and forest practices officers are sampled. The audit covers forest practices plans for forest harvesting, roading, quarrying and site preparation at various stages of completion. In addition to assessing operational performance, the audit checks the standard of the plan, including all assessments and procedures required by the forest practices system. The audit covers 139 factors within the general areas of roads, bridges, harvesting, snig tracks, landings, stream reserves, Forest Practices Plan, consultation with the local government sector, flora, fauna, geomorphology, cultural heritage and visual landscape.

In addition to the formal audit, the Authority investigates all alleged breaches of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. A report on these investigations and the full audit results are tabled in Parliament and are publicly available in the Forest Practices Authority's annual reports from the website www.fpa.tas.gov.au.

The Reserve Management Code of Practice was first published in 2003 (see Attachment 10, clause 11).

The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment is developing a system for compliance reporting on the Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice based on an audit of a sample of Parks and Wildlife Service environmental assessments for new activities in reserves. The environmental assessment process for activities in reserves - the Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) system – was introduced in 2004 to ensure that the requirements of the Reserve Management Code of Practice were taken into account when planning and implementing new activities in reserves. The RAA system is currently being reviewed and enhanced based on experience of operation to date. As part of this review a pilot audit is being conducted for 2006-07. Once the RAA system is finalised, formal compliance reporting will commence

Forestry Tasmania has developed and is implementing a Standard Operating Procedure and Guidelines for Activities in Reserves. The procedure and guidelines have been developed to facilitate the implementation of the Reserve Management Code of Practice. Staff have been trained in the application of the procedure and guidelines, and it is being implemented in the field.

The procedure and guidelines form part of Forestry Tasmania's Safety and Environment Management System, and are now consequently part of the internal and external audit program. While a number of RAAs and plans have been carried out for proposed activities within Reserves, not all of these activities have been carried out in the field, and therefore have not been subject to on-ground audits.

- *five-yearly independent expert reviews of the operation of the above-mentioned codes of practice where they are associated with Forest lands.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

An independent expert review of the operation of the Forest Practices Code is to be undertaken approximately every five years.

The Forest Practices System is based on a philosophy of continuing review and improvement.

Several independent thematic reviews have been completed since the RFA was signed. Reviews reported upon in the first five yearly report on the RFA included: the steep country provisions of the Forest Practices Code; the soil and water provisions of the Code; the safety aspects of the Code; and the audit procedures of the then Forest Practices Board.

In 2000, a draft revised Forest Practices Code was released for public comment. Over 70 submissions were received and considered by the Forest Practices Advisory Council. An amended Code, the Forest Practices Code 2000, took effect on 1 January 2001.

Since 2002, the following reviews have been completed or commenced by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA):

1. A review of the procedures governing the administration of the application process for private timber reserves, undertaken by international forestry consultant Mr Clynt Wells.
2. A review of the provisions relating to the protection of class 4 streams was initiated in 2000. The review involved a one year study by a project officer, two PhD studies initiated by the FPA in collaboration with the University of Tasmania, and a field review conducted by the FPA's Senior Scientist for soils and water. Revised management prescriptions for class 4 streams were developed and endorsed by the Forest Practices Advisory Council and the board of the FPA and the new guidelines were implemented through an administrative instruction to Forest Practices Officers in 2003.
3. A thematic audit of processes used by forest managers with respect to the silvicultural management and regeneration of private forests. This audit was undertaken by the Chief Forest Practices Officer, FPA Compliance Manager and silvicultural expert Leigh Edwards. The results of the audit are reported in the Annual Report on Forest Practices 2004-2005, available at www.fpa.tas.gov.au.
4. Expert reviews were conducted by working groups established by the Forest Practices Advisory Council into the smoke management provisions of the Code and the use of chemicals. Recommendations from both working groups will be submitted as part of the general review of the Code (see below).
5. A major expert review of the biodiversity provisions of the Forest Practices Code was initiated by the FPA in 2006. The review is expected to be completed in early 2008, with its findings to be submitted as part of the general review of the Code (see below).
6. A general review of the Forest Practices Code was initiated by the FPA in late 2006. The Authority expects the review to be completed and a revised Code released for public comment in early 2008.

Databases and Confirmation

96. *The State agrees that any new or altered management prescriptions that are developed over the term of the Agreement for the Priority Species in Attachment 2, as amended from time to time, will:*

- (a) provide for the maintenance of the relevant species;*
- (b) have a sound scientific basis;*
- (c) be endorsed by the Tasmanian Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee where relevant; and*
- (d) take note of public comment.*

(NOTE: On 23 February 2007 the Parties amended clause 96 of the RFA to the above wording)

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Most species on the Priority Species lists in RFA Attachment 2 are also listed under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. The Scientific Advisory Committee undertakes five yearly reviews of the schedules to the *Threatened Species Protection Act* and as a result of these the listing status of some species has changed. Other changes to the priority species list have arisen from:

- ongoing additions and deletions from the schedules to State and Commonwealth threatened species legislation;
- a full review of priority species undertaken as part of the RFA Five Year Review in 2001-02
- a further review of priority species undertaken as part of the RFA Ten Year Review.

As a result, new species have been added to the lists in Appendix 1.2.b of the report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006*.

Changes made to management prescriptions in the Threatened Fauna Adviser are endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee. Public comments were sought on changes to species on the Schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act* and to changes to the priority species list via the RFA five year reviews.

The primary mechanism for seeking public comment on new and revised management prescriptions is through key representative organisations and through the processes governing the review of the *Forest Practices Code* (last reviewed for 2000 edition, currently under review with a focus on biodiversity provisions). Review and consultative processes for priority species include the following:

- peer review by independent scientists with recognised expertise for the relevant species;
- independent review by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the management prescriptions contained within the Threatened Fauna Adviser planning tool;
- consultation and review with key stakeholders on all new and revised management prescriptions through the Forest Practices Advisory Council (comprising forest industry, local government, private forest owners, public forest managers, the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment and independent conservation scientists).

97. *The State agrees to maintain and to update as necessary a database or databases of management prescriptions and responses to disturbance related to threatened fauna and flora and confirms that it intends to use the database or databases as a basis for updating relevant State management documents and as a basis for the management of threatened species. Updated database contents will be periodically made available in a publicly accessible form for public comment.*

(NOTE: On 23 February 2007 the Parties amended clause 97 of the RFA to the above wording)

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

As noted in the 2002 RFA Five Year Review, Tasmania has upgraded databases developed for the RFA to make them operationally viable and to provide for new information as it becomes available. Information about flora and fauna are stored separately. The fauna components of the databases have been superseded by the Threatened Fauna Adviser (provides management prescriptions) and the Threatened Fauna Database (provides location and general management information). Flora data are accessed through the Natural Values Atlas developed by the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) and management prescriptions are derived from the Forest Practices Authority's Forest Botany Manuals, Recovery Plans, Listing Statements and specialist knowledge. All updating has been in accordance with the requirements of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and provisions of the Forest Practices Code. As required under Clause 96, the new management information and changes are vetted and endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the *Threatened Species Protection Act*. The Threatened Fauna Database and Forest Botany Manuals can be viewed by the public or downloaded in hardcopy format from the Forest Practices Authority website (www.fpa.tas.gov.au). Recovery Plans and Listing Statements are similarly available on the DPIW website (<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/>) or by direct link through the Natural Values Atlas (www.naturalvaluesatlas.dpiw.tas.gov.au).

The processes for seeking public comment are described in the report on clause 96 above.

Review of sustainable high-quality sawlog supply levels

98. *The State agrees to undertake a review of sustainable high-quality sawlog supply levels from public land to reflect the changes in forest inventory and new intensive management initiatives concluded in this Agreement. The review will be completed and published during the first year of this Agreement and thereafter will coincide with the five-yearly review of this Agreement.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The sustained yield reviews of high quality eucalypt sawlog supply from Tasmanian State forests were completed and published by Forestry Tasmania in November 1998 and May 2002. This commitment was reviewed in the 2002 Review.

A further interim review was completed and published in 2005 (*Towards a new Silviculture in Tasmania's Public Oldgrowth Forests - Final Advice to the Tasmanian Government* (April 2005)).

A complete review is underway and will be finalised and published by Forestry Tasmania in 2007.

Review of pricing and allocation policies for commercial Government-owned forestry operations

99. *The State agrees to undertake by 30th April 1998 a review on pricing and allocation policies for commercial government-owned forestry operations and agrees to make available to the public a report describing the outcomes of the review and agrees to consider these outcomes in the development of its pricing and allocation policy.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Financial Assistance

100. *The Commonwealth will, subject to the provisions of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997, and the terms and conditions of the Partnership Agreement entered into it with Tasmania on 7 October 1997 under section 19 of that Act as to the financial assistance provided to the State thereunder, provide \$20 million for actions to implement the 'Program to protect conservation values on private land in support of the CAR Reserve System' described at Attachment 8 in this Agreement. Such payments are to be made on the basis provided for in that Attachment.*

The Commonwealth has provided the full \$20 million of Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding to Tasmania for use in the Tasmanian Private Forest Reserves Program (PFRP). With the cessation of the PFRP on 30 June 2006, it was agreed under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA) that unspent NHT funds from the PFRP would be returned to the Commonwealth for use in the Forest Conservation Fund, as established through the TCFA. Tasmania is presently acquitting these NHT funds.

101. *The Commonwealth will, subject to the terms and conditions under any Commonwealth Act which appropriates money for use by the State for the purposes of this Agreement, provide that money to the State as follows:*
- (i) *an amount of \$57 million in equal instalments over three years commencing 1997/98 for the implementation of new intensive forest management initiatives;*
 - (ii) *an amount of \$13 million in equal instalments over three years commencing 1997/98 for the implementation of employment and industry development initiatives specified in Attachment 12;*
 - (iii) *an amount of \$10 million in equal instalments over three years commencing in 1997/98 for infrastructure development projects as specified in Attachment 12, being*
 - *roading to increase productivity (\$6 million),*
 - *tourism infrastructure (\$3 million) and*
 - *new reserve management (\$1 million); and*
 - (iv) *a further amount of \$10 million in equal instalments over 2 years commencing 1997/98 for actions to implement the 'Program to protect conservation values on private land in support of the CAR Reserve System' described at Attachment 8 of this Agreement.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Attachment 1 – Protection and Management of National Estate Values

6. *The Parties agree, by the 31 December 1998, to jointly fund and accredit for land management purposes digital maps at resolution of 1:100 000 of the boundaries of all lands in Tasmania listed on the Register of the National Estate.*

As detailed below this milestone has been partially met prior to changes to the Commonwealth's environment legislation. As a result of these changes, no further work will be done on this commitment.

As reported for the 2002 Review, digital maps of existing areas listed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE) were produced in 1997 for the Tasmanian Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) at 1:100 000 resolution. The then Environment Australia, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, and Forestry Tasmania progressed the identification of new and revised listings in accordance with Attachment 1 of the RFA.

It was also reported that as the Commonwealth had announced its intentions to amend the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to provide for a National Heritage Places List to replace the Register of the National Estate, the Parties had agreed to suspend further work on identifying places to add to the register, pending the outcomes of the legislative amendments. The Australian Heritage Commission therefore added a disclaimer to places on the register. This proviso effectively applies to all of Attachment 1, but most specifically to clauses 6-10, 14, 15, 20 and 21.

In 2003, the Commonwealth amended the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to provide for a National Heritage Places List to replace the RNE.

Recent amendments to the EPBC Act and the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* have a number of consequences for the Register of the National Estate. These include that the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) must not include a place in the RNE or remove a place, part of heritage value of place from it - in effect "freezing" the RNE as at the date of commencement of the amendments (19 February 2007). The Commonwealth Environment Minister will no longer be required to consider information in the RNE in the course of his decision-making under the EPBC Act. The RNE will cease to operate as a statutory list after five years (from 19 February 2007); from then the AHC is no longer required under its Act to maintain it other than as an information repository. The five year transition period is to allow the States and Territories to complete the task of transferring places to their heritage registers.

7. *The Parties note that the Commission has agreed to update the Statements of Significance and Condition and Description Statements for all existing listings on its Register of the National Estate to incorporate the results of the Joint Study. The Parties note that the Commission has agreed:*
- *that existing National Estate places will have their Statements of Significance updated with the values identified in the Joint Study and their Condition and Description Statements amended to reflect the protection and management status of the area they cover;*
 - *to delist Forest places if they have been identified through the CRA to have no Forest-related National Estate Value;*

- *to consider refinement of boundaries to minimise confusion or to better reflect the intent of listing, on the basis of improved data from CRA assessments;*
 - *that interim-listed Forest places will be progressed as required by the provisions of the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (Cwth) but consistent with the intent of paragraphs 8/10 below, as far as practicable; and*
 - *for those listed places in which forestry activities may take place the Commission will make clear in relevant public documents (place records) the management status of the area and that those areas are not within the agreed CAR Reserve System.*
8. *The Parties agree to recommend to the Commission new listings on Public Land which are drawn from National Estate Values protected within the CAR Reserve System or by other measures appropriate to the value, or which will not be affected by harvesting.*
 9. *The Parties note that the Commission has agreed to work in cooperation with the State in delineating places for National Estate listing.*
 10. *The Parties agree and note the Commission has also agreed that, for places arising from the Joint Study, only places identified by the above principles will be listed in the Register of the National Estate.*
 14. *The Parties note that the Commission has agreed that future nominations will be referred to them, and agree to work in a cooperative and timely fashion when considering whether such nominations will be recommended to the Commission for listing. As part of this process the Parties will compare the nominations with the existing Tasmanian Forest National Estate database to consider any new research or information provided.*
 15. *The Parties will jointly agree on any future forest-related recommendations to the Commission for listing. The Parties note that the Commission has agreed to work cooperatively with them on the detail of any consequent listings that may arise.*
 16. *The Parties agree that all National Estate Values will be considered in forest management decisions. The advice of the Commission will be sought in relation to proposed actions by the Commonwealth which are outside the scope of this Agreement and which might adversely affect National Estate Values in Tasmania, including proposed actions that may affect National Estate Values in areas outside the CAR Reserve System and which have not been listed on the Register of the National Estate. The Parties note that the Commission has agreed to take into account the undertakings in this Agreement in providing its advice, and will provide such advice in a regional context.*

National Estate Values have been considered in forest-management decisions in accordance with the principles in Attachment 1, clause 4 and the agreed actions in Attachment 1, Table 1. National Estate Values have been addressed at the State level in both forest management plans and reserve management plans prepared or revised since the RFA was signed in 1997, and are addressed in operational planning through the provisions of the Forest Practices Code 2000.

Since 2002 there have been no actions proposed by the Commonwealth that could potentially have impacted on National Estate Values in Tasmania, and consequently required advice

from the Australian Heritage Commission under Section 30 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*.

Also see clause 6 of this attachment (Attachment 1).

17. *The Parties note that the Commission may delegate preparation of Section 30 advice with respect to Forest Estate areas covered by this Agreement to an appropriate official in a Tasmanian Agency. This delegation would be limited to the Forest Estate documented in the CRA.*

The Australian Heritage Commission did not delegate this authority. This has not been a concern for the Tasmanian Government.

As a result of legislative changes (see clause 6 of this Attachment) this commitment is no longer applicable.

19. *The Parties agree the listing of places on Private Land will take place in consultation with private owners. National Estate natural heritage values on Private Land will only be listed from areas protected under the Private Land elements of the CAR Reserve System.*

The Australian Heritage Commission's policy was to consult with private landholders; however, no natural National Estate listings were considered on private land subsequent to the agreement.

As a result of legislative changes (see clause 6 of this Attachment) there will be no further National Estate listings.

20. *The State agrees, as part of the implementation of the program to protect CAR values on Private Land outlined in Attachment 8, to encourage the listing on the Register of the National Estate of areas of Private Land within the CAR Reserve System.*

See response to Attachment 8.

Attachment 1, Table 1 – Additional agreed actions under the Tasmanian RFA

Fauna centres of endemism: For the Plomleys Island and St Marys indicative areas, key endemic species to be added to forest management plans (when new ones are prepared or existing ones revised), along with the general principle of maintaining species' presence in the indicative area.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Richness of plant communities: Future revision of the Forest Practices Code to consider inclusion of an additional principle under Flora Conservation, along the lines: "Plan and manage timber-harvesting activities to maintain richness of flora species and communities"; and

Flora species richness: Future revision of the Forest Practices Code to consider including an additional principle under Flora Conservation, along the lines: "Plan and manage timber-harvesting activities to maintain richness of flora species and communities".

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Type localities for fauna species: Fauna type localities to be identified as special management zones under the Management Decision Classification System, where practicable.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Primitive and relict fauna: For the north-west extremity and Goulds Country indicative areas, key primitive and relict species to be added to Forest Management Plans (when new ones are prepared or existing ones revised), along with the general principle of maintaining species' presence in the indicative area.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Disjunct fauna: For Wielangta area, key disjunct species to be added to Forest Management Plans (as new ones are prepared or existing ones revised), along with the general principle of maintaining species presence within the indicative area.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Fauna species at the limits of their range: For the north-west extremity, north-east extremity, East Tamar, and Goulds Country indicative areas, key fauna species at the limits of their range to be added to forest management plans (when new ones are prepared or existing ones revised), along with the general principle of maintaining species' presence in the indicative area.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Type localities for flora species: Flora type localities to be identified as special management zones under the Management Decision Classification System.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Research, teaching and benchmark sites: Indicative areas to be identified as special management zones under the Management Decision Classification System and managed as appropriate to their research value.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Geo-conservation values: Future revision of the Forest Practices Code to consider replacing “geomorphology” in the Code with the term “geoconservation”; Tasmanian Geoconservation Database to be incorporated in planning databases; Geoconservation values to be identified in forest management plans.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Historic values: Future revision of the Forest Practices Code to consider replacing “archaeology” with “cultural heritage”; to add a definition of “historic cultural heritage significance” identical to the definition given in the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995; and to revise the archaeological manual to ensure historic values are considered in a manner consistent with current best practice; and to include National Estate historic indicative areas in upgraded planning databases.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Social values: Indicative areas to be incorporated into planning databases.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Aesthetic values: Indicative areas to be incorporated into planning databases.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Attachment 6 – The Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve System on Public Land

2. *The CAR reserve system on Public Land, not including values managed by prescription, will total 2,700,000 ha, comprising 2,304,000 ha of existing reserves and 396,000 ha of additional reserves. The reservation levels achieved in the CAR Reserve System on Public Land for Forest Communities and Old Growth communities are detailed in Table 1. These do not include values reserved by prescription.*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

The CAR reserve system now comprises 3,030,000 hectares of land, which is 44.3 per cent of the total land area of Tasmania. Public land reserves comprise 2,955,000 hectares and private land reserves 75,000 hectares. This is an increase of 320,000 hectares (4 per cent) since 2001.

In 2002 it was reported that a few small areas of public land managed by Hydro Tasmania agreed to be protected in the RFA had not be reserved at that time pending a review by Hydro Tasmania of its land asset requirements associated with its power developments. The RPDC recommended that these areas be reserved after Hydro Tasmania's review was completed. See the report on the 2002 RFA Review recommendation 3.2 in Part 2 of this report.

The TCFA has changed this RFA commitment. Under the TCFA the Parties agreed to a higher level of reservation of public land. See the report against clauses 6 to 15 in Part 3 of this report, including revised reservation levels detailed in Table 1 of Attachment 6 of the RFA.

5. *The State will finalise boundaries on 1:25 000 maps to enable gazettal, referred to clause 24 of the agreement. Finalisation will include identifying the best management boundaries.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

17. *Forestry Tasmania will identify those Informal Reserve areas on State forest on Management Decision Classification maps as protection zones and manage the areas for the protection of the CAR values identified, subject to field verification of the existence and extent of those values. These informal reserves will be included in new and revised Forest Management Plans by the year 2000.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

18. *The requirement for, and location of, some existing Protection Zones will also be reviewed as a result of the RFA. Any changes will be made in accord with Clause 57 of this Agreement.*

All changes to Informal Reserve boundaries continue to be made in accordance with clause 57.

20. *These Informal Reserves (Stony Head; Little Swanport Hill; Mt Douglas; Maclaines Creek) will be included after public participation in new and revised Management Plans by the year 2000.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

21. *The following Forest Communities, where they occur outside existing and new Formal and Informal Reserves, will be protected on Public land wherever prudent and feasible, to protect those values at a regional level:*

Eucalyptus risdonii forest

E. ovata Shrubby forest

E. viminalis wet forest on basalt

Notelaea ligustrina/Pomaderris apetala forest

Banksia serrata woodland

Furneaux E. viminalis forest

E. amygdalina inland forest

E. globulus grassy forest

E. viminalis grassy forest

E. viminalis/E. globulus forest

E. tenuiramis inland forest

E. rodwayi forest

E. brookeriana forest

King Island E. globulus/ E. brookeriana/ E. viminalis forest

Callitris rhomboidea forest

Melaleuca ericifolia coastal swamp forest

E. pauciflora old growth forest on dolerite

E. sieberi old growth forest on granite

E. sieberi old growth forest on other substrates

E. viminalis/ E. ovata/ E. amygdalina/ E. obliqua old growth damp sclerophyll forest

This commitment continues to be met by the implementation of the processes detailed below.

Forest planners identify the forest communities present when Forest Practices Plans are prepared. If any of the communities listed above will be affected by the proposed operations, forest planners must seek advice from the appropriate Forest Practices Authority specialists and may also seek it from Forestry Tasmania's Planning Branch. Patches of these communities are excluded from operations wherever prudent and feasible. They are protected either by management prescription incorporated in the Plan or by inclusion within informal reserves under Forestry Tasmania's Management Decision Classification System. Protection is also given where these communities are identified on public land through other processes, for example on State forest, such areas are included within informal reserves.

For mineral exploration activities on public land, the Mineral Exploration Working Group identifies areas containing these communities and recommend conditions to mitigate potential impacts.

22. *Deferred Forest Land not required for the CAR Reserve System will be removed from the Register of Deferred Forest Land.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

23. *The following areas of Deferred Forest Land will be referred to the Public Land Use Commission for recommendations on tenure and management.*

All areas will be available for mineral exploration and mining under the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995.

<i>near Savage River township</i>	<i>2 230 ha</i>
<i>east of Stanley River</i>	<i>1 350 ha</i>
<i>north of Zeehan</i>	<i>890 ha</i>
<i>north and west of Gladstone</i>	<i>8 350 ha</i>
<i>Leven Canyon</i>	<i>2 720 ha</i>
<i>Bonds Range</i>	<i>2 020 ha</i>

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

24. *Deferred Forest Land other than those areas identified in 4 above and not required for the CAR Reserve System will, subject to the provisions of the Forestry Act 1920 (Tas), be entered into the Register of Multiple Use Forest Land.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Attachment 8 Program to Protect CAR Values on Private Land

A program to protect CAR values on Private Land by the voluntary participation of private landholders in the CAR Reserve System will be established based on the following principles.

Principles

- (i) *The program will commence after prioritisation of the CAR values and implementation arrangements are established and will continue for an agreed period. Any extension to this would require the agreement of the Parties.*

Following signing of the RFA in November 1997, the Private Forest Reserves Program (PFRP) was established in what is now the Department of Primary Industries and Water, with the aim of establishing a system of CAR reserves on forested private land. The program created the organisational structures, processes and voluntary mechanisms, as described in the RFA. No fixed period was agreed for establishing the system of CAR reserves on private land, however, an objective of the strategic plan was to establish the private land component of the CAR reserve system within four years of the plan being approved (ie by July 2002).

By agreement between the Parties, and as part of the TCFA, the State managed PFRP program was extended until 30 June 2006. From 1 July 2006 the program of furthering the CAR system of voluntary reserves on forested private land was replaced by the Australian Government managed Forest Conservation Fund – see Part 3 (clauses 21-29) of this report.

- (ii) *Participation in the program by private landowners will be voluntary and no non-voluntary instruments will be used to achieve protection of CAR values on Private Land without proper compensation being paid.*

Participation in the PFRP was entirely voluntary.

- (iii) *The program will seek to maximise agreed CAR values on Private Lands in a cost-effective manner.*

The PFRP used a range of approaches and voluntary mechanisms, including financial incentives for conservation covenants, competitive tendering for environmental services and a revolving fund.

The financial incentives for entering into a perpetual conservation covenant were based on a proportion of the market value of the land.

By 30 June 2006, 200 landowners had agreed to place perpetual conservation covenants over 27,807 hectares of targeted native forests of high conservation significance (see Table 1). The success of the PFRP is due in part to the ability to negotiate an outcome commensurate with an agreed level of financial incentive.

Rate rebates were offered by about half of the State's local governments. Such schemes increased the effectiveness of the program.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) had been a major disincentive and psychological barrier to landowners' participation in the program. However, amendments to make financial incentives to landowners with pre-CGT land being exempt from taxation, and to reduce the

negative impact of CGT on landowners with post-CGT land, made a significant difference to the acceptability of the agreements.

The revolving fund process has been used by the program on a small scale to complement other approaches where it was cost-effective and beneficial in terms of conservation outcomes. Revolving a property by covenanting and sale enabled the “reuse” of some program funds.

By 30 June 2006, the program had assessed CAR values of forests on 117,814 hectares of private land on 1497 properties. The number of properties approved for covenanting or purchase by the Advisory Committee of the program amounted to some 43,966 hectares (Table 9).

Table 9 Forested properties assessed, approved for purchase or covenant in perpetuity, purchased, covenanted or subject to management agreement by 30 June 2006

Assessed		Approved		Purchased		Covenanted		Management Agreements	
No.	ha.	No.	ha.	No	ha	No	ha	No	ha
1,497	117,814	283	43,966	22	5,898	200	27,807	2	478

At 30 June 2006, 59 properties had been approved for covenant or purchase but had not been finalised, this represented a further 9,783 hectares (these figures are included in Table 9 above). It is anticipated that the majority of these properties will be completed by early 2007, with all properties completed by June 2007. A few properties may be discontinued, due to protracted problems with title ownership and conflicting instruments on the title.

(iv) The CAR values will, wherever possible, be secured in perpetuity.

To 30 June 2006, all of the properties except two have been secured in perpetuity by purchase or covenants, however one of these has since been included in a perpetual covenant.

(v) Implementation of the program will be the responsibility of the State, in accordance with paragraphs 9 to 22 below.

The Tasmanian Government had responsibility for delivery of the program through the Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Water. The Department’s General Manager, Resource Management and Conservation, who also chairs the Advisory Committee, was responsible for ensuring the program delivers agreed outputs and outcomes.

(vi) CAR values identified on Private Land as suitable for inclusion in the CAR Reserve System may be incorporated through a variety of approaches, including stewardship agreements and voluntary sale.

If a landowner was willing, and had forests that had been assessed as meeting the JANIS criteria for the CAR reserve system, then negotiations were commenced. The program sought to protect CAR values through perpetual conservation covenants. However, if forests had a very high conservation value, and the landowner rejected a perpetual conservation covenant, then the negotiator discussed the option of a fixed-term covenant or a fixed-term management agreement. The financial incentive offered for a fixed-term covenant is proportionally less than for a perpetual covenant, and no up-front incentive payment is offered for a management agreement. Management agreements were with the landowner for a specified period and did not transfer with the title if the property is sold.

The PFRP did not enter into any fixed-term covenants, however two management agreements were entered into, covering a total of 478 hectares. Since June 2006, one of these has now

been superseded by a covenant in perpetuity. The remaining management agreement covers 113 hectares, and may be converted to a covenant in the future also.

In exceptional cases, where it appeared to be the only way of securing protection for a particular forest type, or for the best remaining example of a particular forest type, then purchase was considered. 22 properties, totalling 5,898 hectares were purchased, which is 17.25 per cent of the total reserved area under the PFRP.

(vii) Valuations will be conducted by a registered valuer.

All valuations for purchases were prepared by registered valuers.

(viii) Private landowners will be afforded the opportunity of playing an active role in the formulation of management plans.

Conservation plans are jointly prepared with landowners for each covenanted property.

Strategic Plan and Identification of Priorities

1. *A strategic plan for implementing the program will be prepared by the Department of Environment and Land Management [now Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, "DPIWE"] with advice from the Scientific Advisory Group referred to below. The strategic plan will be submitted to the Parties for joint approval following its consideration by the Advisory Committee also referred to below.*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

2. *The plan will be developed as soon as possible but no later than 3 months from the commencement of the Agreement. The plan will identify priorities in relation to the protection of CAR values. The priorities will be based on protecting the values identified during the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) process in accordance with the JANIS Reserve Criteria.*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

3. *In the context of (2) above, priority attention will be given to protecting rare, vulnerable and endangered vegetation communities, rare and depleted old-growth forests and the Priority Species identified in Attachment 2. Attention will also be given to protecting National Estate values on Private Land.*

The strategic approach used by the PFRP in establishing the CAR reserve system on private land was outlined in the strategic plan. A "Strategic Reserve Design" tool was developed to facilitate identification and securing of the best possible reserve design on private land to protect CAR values. The design included consideration of National Estate values.

4. *The implementation of the strategic plan will source, in part, funds from the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia's reserve as established under the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997 (Commonwealth). The strategic plan will therefore be framed consistent with the purposes of the Reserve under the Act and the NHT Partnership Agreement, including the objectives and outcomes of relevant NHT programs under that Agreement. Subject to the agreement of the Parties, the strategic plan will formally be made an attachment to the Partnership Agreement.*

The strategic plan was consistent with the purposes of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997* and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Partnership Agreement. Funds were

delivered in accordance with the Partnership Agreement and are provided through NHT Financial Agreements.

5. *The plan will also identify:*

- *required objectives;*
- *mechanisms for creating landowner awareness;*
- *priority setting including timelines; and*
- *implementation review and monitoring arrangements.*

The strategic plan identified objectives, mechanisms for creating landowner awareness, priority setting, and review and monitoring arrangements.

A communication strategy was developed and implemented. A program logo and metal signs were produced and have been widely used for promotional purposes. The program has had displays at numerous agricultural shows and exhibitions, including Agfest.

A website was also provided that contained access to relevant publications and links to related organisations and programs.

The Private Forest Reserves Unit has applied project management methods to ensure clear priority setting and timeliness, and developed a business plan, risk management strategy, and effective review and monitoring arrangements.

An ongoing monitoring program has been in place since 2004. The program aims to assess changes in vegetation condition within reserves, with a particular focus on grazing impacts. Coupled with this, an ongoing stewardship program provides management advice and assistance to covenant owners.

Advisory Committee

6. *The Parties will establish an Advisory Committee that will include representatives nominated by Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE), Private Forests Tasmania (PFT), the Forest Practices Board (FPB), the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association (TFGA) and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT). The Committee will include a representative of each of the Parties and be chaired by the DPIWE representative.*

The Advisory Committee was established in accordance with the RFA. As well as meeting quarterly, the committee considered property proposals out of session as required.

7. *In addition to providing advice to the Parties on the strategic plan, the Committee will, on an ongoing basis, monitor the program and, where appropriate, make recommendations designed to improve the delivery and effectiveness of the program.*

The Advisory Committee, from time to time, made recommendations to improve the delivery and effectiveness of the program.

Scientific Advisory Group

8. *DPIWE will establish a scientific advisory group to advise on formulating the strategic plan and conservation management prescriptions.*

The CAR Scientific Advisory Group (CARSAG) met fortnightly. The Chair was provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW), and the PFRP provided executive and secretariat support. The members, invited on the basis of their relevant scientific

expertise, include officers of Forestry Tasmania, the DPIW, and the Forest Practices Authority, together with independent scientific consultants.

Implementation

9. *The program will be administered in accordance with this schedule and the strategic plan agreed between the Parties.*

The program was administered in accordance with the RFA and the strategic plan.

10. *Overall responsibility for the administration of the program will reside with the State Minister (“the Minister”) who administers the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970 (Tas.) in consultation with the Minister administering the Private Forests Act 1994 (Tas.).*

Overall responsibility for administration of the PFRP lies with the Tasmanian Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and previously with the Tasmanian Minister for the Environment. The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970* was replaced by the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* contains the provisions for developing conservation covenants on private land, and is administered by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

11. *DPIWE will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the program.*

The Department of Primary Industries and Water (formerly DPIWE) was responsible for the day-to-day management of the PFRP.

12. *Funds for the program, when made available to the State, will be placed in a trust account and dispersed in accordance with the mechanisms contained in this schedule and the strategic plan.*

Funds for the program made available to the State were placed in a special trust account and dispersed according to the RFA and the strategic plan.

13. *Projects for which funding is sought will be submitted by DPIWE to the Committee for their advice and recommendation on priorities consistent with the strategic plan.*

The Department of Primary Industries and Water submitted project proposals to the Advisory Committee in accordance with the strategic plan.

14. *Following consideration by the Committee, DPIWE will submit to the Minister projects for approval and the Committee’s advice.*

Following consideration of the Advisory Committee, the Department of Primary Industries and Water submitted projects and the Committee’s advice to the Minister for approval.

15. *Where funds are to be sourced from the NHT, the Commonwealth Minister will, in accordance with the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997 (Cwth), ensure that the appropriate procedures are followed in relation to the relevant proposals, with a view to the approval of disbursement of funds to the Tasmanian trust fund.*

Where funds were to be sourced from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), the State Minister wrote to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment seeking approval for use of funds from the trust fund to implement particular proposals.

The Commonwealth Minister or Ministers, in accordance with *the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*, have considered funding proposals having regard to the processes outlined in the Partnership Agreement, including the objectives and outcomes of relevant NHT programs.

16. *The identification of potential areas for protection will be through two mechanisms:*
- *Direct approach for priorities identified in the strategic plan; and*
 - *Timber Harvesting Plans [now Forest Practices Plans] and Private Timber Reserves processes.*

The PFRP has been implemented in accordance with clause 16.

17. *Where potential areas for protection are identified through Forest Practices Plans and Private Timber Reserve processes, decisions will be made in a specified period to ensure the interests of private landowners are not compromised.*

The PFRP has been implemented in accordance with clause 17.

Resourcing

18. *The Commonwealth will provide funding for the program. Tasmania will contribute to the ongoing administrative costs of the program including monitoring.*

As at 30 June 2006, the Commonwealth had approved expenditure of \$11,822,208 through the NHT to protect the environment and heritage values of forests on private lands.

19. *Under the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997 and through the Natural Heritage Trust Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Tasmania dated 7 October 1997, agreed commitments under that Agreement will be made available to facilitate private landholders of forested land to protect the environment and heritage values of that land in accordance with this Attachment. Funds may also be used to purchase land, with the agreement of the owner.*

The Program has been implemented in accordance with clause 19.

20. *Funding proposals for the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Reserve will be considered by the Commonwealth Minister or Ministers in accordance with the requirements of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997 and the processes outlined in the Partnership Agreement, including the objectives and outcomes of relevant Natural Heritage Trust programs.*

Funding proposals for the Private Forest Reserves Program were considered by Australian Government Ministers in accordance with clause 20.

21. *Proposals may be considered quarterly for consideration. Submissions will be made by the relevant Tasmanian Minister direct to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment outside of the State Assessment Panel process outlined in the Partnership Agreement to maintain confidentiality in recognition of the commercial-in-confidence and privacy issues involved for individual landholders.*

The Parties agreed that proposals could be submitted for NHT funding more often than quarterly to ensure that lengthy approval processes did not disadvantage landholders.

22. *Each proposal submitted will be assessed by the Commonwealth and where approved, funds will be made available to the Tasmanian lead agency under the conditions of the Financial Agreement as prescribed in the Partnership Agreement and any other condition as agreed between Parties.*

Funds were provided through NHT Financial Agreements. Resourcing of the Program was in accordance with clauses 18 – 22.

Attachment 9 – Maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate

4. *The State will monitor changes and collate information on the total area of Forest Communities within each IBRA region. This will include monitoring harvest levels, planned harvest and reforestation activity through the Forest Practices System. The State will, as a priority, amend the Forest Practices Act 1985 (Tas) as necessary to achieve this.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Section 4C(fa) of the *Forest Practices Act 1995* requires the Forest Practices Authority to monitor and report annually on harvesting and reforestation activity in relation to the maintenance of a permanent forest estate. The Authority's Annual Report to Parliament includes information on the area of forest communities within each Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion.

5. *Appropriate action will be taken by the State if the area of any Forest Community within an IBRA (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia) region decreases to a level approaching the nominated minimum level for that region. The State will conduct a formal review of the area of Forest Communities within each IBRA region on a five-yearly basis and report on the findings in the 5 yearly review of the Agreement.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Tasmania's Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy prescribes that the area of native forest will be retained above minimum thresholds, expressed as a percentage of the native forest estate assessed in 1996 under the RFA. In the Policy that applied from 1997 to 2005 these thresholds were:

- Statewide level: 80 per cent of the 1996 native forest estate to be maintained.
- Bioregional level: Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA 4).

Current proportion of native forest in reserves	Proportion of native forest to be maintained
0–30%	>80%
30–60%	>60%
>60%	current reserve area

- Forest communities: At least 50 per cent of the 1996 area of each community in each bioregion to be maintained.

In November 2005 the State Government released a revised Policy that implemented a commitment in the TCFA. See Part 3 of this report, clauses 45-46 for further details.

The 2005 policy defines the current minimum retention thresholds as:

- Statewide level: 95 per cent of the 1996 native forest estate to be maintained.
- Bioregional level: At least 50 per cent of the current area of each native forest community in each bioregion (IBRA 4) to be maintained.

The Forest Practices Authority reviews the area of native forest maintained against the Policy thresholds on an ongoing basis.

Data on changes to the native forest estate by forest community within the Tasmanian bioregions are given in the Authority's Annual Reports (available at www.fpa.tas.gov.au).

Overall, the reduction in the native forest estate, as recorded by the Forest Practices Authority, over the nine years from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 2006 was 110,644 hectares (3.5 per cent of the estimated 1996 native forest estate) as a result of conversion (mainly for plantation or agriculture) under Forest Practices Plans. The maintenance of the native forest estate in each bioregion is summarised in Table 10.

Table 10 Native forest in Tasmania and Tasmanian bioregions at 30 June 2006, relative to the estimated extent in 1996

Bioregion	Native forest estate (as % of 1996 area)
Furneaux	100
Woolnorth	91.3
Ben Lomond	92.7
Midlands	97.9
Freycinet	98.3
Central Highlands	97.9
West Southwest	99.4
D'Entrecasteaux	95.5
STATE	96.5

Caution is required in interpreting the data for the following reasons:

- The data relate to planned operations, some of which may not have been completed in the reporting period;
- Areas of forest communities given in Forest Practices Plans are generally gross areas that do not exclude reserves such as streamside reserves. The figures relating to conversion of native forest are therefore likely to be overestimated for some communities;
- The proportions of forest communities converted are based on the area of each forest as mapped on the RFA Forest Communities Map (1996). The mapping of forest communities is continuously reviewed and in some cases the estimated 1996 extent of communities has been shown to be inaccurate;
- Some figures from previous years have been revised in the light of more accurate information.
- Prior to 2002, Forest Practices Plans were not legally required for land clearing operations that did not involve the harvesting and utilisation of forest products (for example, where forest was pushed over and cleared without salvaging logs). Areas cleared in this manner prior to 2002 are not known and are therefore not recorded on the Permanent Forest Estate database.

The changes in extent of the Permanent Forest Estate reported here are not readily comparable with changes in extent of forest communities reported in Indicator 1.1.a of the report, *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests, 2001-2006* for the reasons given above and the different methods used to collate data. In Indicator 1.1.a changes in the extent of forest communities have been mapped by comparing satellite imagery from two points in time – 2000 and 2005. Changes detected from this process have been checked for vegetation

type using TASVEG, the currently maintained vegetation map of Tasmania. The nature of change was validated using a combination of available data including private and public forest plantation data, Forest Practices Plans, aerial photography, aerial inspection and high resolution satellite imagery where available.

Indicator 1.1.a records the actual change in net area, but does not fully reflect all clearing to 2006 due to the lack of a statewide 2006 satellite image and due to cloud cover in the 2005 image masking some changes. Indicator 1.1.a indicates a reduction in the native forest of 2.8 per cent compared to the figure of 3.5 per cent reported above. Indicator 1.1.a presents an underestimate of clearing while the Permanent Forest Estate data presents an over-estimate of the change.

In summary, Tasmania's native forest estate has been maintained to at least a level equivalent to 96.5 per cent of the native forest area that existed in 1996. For further information refer to the Annual Report of the Forest Practices Authority at www.fpa.tas.gov.au.

8. *The State will, in addition, in respect of Private Land introduce by the year 1999 mechanisms to encourage native vegetation retention and management including the protection of riparian vegetation, consistent with the agreed outcomes of the national Vegetation Initiative as set out in the Tasmanian Partnership Agreement.*

This commitment was met prior to, and reported on, in the 2002 Review.

Subsequent to the 2002 Review, a range of additional mechanisms to those reported for the 2002 Review have been implemented to further facilitate native vegetation retention on private land. These have included:

- passage through Parliament of amendments to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, to protect threatened native vegetation communities from clearance and conversion;
- public release of a revised Permanent Forest Estate Policy;
- incentives to assist landowners in developing property management plans; and
- facilitation of conservation on private land generally, through incentives, conservation plans and education and awareness.

Legislation to amend the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* has been passed by the Tasmanian Parliament in 2006 with a commencement date of 30 April 2007. The new legislation provides for the protection of threatened native vegetation communities (including both forest and non-forest) from clearance and conversion on all land tenures.

The Permanent Forest Estate Policy was reviewed in 2005 following the signing of the TCFA in May 2005. A revised version of the Policy (now called the Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy) was published in November 2005 and a further revision in March 2007. As described in clause 5 above, the Policy sets minimum thresholds for maintaining native forest extent at both a Statewide and bioregional level.

During the development of the three Natural Resource Management (NRM) regional bodies' strategies and investment plans, property management planning has been given a high priority as a key mechanism for recognising and maintaining native vegetation values. Through joint investments by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments the three NRM Regions are providing incentives to assist landowners to develop and implement property management plans. The property plans take account of natural values including native vegetation.

With assistance under the Natural Heritage Trust, Tasmania has introduced a range of private property conservation initiatives. As outlined in the report on Attachment 8, the Private Forest Reserves Program (PFRP) has continued throughout the reporting period. The Program provided financial incentives for securing priority forest types on private land.

Two other similar programs have also been operating during this period. The Protected Areas on Private Land Program (PAPL) provides for voluntary covenants on areas of non-forest conservation significance as well as forested areas that do not meet the priorities of the PFRP. The Non-Forest Vegetation Program (NFVP), established in 2003, focuses primarily on priority non-forest vegetation, with riparian vegetation, wetlands and grasslands being three of the NFVP's highest priorities. Similar to the PFRP, the NFVP provides financial and other incentives for landowners to enter into voluntary conservation covenants or other forms of conservation agreements. The NFVP is implemented through a property-based planning approach.

To facilitate more effective delivery of private land conservation programs the PFRP, PAPL and NFVP were combined into the Private Land Conservation Program on 1 July 2006.

Incentive programs funded by the Natural Heritage Trust to fence off and manage riparian areas have continued to be implemented. Funds for riparian vegetation management are available under Regional Natural Resource Management strategies, primarily through devolved grant schemes.

Land Tax relief and local government rate rebates are available in some municipalities as incentives. See also Attachment 8 for mechanisms under the Program to Protect CAR Values on Private Land (the Private Forest Reserves Program).

9. *The State is pursuing this policy on a state-wide basis will aim to ensure that no further Forest Communities become endangered.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

No further forest communities have become endangered since 1996.

In 2003 the then Forest Practices Board introduced a moratorium on the further clearing and conversion of threatened (all endangered, rare and vulnerable) forest communities.

The Tasmanian Government's Policy on Maintaining a Permanent Native Forest Estate was amended in November 2005 to include a provision that all viable threatened communities are to be maintained and to require the Authority to take action to ensure that conversion of any non-threatened community does not result in that community becoming threatened.

11. *The State agrees that the policy will be reviewed as part of the ongoing review of the Forest Practices Code and in accordance with the provisions for public comment and review set out in the Forest Practices Act 1985.*

This commitment has been superseded by commitments in subsequent inter-government bilateral agreements.

The Policy has been reviewed as a result of other commitments in the 2002 Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement and the 2005 TCFA.

The current policy provides for review of the policy as part of the five-yearly reviews of the RFA commencing in 2012 or at an earlier date as determined by the responsible Minister.

Attachment 10 – Improvements to Tasmania’s Forest Management Systems

The State intends to further improve its forest management systems across forest management agencies and land tenures by:

1. Implementing the State Policy Setting New Standards for Water Quality;

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Tasmania’s *State Policy on Water Quality Management* came into operation in September 1997. The policy provides the mechanism for implementing the National Water Quality Management Strategy in Tasmania.

The policy requires that:

- emissions from diffuse sources of pollution should be reduced and managed through developing and implementing best-practice environmental management, and so as not to prejudice the achievement of Water Quality Objectives;
- to protect and maintain water quality, forest practices as defined in the *Forest Practices Act 1985* should be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code and have regard to the policy;
- the Forest Practices Code should be reviewed to ensure that it is consistent with the Policy. This review has been completed and the Code amended to reflect review recommendations; and
- the authorities responsible for resource management and environment protection should ensure that adequate monitoring is carried out to determine whether Water Quality Objectives are being achieved.

Protected Environmental Values (PEV), which represent current values and uses of waterways, have now been set for all surface waters in Tasmania, including surface waters in State forest, private and reserved land. This values-setting process was based on extensive community consultation. The PEV-setting process has proven to be more complex than intended, and this in turn has led to delays and difficulties in determining water-body specific Water Quality Objectives. However, it has had the effect of raising awareness and knowledge in the community and industry about water quality issues. The determination of the Water Quality Objectives has also been affected by a lack of specific water quality data for many areas.

However, a major requirement of the Policy to review the Forest Practices Code to ensure that it is consistent with the Policy has been completed, and a number of amendments have subsequently been made to the Code. All forest practices, as defined by the *Forest Practices Act 1985* must be conducted in accordance with the Code. This includes forestry activities on State forest, private lands and public reserves.

Monitoring is an important part of the Policy. Monitoring activities for surface water are now being progressively improved and co-ordinated through the *Tasmanian Surface Water Quality Monitoring Strategy*, finalised in 2003.

This includes development of a centralised database for streamflow, water quality and river health information and information sharing agreements with local government and industry, including forestry. Water quality data are available publicly through State of the River

Reports, the State of the Environment Report and on the web on the Water Information System of Tasmania, which is being progressively upgraded.

The requirements of the policy have been included in the Reserve Management Code of Practice 2003. The policy provides a mechanism for auditing the efficacy of the Code with respect to water-quality management. An auditing system, based on the audit system for the Forest Practices Code, is currently being developed.

2. *Developing a State Policy on integrated catchment management;*

As reported in 2002, implementation of this commitment has not proceeded as envisaged in 1997.

The development of a framework for Integrated Catchment Management in Tasmania in the form of a State Policy was deferred following a decision by the State Government to review the way in which State Policies were developed.

The national push for Integrated Catchment Management at the time the RFA was negotiated was subsumed in 1999-2001 by the development of the “regional delivery model” for natural resource management (NRM). This followed the discussion paper *Managing Natural Resources in Rural Australia for a Sustainable Future*, which outlined a proposed framework for NRM in Australia after 2000. The paper highlighted the need for more effective regional structures and improved partnerships between the three levels of Government, industry and the community, to remove the barriers to progress in solving Australia’s natural resource management problems.

The framework was first formalised in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP), in November 2000. The State’s own NRM Framework was developed over the course of 2001 and launched in February 2002 (<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/nrm.html>). The enabling legislation is the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*.

The State’s NRM Framework was recognised in the Bilateral Agreements for the NAP and the Natural Heritage Trust Extension. It has been the basis for the development of regional strategies and their implementation, mainly through activities funded by the two major programs.

The Tasmanian framework is non-regulatory, and has no prescriptive connection with statutory planning systems. The *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* is to be reviewed by March 2008.

3. *Developing and implementing a Threatened Species Protection Strategy and recognising the role of sub-regional plans where appropriate (by 31 December 1998) and a Tasmanian Biodiversity Strategy (by 31 December 1999);*

The Threatened Species Strategy was released in December 2000, and implementation of priority actions within the strategy is ongoing.

Actions in relation to the management of threatened species are widely dispersed through the community in recovery plans and listing statements and through a variety of planning tools and manuals. Each of the NRM Strategies for the three NRM regions in Tasmania also includes specific strategies and priorities for threatened species.

Tasmania's Nature Conservation Strategy was produced by the State Biodiversity Committee, a broadly based group of experts established in 2000 and chaired by Professor Bruce Davis. The Strategy was finalised and published in 2002. It contains 64 recommendations on ways

of improving conservation and management of Tasmania's native vegetation, fauna and geodiversity on land, in freshwater and marine environments. It identifies 15 priority areas including land clearance, long-term resourcing, pests, improving freshwater protection and increasing public involvement. The Strategy is consistent with the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (1996), but because it includes geological processes and geodiversity in its scope, the title was broadened to reflect this.

The Tasmanian Government released its response to the Strategy addressing each recommendation and highlighting 17 that are supported as a high priority.

See <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/JCOK-5KZTT4?open>

Implementation of the Strategy is ongoing in accordance with the Tasmanian Government's response.

See also response to Recommendation 4.7 in Part 2 of this report.

4. *Implementing the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

5. *Developing new legislation in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage to replace the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*

This commitment has been substantially progressed during the review period.

Tasmania has not yet introduced legislation to replace the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*. However, reform of this legislation is high on the agenda of the current State Government.

A project is underway to develop new legislation that will ensure appropriate management of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania. The purpose of the new legislation will be to provide effective recognition, assessment, protection and management of Aboriginal heritage, and the empowerment of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in relation to that heritage. It is being developed in consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Further details are available at <http://www.tahl.tas.gov.au>.

It is expected that State Parliament will consider new legislation in 2007.

6. *Further developing and applying flexible silvicultural systems on Public Land to promote the sustainable production of long-rotation speciality timbers, particularly in the south and north-west regions;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Long-rotation specialty timbers grow in rainforests and as an understorey in mixed eucalypt-rainforests. Hence, the special species supply is very largely dependent upon harvesting in oldgrowth forests. Some of these have been zoned as Special Timbers Management Units (STMUs) which have been designated for long-term production of special timbers such as myrtle, sassafras and celery-top pine, as well as large-dimension eucalypts, using non-clearfell silviculture and long rotations. The STMUs are mostly rainforest but also contain areas of mixed eucalypt-rainforest and can be considered as green 'wood banks' that can be harvested at low volumes for high value purposes. The timbers they contain are not required to meet the legislated supply target of a minimum of 300,000 cubic metres each year of high quality eucalypt sawlogs.

In 2005, the area of STMUs was reduced from 143,000 hectares to about 71,000 hectares due to additional reservation of oldgrowth forest under the TCFA.

Continuous cover silvicultural techniques have been developed for tall myrtle-dominated rainforest and shorter rainforest dominated by celery-top pine based on long-term monitoring of silvicultural trials established in the 1970s and 1980s (eg Hickey and Wilkinson 1999, Jennings and Hickey 2003). The silvicultural system developed for tall myrtle forests includes harvesting sawlog trees, using single tree/small group selection, to a minimum diameter limit of 50 centimetres diameter at breast height (dbh), minimising stem damage and retaining at least 80 per cent canopy cover after harvesting. Gaps are allowed to regenerate naturally and cutting cycles of 100 years are proposed, with a notional minimum stump return time of 200 years. Recent research based on long-term monitoring indicates that myrtle wilt, a fungal pathogen that kills myrtle trees, can be kept to moderate levels if stem damage is minimised and at least 50% of canopy cover is retained (Elliott *et al.* 2005). The silvicultural system proposed for shorter rainforest with celery-top pine is to harvest sawlog trees, using single tree/small group selection, to a minimum diameter limit of 30 centimetres dbh, retain at least 80 per cent of the forest cover, minimise soil damage and allow gaps to regenerate naturally. It is proposed that 200-year cutting cycles be adopted with a notional 400-year stump return time. These systems have been applied to a very limited extent over the last five years because the bulk of the supply has come from arisings from operations in wet eucalypt forest.

Very small quantities of Huon pine are salvaged using predominantly dead and down timber from previously cut-over stands in the Teepookana State forest south of Strahan. Huon pine regeneration 16 years after harvesting was recently evaluated and found to be adequate in the vicinity of seed trees although growth is very slow (Jennings *et al.* 2005). The study reaffirmed existing prescriptions, which are to: recover dead and down timber and trees in poor condition; retain at least 10 seed trees per hectare (where present); and, plant seedlings in areas that lack seed trees. No future harvest is planned for rehabilitated areas.

Silvicultural options for mixed eucalypt-rainforest (sometimes referred to as tall oldgrowth) in STMUs are still being developed. Single tree/small group selection was applied in tall oldgrowth forest as one of the alternative treatments at the Warra Silvicultural Systems Trial (Hickey *et al.* 2006). However, it proved to be dangerous to workers, uneconomic and failed to meet eucalypt regeneration standards. Based on this experience, a design group, including special timbers interest groups, developed silvicultural prescriptions for a revised approach. This was based on larger gaps, or fairways, of about 80 metres width, where 30 per cent of the forest is harvested over three cutting cycles, leaving 10 per cent of the forest to maintain late successional species and structures (SGS Design Group 2004). Where eucalypt production is the primary objective, then the cutting cycles would be at 30 years, but where special species timbers is the primary objective the cutting cycles would be lengthened to 70 years, leading to a notional stump return time of 210 years. An example of this treatment was harvested in 2006 at the Warra Silvicultural Systems trial. Variations of this theme have also been applied, in consultation with special timber interest groups, within a nearby STMU area (Clark 2005).

Other areas of oldgrowth forest on public land outside STMUs are zoned for wood production and form about one-third of the eucalypt sawlog supply over the next thirty years. These forests have traditionally been managed using clearfell, burn and sow silviculture using planned rotation times of 80-100 years, which allows limited recruitment of special timbers other than blackwood and silver wattle. Alternatives to clearfelling in these forests have been extensively evaluated (Forestry Tasmania 2005). Under the TCFA a new silviculture for oldgrowth forests is being adopted so that, if proven feasible, non-clearfell silviculture will be used for at least 80 per cent of the annual harvest of these forests by 2010. The principal silvicultural technique in tall oldgrowth forests will become variable retention where

typically about 20 per cent of the forest, usually in patches from 0.5 to 5 hectares, will be retained within coupes to maintain late successional species and structures. The majority of the felled area will be within a tree's length of standing trees that will be kept for at least one rotation. This is expected to result in higher levels of regeneration of special species timbers (Tabor *et al.* 2006). Although primarily set aside for biodiversity conservation, some of the patches may be harvested in the future, for example in 90 years time, particularly if new patches of 90-year-old regrowth forest are retained to become oldgrowth. Hence this system will retain some special species timbers in retained patches now, allow substantial recruitment of special species recruitment in felled areas and maintain options for future generations to decide whether these forests should be managed primarily for eucalypt or special species production or for other purposes.

Blackwood is a fast growing special species timber tree and has a relatively short life. It occurs in blackwood swamps, rainforests and mixed eucalypt-rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests. The blackwood swamps supply a sustainable sawlog yield that is derived from coupes harvested on a 70-year rotation. Blackwood arisings from the harvest of wet eucalypt forest will continue, but at a reduced level, as the proportion of regrowth harvesting increases and oldgrowth forest harvesting declines. An additional blackwood resource has been created by the fenced-intensive-blackwood program, which established over 1500 hectares of fenced eucalypt/blackwood regeneration between 1985 and 2005. Silvicultural prescriptions for growing blackwood in native forests were extensively reviewed in 2005 (Forestry Tasmania 2005) based on recent research (eg, Jennings *et al.* 2003).

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7. *Developing and implementing within the first five years of this Agreement, State-wide policies across all tenures on fire management, nature-based tourism and recreation management, cultural-heritage management on forest lands, and forest pest and disease management;*

Progress has been made towards completing this commitment. The only remaining area relates to cultural heritage.

The State Fire Management Council has completed a statewide policy framework for fire management across all tenures. Integrated fire planning incorporates ecological, property protection and safety concerns and is underpinned by systematic research on fire ecology, fire ecology, fire behaviour, and modelling of fire events.

Tourism Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service completed a document describing the policy framework for nature-based tourism and recreation management.

The Cultural Heritage policy framework has been substantially advanced since the report of the ESFM Expert Advisory Panel. The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* is now operative, the new reserve classification system is in place, and there are interagency protocols governing the management of State-wide information databases, transfer of information and referral protocols for decisions on cultural-heritage management.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Project is under development with an extensive consultation process well underway. A detailed consultation package was released recently for public comment. State Cabinet is likely to consider a proposal on new legislation during 2007.

The Forest Pest and Diseases Management Policy is well served by the existing suite of policy and statutory instruments. A Tasmanian Forest Health Advisory Committee was established in September 2001. The Committee has two key roles: firstly incursion management and secondly to provide a network to stakeholder groups.

8. *Ensuring that management plans are implemented for all State forest and National Parks by the year 2000, and all other reserves within the Formal Reserve element of the CAR Reserve System by the year 2003 or as soon as practicable thereafter. Management plans will include objectives and be periodically reviewed to assess performance against each objective;*

Further progress has been made to completing this commitment during the review period.

Forest Management Plans for all State forests were prepared prior to 2000. They will be revised by 2008 - see report on clause 12 in Part 3 of this report. Forestry Tasmania reviews the implementation of all of these plans annually.

Management plans are in force for 16 of Tasmania's 19 national parks as at December 2006 and they are:

- Douglas-Apsley 1993
- Ben Lomond 1998
- Maria Island 1998
- Cradle Mountain/Lake St Clair 1999

- Franklin/Gordon Wild Rivers 1999
- Hartz Mountains 1999
- Walls of Jerusalem 1999
- Southwest 1999
- Freycinet 2000
- Narawntapu 2000
- South Bruny 2001
- Strzelecki 2000
- Tasman 2001
- Mt Field 2002
- Mole Creek Karst 2004
- Kent Group 2005.

Of the three remaining national parks, a draft management plan for Savage River has been released for public comment. Management planning for Mt William and Rocky Cape National Parks has been deferred pending agreement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community about future management arrangements for these parks. Completion of these management plans depends on satisfactory working arrangements being agreed with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Management plans have been approved for a number of other significant reserves:

- Arthur Pieman Conservation Area 2002
- Waterhouse Conservation Area 2003
- Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve 2003
- Logan Lagoon Conservation Area 2005
- Southport Lagoon Conservation Area 2006.

In 2004 the Freycinet National Park Management Plan was altered to provide for a water supply dam and rerouting of the Wineglass Bay walking track to provide a better graded one-way loop walk.

The mid-term review of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan commenced with public consultation on issues to be addressed. A draft plan change has been prepared and is soon to be placed on public exhibition.

The milestone of management plans for all reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970* (now the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*) by 2003 has not been achieved. It is still intended to meet this target by preparing a generic management plan for the reserve system and this process is underway with development of a suitable methodology. Currently this generic plan is conceived of as consisting of two parts – a statutory component containing policies and strategies and a non-statutory component comprising a zoning system with respect to use and development control). The zoning system would have a similar role in the Parks and Wildlife Service to the Management Decision Classification System in Forestry Tasmania.

Specific management plans for individual priority reserves continue to be prepared as necessary.

9. *Implementing as a high priority the mechanisms for improving the transparency and independence of the Forest Practices Board;*

This RFA commitment was met prior to, and reported on, in the 2002 Five Year Review.

However, the Resource Planning and Development Commission, in its Final Recommendations Report to the governments, recommended that the State undertake a series of further measures to improve the transparency of the Forest Practices System. Refer to Part 2 of this report, Recommendation 4.1 for a report on implementation of these further measures.

10. *Continuing to adequately resource the system surrounding the Forest Practices Code (including compliance, implementation, education, training, review, research) and maintaining appropriate contributions by industry to ongoing management costs associated with the Code.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The objective of the Tasmanian forest practices system is to deliver sustainable forest management in a way that is as far as possible self-funding (Schedule 7 *Forest Practices Act 1985*). The Act also provides under s.44 that certain functions of the Forest Practices Authority will be paid out of money allocated by Parliament. Full financial details for the operation of the forest practices system are presented in the Annual Reports of the Forest Practices Authority (www.fpa.tas.gov.au).

Self-funding of activities conducted by industry

The industry has self-funded the implementation of the *Forest Practices Act* by providing the following services:

- the employment of Forest Practices Officers and other staff involved in the preparation, certification and supervision of Forest Practices Plans;
- training and education of contractors and operators.

The Authority estimates the value of these services to be in the vicinity of \$7 million per year. This is the cost that would otherwise be borne by the government if the forest industry did not employ forest practices officers to plan and supervise forest operations.

Self-funding of activities conducted by the Forest Practices Authority

The self-funding activities of the Authority are primarily related to the cost of the advice and services provided by Authority staff in relation to the processing of Forest Practices Plan applications. The funding for these activities of the Authority is derived from an application fee for Forest Practices Plans in accordance with s.18 of the *Forest Practices Act*.

In addition to the direct funding of the research and advisory programs, the Authority receives income from research grants and consultancy work. The Authority also regulates the harvesting of tree ferns under a user-pays system. All tree ferns must be affixed with a tag issued by the Authority prior to removal from the harvesting area. Revenue collected from the sale of tree fern tags is used to cover the cost of regulatory activities and to fund further research into the long-term sustainability of harvesting tree ferns. The schedules of fees for Forest Practices Plans and tree fern tags are detailed in the *Forest Practices Regulations*. Total revenue received under the self-funding activities of the Authority in 2005–06 amounted to \$1.476 million and expenditure was \$1.417 million.

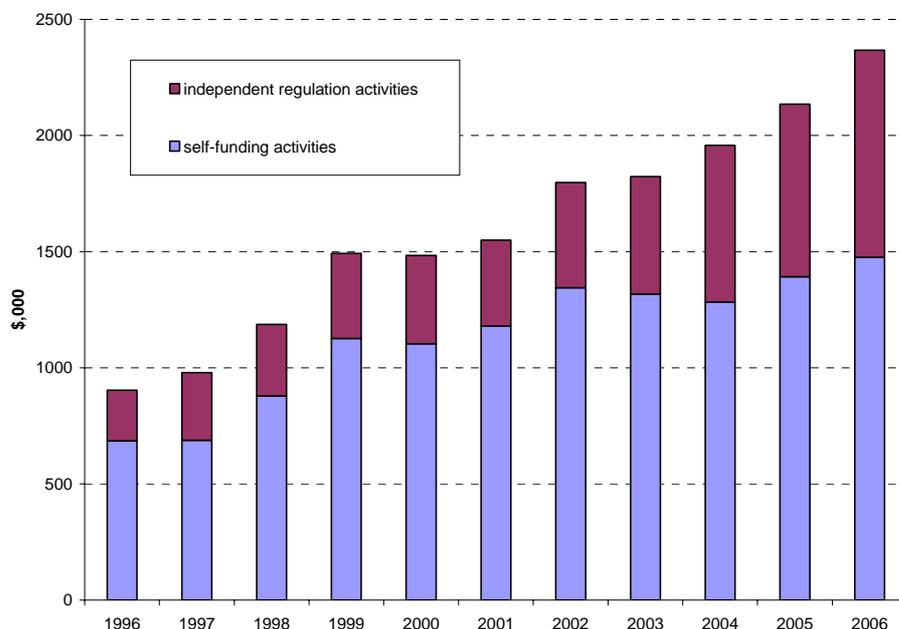
Funding of the Forest Practices Authority from Parliament

Section 44 of the *Forest Practices Act* provides that the costs and expenses incurred for the following activities are to be paid out of monies provided by Parliament:

- annual assessment of the forest practices system and Forest Practices Plans;
- preparation of the annual report to Parliament;
- detection and investigation of breaches of the Act;
- laying of complaints and prosecuting offences;
- payment of compensation for the refusal of Private Timber Reserves;
- remuneration of the Chief Forest Practices Officer;
- administrative support for the Chief Forest Practices Officer;
- exercise of the Authority’s powers and functions.

Total revenue provided by Parliament for the independent regulatory functions of the Authority in 2005–06 amounted to \$865,000. A further \$26,000 was received from the payment of fines and other revenue. Expenditure for the year amounted to \$847,000. Income received by the Authority for the period from 1996-97 to 2005-06 for the self-funding and independent regulatory activities has increased by more than 115 per cent and 300 per cent respectively.

Funding of the Forest Practices Authority (annual income in \$,000)



11. *Developing and implementing by the year 2000, a code of practice for reserve management to cover all environmental practices, including guidelines concerning erosion risk from roads and tracks within reserves;*

This commitment has been completed during the review period.

The Reserve Management Code of Practice was completed and released in 2003 – see http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications/tech/management_code/summary.html.

The Code is being implemented in all Formal Reserves under the management of the Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania.

12. *In relation to the Forest Practices System, including the Forest Practices Code, ensuring that:*

- *where the management intention for the Forest or Private Land is to regenerate forest, timber harvesting plans will specify best-practice reforestation standards and provide for ongoing monitoring; and*
- *where endangered species have been identified in an area for which timber-harvesting plan approval is sought by private landholders, the plan will include conditions which ensure the application of appropriate management prescriptions to those species.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Amendments to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* in 1999 provided that all reforestation activities must be covered by a forest practices plan certified in accordance with the Forest Practices Code. The amended Forest Practices Code 2000 details the reforestation standards that must be achieved.

The Forest Practices Code 2000 contains procedures that must be followed where threatened species occur, or potentially occur, on private (and public) land. The procedures have been agreed with the Secretary of the Department that administers the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. Under the procedures, forest practices plans must contain endorsed prescriptions for any threatened species that may occur within the area covered by the plan. The prescriptions are derived from expert planning tools, including the Forest Botany Manuals, Threatened Fauna Manual, and the Threatened Fauna Advisor. Independent experts have scientifically endorsed these planning tools. Forest Practices Officers who have been trained and accredited use the tools, seeking further expert advice where necessary. Specialists from the Forest Practices Authority provide advice and monitor the implementation of the prescriptions in conjunction with specialists from the Threatened Species Section of the Department of Primary Industries and Water.

Compliance with prescriptions for threatened species and with reforestation requirements is monitored at three levels under the general monitoring provisions of the *Forest Practices Act*, as follows:

- Specialists from the Forest Practices Authority in association with the Threatened Species Section of the Department of Primary Industries and Water provide advice and monitor the planning and assessment processes and the implementation of prescriptions.
- From 1999, the *Forest Practices Act* required reports on compliance, including reforestation and threatened species provisions, to be submitted upon the completion of all Forest Practices Plans. These provisions were strengthened in 2005 with the introduction of requirements for reporting on compliance at the end of each discrete operational phase within a Forest Practices Plan.
- Compliance with the planning processes and implementation of prescriptions within the forest practices plan, including threatened species and reforestation requirements, is assessed in the Authority's independent audit of Forest Practices Plans.

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.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Forest Management Plans identify the formal reserve and informal reserve elements of the CAR Reserve System on State forest. Management prescriptions for the protection of CAR values in reserves often coincide with routine protective measures. Where more specific measures are determined for recovery plans or particular vegetation or animal communities, the particular requirements are being, and will continue to be, implemented.

Management plans under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* for the Formal Reserve component of the CAR reserve system identify the CAR values in the relevant reserve and provide objectives, policies and actions for managing them.

Attachment 11 – Public Reporting and Consultation Mechanisms

Existing Commitments

Current public reporting and consultative mechanisms relevant to the management of Tasmania's forests include:

- *preparation and amendment of forest management plans under the Forestry Act 1920 (Tas) every 10 years;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

All current forest management plans were prepared with community input during 1999 and 2000. Forestry Tasmania intends to revise the plans in 2007-08, in accordance with the TCFA clause 12.

- *preparation of annual three-year wood production plans for State forest;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Before three year plans are completed, there is formal public consultation, particularly with local government.

- *changes to the lists of species, preparation of and amendment to the Threatened Species Strategy, Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans all of which have been developed under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Details of changes to the listing of species under the Act are contained in Indicator 1.2.b of the report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006*. Further details of activities under the *Threatened Species Protection Act* are given in responses to clauses 32 to 37 of the RFA.

- *changes to the Register under the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Reporting and consultation on additions to, or deletions from, the Register continue in accordance with the Act, and are published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette.

- *reviews of guidelines to the Forest Practices Code (Tas) and comment on proposed revisions to that Code;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Since the signing of the RFA, the Forest Practices Code has been subject to several independent reviews and to a major revision, as reported under clause 94. Public comment on reviews of the Code was sought and considered by the Forest Practices Advisory Council, which is made up of representatives of key stakeholder bodies.

- *preparation, amendment and review of management plans for reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970* has been revoked. Provisions for the preparation, amendment and review of management plans for reserves under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* are now prescribed in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

Public consultation and reporting mechanisms for management plans for reserves, including independent review by the Resource Planning and Development Commission of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife's response to public representations on draft plans, continues as prescribed by the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

- *preparation of management plans for lands covered by the Crown Lands Act 1976;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Provisions for the preparation of management plans for Public Reserves were incorporated in amendments to the *Crown Lands Act 1976* contained in the *Regional Forest Agreement (Land Classification) Act 1998*. These requirements came into force on 31 December 2001. The Act requires management plans for public reserves to be advertised in local newspapers and provides for a minimum of 30 days for public comment.

- *nomination, preparation and possible contravention of Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans, all of which are prepared under the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 (Cwth);*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Provisions for public reporting and consultation have continued to be implemented.

- *listing of places on the Register of the National Estate under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (Cwth);*

This commitment has been met during the review period but is no longer relevant.

Proposed and final Register of the National Estate listings were advertised in local and national newspapers, in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, and on the Internet at the following address: www.environment.gov.au/cgi-ban/ahdb/search.pl.

Following legislative changes in 2002 (see Attachment 1) no further listings on the Register will be made.

- *publication of annual reports by Forestry Tasmania, DPIWE, Private Forests Tasmania, the Forest Practices Board, the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Production Forestry, and the Tasmanian Forest Research Council;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Annual reports have continued to be published by these organisations, or their successors (Department of Primary Industries and Water, Forest Practices Authority, Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry) during the review period. The Tasmanian Forest Research Council no longer exists.

- *publication of five-yearly State of the Environment and State of the Forests reports;*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The most recent *State of the Forests Report* and *State of the Environment Report* were published in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

- *Consultation with the Aboriginal community in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage information.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

New reports to be prepared by the State

1. *Complete and publish silvicultural guidelines for the management of commercial forest types by 31 December 1998.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

2. *Publish by 31 October 1998 a description of the methods of calculating sustainable yield on Public Land, including special-species timber sawlogs.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

3. *From the 1997/98 financial year, relevant agencies will include in their annual reports a report on the outcome of compliance audits for codes of practice, and the monitoring of forest regeneration success and trends.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

The annual reports of the Forest Practices Authority have reported on compliance audits for the Forest Practices Code since financial year 1989-90. The reports present the results of a stratified random sample of Forest Practices Plans. The audit covers compliance within the following categories:

- Planning
- Roading and bridges
- Harvesting
- Reforestation
- Fuels and rubbish
- Soils and water
- Flora
- Fauna
- Landscape
- Cultural heritage
- Geomorphology.

Until financial year 1997-98, the area of native forest regenerated was reported in Forestry Tasmania's Annual Report. In subsequent years, Forestry Tasmania has also reported on the percentage of regenerated forest meeting the required stocking standard.

Regeneration surveys are carried out only after seedlings are clearly established and expected to develop into trees; this is generally between one and three years after harvesting. The trends in regeneration success are also reported on in Indicator 2.1.e in the report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006*.

Private Forests Tasmania does not monitor or report on reforestation of private land.

As from 1999, reporting on the success of reforestation on all lands is included in compliance reporting to the Forest Practices Authority (see section above).

See the report on clause 94 of the RFA for information on reporting of compliance with the Reserve Management Code of Practice.

4. *By 30 April 1998, a document describing the Management Decision Classification System will be released. This document will include information on the classification criteria for each zone and summaries of special management zones.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

5. *By the 31 March 1999, prepare and release a revised manual for the Management Decision Classification System, including prescription guidelines for special management zones.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

Attachment 12 - RFA Forests – Employment and Industries Development Strategy

Implementation

3. *The Parties agree to contribute in appropriate ways to the implementation of the specified actions within this Strategy:*
 - *The Commonwealth agrees to support the Strategy by providing funding as in clause 101 of the Agreement for a number of specific actions; and*
 - *The Commonwealth agrees that its contribution to funding for other actions for which it is responsible, or jointly responsible, will be obtained through existing industry development and vocational skills programs. The Commonwealth will encourage Tasmanian applications for assistance under these programs, for actions included in this strategy.*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review. The Commonwealth has provided the funding under clause 101.

Generic Industries Development Actions

4. *The Parties agree to jointly implement the following generic actions:*
 - *microeconomic reforms, including those in the National Competition Policy and reforms for both land and sea transport, aimed at improving the competitiveness of Australian industry;*

The Commonwealth's Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office released a research report in May 2001 entitled *Competitive Neutrality in Forestry*. It noted that, for the purposes of competitive neutrality, Forestry Tasmania is classified as a Government Business Enterprise with full-cost attribution for equivalent regimes and a dividend regime

- *facilitating production and marketing networks between existing and emerging industry participants, including by:*
 - *facilitating access to relevant Commonwealth assistance programs to develop integrated industry structures and strategic partnerships (ie networks); and*
 - *facilitating export.*

In the period between 2002 and 2004 the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development's Export and Marketing Unit facilitated designers and manufacturers to attend niche value adding marketing events, and exhibitions overseas to USA, Taiwan and Korea. The Department also facilitated workshops and networks for furniture makers and designers. Site visits were assisted for trade delegations to Tasmania and for forest industry companies visiting overseas countries. During the last twelve months of the Review period there has been no specific targeted events. The Department also facilitates and supports the Building and Construction Industry Council and Manufacturing Council

Tourism Tasmania is working with industry to establish key sector marketing groups, which are developing business and marketing plans, including joint marketing.

- *continuing to jointly assist in funding, where appropriate, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for forest-based industry projects which have strategic significance and economic potential for the State and the nation.*

In the 2002 report feasibility studies to support the development of rotary peeler processing in Tasmania were outlined. The project has subsequently progressed to development with construction of mill in the Huon Valley and at Smithton by Malaysian plywood producer Ta Ann. The Huon mill is expected to be operational in May 2007.

The Commonwealth commissioned Jaakko Poyry to prepare the report “*Investment Opportunities in the Australian Forest Products Industry*” and is using it as a basis for attracting investment in timber growing and processing. The report is available from the following website: www.daffa.gov.au/forestry/national/investment/opportunities.

5. *The State agrees to implement the following generic actions:*

- *ensuring the dissemination of market information through key industry groups working with industry to develop voluntary product-quality systems, and where applicable, to develop packaging and presentation systems similar to those used by Tasmanian manufacturers that compete successfully in national markets;*

The State Government continues to actively progress market research programs, to provide industry with information on manufacturing customers, and multiple-use forest visitor information.

Tasmania actively supports the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), which provides a voluntary forest-management standard for all forest growers.

- *introducing an integrated development-approval system and land-leasing system for Public Land which complements the principles and provisions of the State’s planning and environmental legislation;*

Development approvals on Crown land, land reserved under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and tourism developments on State forest are subject to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Development approvals and land leasing on public land are managed under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*. These are managed within an assessment process that takes account of the Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System. Applications are assessed by a Technical Assessment Panel, which provides technical advice to a Public Benefits Assessment Committee, which then makes recommendations to the Minister. Both groups have representatives from across Government.

The Department of Economic Development has developed an integrated development-approval information system through the Business Licence Information Service and the Business Regulation Help Line, as well as an on-line Aquaculture approval package, to complement the State’s Resource Management and Planning System, which encompasses environmental and resource-management legislation.

- *utilising the ‘one-stop-shop’ strategy for over-the-counter or electronic transactions involving approvals, licensing and payments; and*

Along with the Business Licence Information Service, Business Regulation Help Line, and Aquaculture Business Approval Package, the Department of Economic Development has developed a heavy-industry sites database, which examines infrastructure provisions for industrial sites. The Department of Economic Development and the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources have together, through direct client-management

programs, created one-stop ‘seamless’ facilitation through the conceptual to the approval phases of development.

The Tasmanian Government has expanded the network of Service Tasmania outlets throughout the State to provide a “one-stop-shop” approach to a range of approvals, licences and payments. Electronic approvals and payments are also available through the Service Tasmania website www.service.tas.gov.au.

- *examining requirements for basic electricity, water and transport infrastructure in key areas for development to achieve international competitiveness.*

The then Department of Economic Development’s audit of forestry, timber and paper industries in 1999 identified significant infrastructure requirements, and complements the heavy-industry database and the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources’ state-wide infrastructure planning system and Infrastructure and Resource Information Service (IRIS) information system (<http://www.iris.tas.gov.au>). Combined they form a comprehensive strategic policy framework to address competitiveness.

Generic Employment and Skills Development Actions

6. *Both Parties agree to facilitate the coordination of programs between Government departments, industry and training providers to ensure efficient and effective delivery of training covering the important areas of:*

- *business management and technology;*
- *use of technology in all aspects of industry;*
- *safety and effective work practices;*
- *marketing and marketing technology; and*
- *design.*

The Commonwealth funds Forest Works Ltd (previously known as the Forest and Forest Products Employment Skills Company (FAFPESC)) which is the industry owned and managed national training advisory body.

The Commonwealth continues to support the coordination of programs in the TCFA, through Forest Works Ltd and the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Training (DEST).

7. *The State will work with industry to coordinate on-the-job training curricula with TAFE, University of Tasmania and other training providers to maximise consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of on-the-job and off-the-job training while minimising the disruption to operations.*

The Skills Response Unit in the Department of Economic Development is responsible for identifying skills shortages and facilitating mechanisms for overcoming shortages. As part of its normal function it:

- liaises with the Department of Education and the Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training and TAFE Tasmania as well as other registered training organisations to raise awareness of opportunities in the forest industry and to facilitate activities to maximise employment and training.
- provides support and facilitation through the Partnerships to Jobs Program.

8. *The Commonwealth will continue to provide advice and assistance through its industry programs to eligible businesses (including forest-based businesses) in the areas of:*
- *research and development;*
 - *commercialisation;*
 - *business & strategic planning;*
 - *business networks;*
 - *business licensing; and*
 - *innovation.*

The Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources, through the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy (WAPIS), has funded research and development projects at both national and regional levels through individual companies and through national bodies. These bodies are disseminating the projects' findings to their membership base in the regions, including Tasmania.

9. *Through the Department of Industry, Science and Technology (now DISR), the Commonwealth will continue the funding of a dedicated Forest Industries Client Manager to promote the development of forest-based industries in Tasmania. The client manager will establish and maintain contact with all companies in the wood and paper sector, to assist them in identifying and accessing relevant industry-development programs.*

As reported in the 2002 review, the Commonwealth ceased funding for this initiative in 1999.

Specific Tourism Industry Development Actions

10. *The Parties will jointly facilitate sustainable tourism development by the following actions:*
- *providing resources to maintain the environment and heritage values of existing and new reserves*

The State has continued to provide the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (DTAE) with a \$1 million contribution to the annual budget to cover management of RFA reserves. The operating budget of the Parks and Wildlife Service within the DTAE was approximately \$20 million in 2005-06 and previous years, which provided for the day to day management of reserves to protect values and present to visitors. Requirements for management of natural, cultural and social values in reserves are identified in management plans and other forms of planning for reserves.

Forestry Tasmania funds the management and protection of CAR reserves on State forest from its internal funding as part of its integrated management of State forest. Management requirements for environment and heritage values are outlined in district forest management plans.

The Commonwealth has satisfied its commitments under clause 101(iii) by allocating \$1 million to the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water.

- *providing resources for the visitor infrastructure and services required by markets in existing and new reserves, including Commonwealth funding under the RFA for the establishment of two new major interpretation facilities at suitable locations;*

The Nature Based Tourism Program was a multi-agency program led by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and completed in 2003. The \$14.5 million, three-year program was aimed at maximising tourism benefits of the State's natural assets, particularly its native forests. Funding for the various works under the program was made available from a variety of local, state and federal sources, including the Natural Heritage Trust (\$7.695 million), the RFA (\$3 million), the State Government's Capital Investment Program (\$1.573 million), park entry fee revenue, local government and the federal National Ecotourism Program.

Major projects completed under the program were:

- the East Coast Interpretation Centre in the Freycinet National Park. The Centre has operated successfully providing high quality orientation and interpretation for visitors and supporting other tourism businesses and nature based tourism services in the region. Visitation to Freycinet continues to grow at close to 5 per cent each year since completion of the Centre;
- redevelopment of the Freycinet National Park campground and day use facilities. Subsequently, a further \$3 million from State funds is being spent on a major upgrade of the walking track to Wineglass Bay – one of Tasmania's icon attractions – involving new carparking, a one way loop track, seating, day facilities and orientation/interpretation;
- an integrated network of innovative nature based and heritage tourism projects in the Great Western Tiers/Kooparooka Niara region. This project had a high level of community involvement. The regional marketing and branding strategy adopted is now being used as a model for regional communities. The sculpture trail was the first of its kind in Australia. The Devil Education Research Centre was the first facility in the State to present a comprehensive interpretation display on the Tasmanian Devil and was linked to Devil research carried out at Trowunna and other areas within the state. Upgrading of presentation of King Solomons Cave has continued with re-lighting of the cave and completion of environmentally sustainable toilet facilities;
- A range of measures has been introduced at Cradle Valley and on the Overland Track through the Cradle Mountain- Lake St Clair National Park to protect the environment and enhance visitors' experience. These include the development of an integrated walking track and services link between Cradle Valley and the park entrance; introduction of a shuttle bus service to reduce vehicle congestion and the need for extra parking in the park; an on-line booking system for the Overland track and a daily track quota for the peak season as well as associated track and camping area improvements.
- a visitor centre, carparking and children's nature playground in Mt Field National Park;
- expansion and upgrading of facilities in Hastings Caves State Reserve – including a visitor centre, improved carparking, new lighting and safety works in the cave, interpretation signs and displays;
- improved presentation and visitor experience at Narawntapu National Park through sealing the gravel access road to the park, upgrading camping and day visitor facilities, construction of an orientation centre and wildlife viewing facilities;

- Rocky Cape National Park visitor facilities replacement and upgrade – in close liaison with the Aboriginal community, including directional signage, upgrading of walking tracks, new barbeques and toilet block, protection of Aboriginal sites and innovative interpretation of Aboriginal culture and natural values.

Forestry Tasmania is implementing a statewide tourism strategy that aims to benefit the local community by providing regional developments and employment. It has completed the AirWalk at Tahune Forest Reserve (\$4.3 million) and the Scottsdale Forest Eco-centre (\$1.2 million), and has developed visitor facilities at the Dismal Swamp Reserve (\$4.5 million). In 2005, a study undertaken by Bruce Felmingham University of Tasmania calculated the Tahune Forest AirWalk had contributed \$31 million in social and economic benefits to the region and created 77 full time jobs. Currently the South Arthur “Drive on the edge of the Tarkine” is being promoted and interpreted as a great forest drive. In the North East, a tourism and recreation plan is being developed for the Blue Tier, which includes the Anchor Stamper site. In the south, the Styx Forest Reserve is being developed for visitor use in conjunction with the Maydena Hauler project. This major project will provide visitors with the opportunity to view the south-west, Styx and Florentine and associated land management systems. Hollybank Forest Reserve is being developed as a major attraction in the north east of the State. This experience will include a tree-top canopy tour, a world class mountain biking course and will showcase the history of the site and different aspects of forests and forestry.

- *examining opportunities for funding, through the Natural Heritage Trust, projects to implement elements of the Tasmanian State-wide Walking Track Strategy; and*

Under the Nature Based Tourism Program work continued to implement the Tasmanian Walking Track Strategy, including works and signs for the 60 Great Short Walks.

This program also provided approximately \$600,000 for work on the Tasman Coastal Trail, including:

- upgraded walking tracks from Waterfall Bay to Fortescue Bay and the Cape Pillar Circuit, including Cape Hauy;
- re-routing of Cape Pillar Track to enable a loop walk to Fortescue Bay;
- improved interpretation and directional signage;
- upgraded toilet facilities;
- new park map and notes raising awareness of the Tasman National Park and the available walks.

Forestry Tasmania manages 11 of the 60 *Great Short Walks* on State forest. Forestry Tasmania facilitated a major upgrade of the Mersey White Water Forest Reserve under the Great Western Tiers RFA Interpretation Project.

Work has progressed at Duckhole Lake, Montezuma Falls, Evercreech, Keoghs Creek and Styx Tall Trees and a feasibility study was carried out for possible new access tracks to Mount Arthur and around Hollybank. Around \$320 000 has been spent on these projects over the past four years.

- *providing the opportunity for eligible organisations in Tasmania to apply for grants under Commonwealth government tourism-development programs.*

Under the TCFA, the Australian Government has provided \$3 million for a program to improve visitor access and recreation experience of the State’s unique forests through the

development of environmentally sensitive tourism infrastructure. See Part 3 of this report for further information.

11. *Tasmania will facilitate tourism-industry development through the following marketing actions:*

- *analysing markets and targeting State campaigns accordingly;*
- *identifying the core preferred destinations of the 'free independent traveller' and facilitating the provision of appropriate infrastructure and services;*
- *encouraging the year-round use of Tasmania's national parks and other reserves through marketing, information and interpretation; and*
- *introducing a State-wide tourism signs policy in light of the results of the recent Arthur Highway Pilot project.*

The Tasmanian Visitor Survey is an important research tool that identifies and analyses our consumer markets and why destinations appeal. The *Rejuvenating Journey's* campaign has focused on promoting Tasmania's key attributes of nature and wilderness, cultural heritage, wine and food with the consumer benefit of a rejuvenating journey of body and soul.

Tourism Tasmania has worked closely with the industry to develop the *Experience Strategy* and Tourism Tasmania's Brand. The *Experience Strategy* was finalised and implemented in November 2002 and emphasised the integration of Tasmania's three core visitor appeals, nature, cultural heritage and fine wine and food, to create extraordinary and unforgettable holiday experiences. Tourism Tasmania has also engaged the industry to further develop the Tasmania Tourism brand, aligned with the Tasmania Brand, to establish a sustainable competitive advantage. Tourism Tasmania has continued to review and up-date these crucial strategies, through sound research and industry consultation to ensure that Tasmania stands out as a holiday destination.

New tourism signage introduced statewide in January 2000 has drawn broad industry acceptance. An on-going program for enhanced direction signs, including photographic images and other key symbolic information at strategic points on the State road network, is being managed through the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. Most Councils have either adopted or are conforming with the tourism signing principles and standards, with several now coordinating the approval process and managing the design and installation phases on a fee for service basis, at either a reduced or subsidised cost to operators. The Tasmanian Roadside Signs Manual has been developed to assist all administrators of roadside signs, with particular emphasis on tourism signing, complemented by a guide for tourism operators to assist in understanding Tasmanian visitor information signs."

12. *Tasmania will, on a continuing basis, examine opportunities under Commonwealth programs for research into sustainable tourism.*

Tourism Tasmania continues to be a funding partner in the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism. In collaboration with the Office of Vocational Education and Training, it is examining the potential for growth of environmental tourism and exploring development opportunities and training strategies that can support sustainable tourism.

A separately funded Commonwealth program (\$6.4 million nationally) supporting ecotourism training and employment has now ended. Funds from this program were used to provide extensive skill enhancement in thematic interpretation for the tourism industry in Tasmania.

13. *Tasmania will facilitate sustainable tourism resource development by the following actions:*

- *detailing priority locations/areas that have significant potential for nature-based tourism development;*
- *developing investment briefs for identified sites with potential for major investment in nature based tourism developments, (eg Freycinet, Cradle Mountain, Mt Wellington); and*
- *consulting with the tourism industry, consistent with the Tourism Protocol Agreement for the management of visitor impact.*

The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment now chairs the Tourism Development Steering Committee, whose primary role is to prioritise tourism developments and locations, ensure successful implementation of projects, and develop policies and plans that facilitate the development of sustainable tourism.

With key State agencies and industry, tourism development plans have been progressed for identified tourism clusters. Cradle Valley was the first cluster to implement a Tourism Development Plan, addressing critical sewerage, water, road infrastructure and planning scheme issues. Similar planning and development has now been undertaken for the Coles Bay/Freycinet area and Tasman, and planning for the Huon Valley, Stanley region, St Helens and Strahan clusters are currently underway.

In early 2006 the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water provided a \$3 million package for Tasmania's forest ecotourism industry. The Tasmanian Forest Tourism Initiative is funded through the TCFA. It will provide \$3 million for grants to establish ecotourism infrastructure, including \$1 million to develop bushwalking and related infrastructure in the Tarkine area, and \$2 million for forest-based tourism infrastructure in Tasmania. The grants will range from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

The Wellington Park Management Trust, in conjunction with the Hobart City Council, has approved a day-use facility at The Springs, Mount Wellington, incorporating a visitor centre and café; the Council, as landowner, is currently negotiating a lease with the developer. The Trust has also completed numerous smaller developments that significantly improve the potential for nature-based tourism.

The Tourism and Forestry Protocol (<http://www.tourismforestryprotocol.com.au/>) was signed between the Tourism Council Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, Forest Industries Association of Tasmania, and Private Forests Tasmania on the 19th September 2003. The spirit of the protocol is to ensure that both industries, as significant contributors to the Tasmanian economy, can reach mutually satisfactory outcomes to issues that may arise as the result of one industry negatively impacting on the other. The agreement has continued to operate successfully.

Wood and Wood Products Industry Development Actions

14. *Both Parties agree to implement the national "Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision" for expanding plantations in the Tasmanian context.*

This ongoing commitment has been met during the review period.

Implementation of Vision 2020 (see <http://www.plantations2020.com.au>) is continuing. The structure and actions of 2020 Vision have been reviewed nationally and the goal remains

unchanged at establishing 3 million hectares of plantations in Australia by the year 2020. Both Parties remain committed to the Vision.

The Bureau of Rural Sciences publishes a comprehensive report on plantations in Australia every five years with annual updates. The report *Plantations of Australia 2006* (http://adl.brs.gov.au/mapserv/plant/report_list.phtml) provides the latest data from the National Plantation Inventory.

Table 11 below shows that the plantation areas in Tasmania increased by 32,400 hectares during the five-year period 2001-06. The major increase has been in the area of eucalypt plantation established. The total area of both eucalypt and softwood plantation is 230,400 hectares as at 30 June 2006.

Table 11: Tasmanian Plantation Areas

Reporting Year	Eucalypt Plantation (ha)	Softwood Plantation (ha)	All Plantations (ha)
2001 (30 June)	117,600	80,400	198,000
2006 (30 June)	158,900	71,500	230,400
Difference	41,300 (+35%)	- 8,900 (-11%)	32,400 (+16%)

15. *Both Parties will jointly facilitate development of the resource, on which the forest industries and related employment depend, by the following actions for which specific funding will be provided by the Commonwealth under the Agreement:*

- *expanding the level of intensive forest management by hardwood forests on public land, including:*
 - *pre-commercial thinning of very young eucalypt plantations and regrowth forests;*
 - *commercial thinning of young eucalypt plantations and regrowth forests;*
 - *establishment of new eucalypt plantations for sawlog production; and*
 - *improved planning to facilitate subsequent thinning in newly regenerated native forests*

The Australian Government provided \$67 million to Tasmania under clause 101 of the RFA for new intensive forest-management initiatives on State forest, partly to replace resource foregone in the expanded CAR reserves system and partly to assist expansion of the resource.

The RFA program target was for 20,000 hectares of new eucalypt plantation to be established on State forest over five years. By June 2005, 20,070 hectares of new eucalypt plantation has been added to Forestry Tasmania's plantation estate, which will contribute to future production of high quality sawlogs from State forest.

Over the same period Forestry Tasmania has pre-commercially thinned a total of 2,640 hectares of eucalypt forest and commercially thinned 4,520 hectares.

The RFA-funded Intensive Forest Management program is now complete, with funds fully expended and acquitted. A total of \$57 million was allocated to new intensive forest management initiatives comprising:

- \$43.95 million on eucalypt plantation establishment;
- \$2.55 million on blackwood plantation enrichment;

- \$350 000 on silver wattle and special species plantations;
- \$3.1 million on thinning of existing native forests;
- \$7.05 million on supervision and support services.
- *establishing new special-species timber resources (eg blackwood plantations and fenced regeneration); and*

After extensive silvicultural research into the best methods of growing blackwood, the program is now concentrated on blackwood enrichment (fenced regeneration).

Approximately 900 hectares of fenced intensive blackwood has been established in the last five years. For further information on special species timber resources, refer to Attachment 10.6.

- *supporting R&D into alternative, chemical-free pest and weed control systems for intensively managed forests.*

With RFA plantation funding, Forestry Tasmania has established new research and technical programs into ways of controlling pests with non-chemical or environmentally friendly chemical methods.

A summary of the key projects is given below. Further details can be found in the annual reports of Forestry Tasmania (www.forestrytas.com.au) and its Division of Forest Research and Development.

Insect control

An Integrated Pest Management System has been successfully employed that utilises natural enemies to hold chrysomelid insect populations below economic thresholds. The system allows time for the natural enemies to control the population before targeted chemical control needs to be considered.

Several environmentally friendly insecticides have been tested for managing the two main insect pests of young eucalypts in Tasmania: chrysomelid leaf beetles and autumn gum moths. As a result of these trials, four new, environmentally-friendly insecticides have been registered for use in eucalypt plantations as alternatives to the only registered insecticide previously available, cypermethrin, a broad-spectrum, synthetic pyrethroid. Autumn gum moth outbreaks can now be managed successfully with Novodor[®] (based on a toxin produced by the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis*) or Mimic[®] (active ingredient: tebufenozide), an insect growth regulator. Both these insecticides are specific for moth larvae only, Chrysomelid leaf beetle larvae can be managed using insecticides based on a toxin, spinosad, derived from an ascomycete: one of these formulations, Entrust[®], is certified for use on organic farms.

Further research is working towards developing trap and kill technology for managing insect pests in eucalypt plantations, which involves developing chemicals that will attract specific pest species.

Browsing mammals

There has been an industry-wide coordinated program to develop and evaluate viable alternatives to using the poison 1080 to manage browsing mammals. The use of 1080 for managing browsing mammals on State forest ceased from December 2005 and its use elsewhere has been restricted through tighter conditions placed on issuing permits through a revised Code of Practice. The use of 1080 on State forest has been replaced with an integrated browsing management strategy combining lethal (shooting and trapping) and non-lethal tactics. The research strategy being adopted is to progressively develop non-lethal

tactics to the stage where they can be introduced operationally to reduce the level of culling required to establish new forests. A key element of this research is to understand the situations where particular non-lethal tactics are going to be effective. The non-lethal tactics being investigated include:

- less palatable seedlings through genetics and/or nursery manipulation;
- repellents coupled with diversionary feed;
- tree guards and tall seedlings in situations of high browsing risk.

Weeds

Forestry Tasmania has made further progress towards integrated weed management. This has entailed:

- targeting problem weeds only, and synchronising the timing of the control with Eucalypt planting dates in order to maximise control of these targeted weeds, using the minimum amount of herbicide;
- using non herbicide weed control techniques including fire, hay-cutting, or cropping; and
- improving the application technique and the quality control standards of spray contractors.

In these ways, both the need to apply herbicide after planting and the occurrence of residual herbicides in the soil have been markedly reduced.

16. The State will facilitate the development of the softwood plantation development and related employment opportunities by expanding the current rate of softwood plantation development;

The expansion of softwood plantations has continued, primarily on State forest as a joint venture between Forestry Tasmania and GMO Renewable Resources. Approximately 3200 hectares of new softwood plantations have been established between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2006.

17. The Commonwealth will provide specific funding under the Agreement for the construction of essential infrastructure to provide more efficient access to forest resources, and reduce haulage impacts on existing routes, noting that these new roads will also give access for other forest users and the general public.

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

18. The Parties will jointly facilitate wood and wood-products industry development and related employment opportunities by the following actions:

- *continuing to support programs to educate the public on issues of forest management and on the sustainability of wood as an environmentally acceptable raw material for a wide range of uses;*

Both Governments are supporting initiatives through a variety of programs.

The Commonwealth has continued to promote the benefits and outcomes of the RFA process for delivering sustainable forest management, for example:

Through the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy and Natural Heritage Trust programs the Commonwealth has funded the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation (FWPRDC) to support a number of projects related to:

- silvicultural research to increase the productivity of plantations and native forests;
- developing criteria and indicators for assessing Australia's progress towards sustainable management and uses of forest resources; and
- research and development activities aimed at improving the environmental performance of the wood-product industry in Australia.

The FWPRDC, under its National Timber Development Program, funds a variety of activities aimed at improving the durability of timber in service and promoting the environmental benefits of timber compared to alternative building and construction materials. Brochures on environmentally friendly housing using timber principles and environmental properties of timber (available at <http://www.fwprdc.org.au>) promote the use of wood as an environmentally sound product.

Forestry Tasmania has produced a range of publications, media stories and advertisements, and offered many interpreted in-forest opportunities, to educate the public on issues of forest management. Initiatives undertaken include:

- Forestry Tasmania corporate, planned burns and giant trees websites;
- Over 130 media releases annually, in addition to targeted editorial for forestry, tourism and business publications;
- *Branchline* magazine, a quarterly publication for external stakeholders;
- *Forestry Matters* periodical information sheets;
- Annual financial report and Sustainable Forest Management report;
- *Sustainable Forest Management* information booklet;
- A range of information brochures about Forestry Tasmania projects, eg. Forest Facts, rotary veneer mills, tourism projects, Warra LTER site, Corporate Plan, Good Neighbour Charter;
- Corporate advertising on forest management issues eg. alternatives to clearfelling in oldgrowth forests, wedge tailed eagle habitat management;
- Presentations and displays at conferences and events;
- Tasforests.

The forest industry and Forestry Tasmania have continued to support the Forest Education Foundation (<http://www.forest-education.com>), which develops and delivers school based educational resources, field experiences for students and professional development programs for teachers. These cover an understanding of the ecology and distribution of Tasmania's forests, human interactions with forest environments, the early timber industry and modern forest management through to the processing and use of forest resources in Tasmania. The Forest Education Foundation works across education sector including; students and teachers (lower primary to Year 11/12), curriculum developers, University of Tasmania teacher training and TAFE Tasmania.

Each year, Private Forests Tasmania publishes in its Annual Report information on promoting sound management of native forests and plantations on private land in Tasmania. Private Forests Tasmania also has a strong presence each year at Agfest (total public attendance more than 40,000 each year) where the emphasis has been in the past two years on the multiple benefits of forests and the sustainability of timber production and processing.

In addition, Private Forests Tasmania has conducted four farm forestry dinners and field days each year, where the emphasis is always on best practice silviculture and other practices to deliver sustainable forest management.

Each quarter, Private Forests Tasmania publishes a free newsletter, TREELine, which includes a wide range of information on sustainable management of private forests.

Private Forests Tasmania has also produced a series of information papers on a range of plantation related issues, and these will be progressively reviewed and updated from early 2007. In March 2007 Private Forests Tasmania will publish a paper containing extensive data on the private plantation estate as at 31 December 2006, and this information will be updated annually thereafter and available on the website (www.privateforests.tas.gov.au).

All Tasmanian and Commonwealth agencies involved with aspects of forest management have developed and maintained web sites that provide information on a range of issues concerning forest management. These sites include:

Department of Premier and Cabinet <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/rfa>

Department of Primary Industries and Water <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au>

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources <http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/forests/home>

Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment – Parks and Wildlife Service
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/>

Forest Practices Authority <http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/>

Forestry Tasmania <http://www.forestrytas.com.au>

Private Forests Tasmania <http://www.privateforests.tas.gov.au/>

Forest and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania <http://www.ffic.com.au/>

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
<http://www.daffa.gov.au/forestry>

Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources
<http://www.environment.gov.au/index.html>

Forests and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation
<http://www.fwprdc.org.au/>

CSIRO Forest and Forest Products <http://www.ffp.csiro.au>

CRC for Forestry <http://www.crcforestry.com.au/>

Bureau of Rural Resources – Forestry and Vegetation Sciences
<http://www.daffa.gov.au/brs/forest-veg>

The Commonwealth (through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and the State (through Forestry Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania and the Forests and Forest Industry Council) have actively disseminated information on the Australian Forestry Standard, certification and labelling. The Australian Forestry Standard Ltd's website <http://www.forestrystandard.org.au> provides extensive information.

- *continuing the funding of research, including specific funding under the Agreement, into new processing technologies and market opportunities to assist in the transition from old-growth to regrowth and plantation resources including:*
 - *new sawing and seasoning techniques,*
 - *technologies for manufactured wood products, and*

- *commercialisation of new technologies;*

A total of \$1.6 million of RFA funds were allocated by the Australian Government under clause 101(ii) to the Forests and Forest Industry Council (FFIC) of Tasmania to facilitate strategic research and development of new sawing and seasoning techniques, technologies for manufactured wood products and commercialisation of new technologies and processes. The funds have been used to assist a variety of projects, focussing on sawing and seasoning of young eucalypts and disseminating results to the industry.

Results of sawing studies of plantation grown eucalypts with the aim of understanding the potential for producing quality sawlogs and veneer logs from plantation grown eucalypts in Tasmania have been published and reviewed, both nationally and internationally. A summary report “ *Sawing & drying trials of hardwood plantation wood with reference to the provisions of Category I and Category III suitable sawlogs from plantations in Tasmania* “ is available at <http://www.ffic.com.au/media/BruceGreaves27may2004.pdf>.

The FFIC assisted various Tasmanian Country Sawmillers with design and commissioning of new technologies; solar hot water assisted drying kilns, vacuum drying and laminated beam production to effect transition from mature log material to a regrowth feed stock.

Extensive research has been undertaken into new processing technologies by the CRC for Forestry, Forest and Wood Products Research and Development and the Timber Research Unit of the University of Tasmania. Research partners include industry and the FFIC.

- *supporting a new emphasis on furniture design and marketing that complements Tasmania’s existing success in ‘one-off’ design for high value, but focuses on product lines more suited to large-scale production for medium- to high-value markets; and*

A variety of initiatives have been taken by the Department of Economic Development to facilitate expansion of production of medium- to high-value furniture and for design and marketing. They include assisting furniture designers and manufacturers to attend exhibitions, trade shows and specialty events for niche high value added products nationally and overseas.

The Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources, through the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy, funded export-marketing brochures and marketing and promotion strategies for the Australian fine-furniture industry. These national projects, which have provided indirect benefits to the Tasmanian industry, include:

- Furnishing Industry Action Agenda (*Meeting the Challenge*), developed with industry, to improve competitiveness. The Australian Government has provided an assistance package of \$4 million.
- The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Innovative Wood Manufacturing commenced in 2001. It has funding from the Australian Government of \$16.3 million over seven years from 1 July 2001, matched with \$47.2 million from the participants. Furnishing-industry members of the centre include the Furnishing Industry Association of Australia and the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute Ltd, which is based in Tasmania. The CRC researches and develops such issues as innovative techniques for manufacturing high quality and high-performance, value-added wood products.

- *investigating opportunities to improve forest-harvesting technologies by, for example, the design of log trucks.*

The Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania has assisted in the development of a new electronic system that uses Pocket PCs to record hardwood sawlog detail. The electronic data capture system replaces a paper based system. Sawlog measurements and other information are collected using small, hand-held computers (PDAs) at each log landing. At the end of the day the contractor plugs the PDA into a telephone line and sends the electronic data to a central database. The data collected are instantly available electronically to those people who would normally get a copy of a paper docket, e.g. principal companies, landowners.

The main benefit to all parties of the new technology is improved reliability of data about sawlogs harvested together with a saving in the cost of entering sawlog details into computer systems. It is anticipated that additional information gathering will ensure all users of the system can see benefits and embrace the technology. Sub-projects include development by the Timber Research Unit at the University of Tasmania of “e-Miller”, enabling electronic tracking of logs upon delivery to the sawmill gate; “Harvesting Electronic Template Data Transfer System” allowing contractors to utilise some of the existing infrastructure in the electronic system to replace paper based forms with additional electronic modules on the PDAs and in future it is hoped to develop a system to collect operator’s details, (from operations in the bush to sawmill gate), such as qualifications and licence information, allowing the qualifications database to be updated electronically, assisting with current licensing and licence renewal system.

Forestry Tasmania and John Holland have formed a joint venture (“Newood”), to establish two integrated wood centres, one in the south near Huonville and one in Smithton. In each case, the location minimises log truck traffic on major public roads.

The Huon Wood Centre now consists of a regrowth sawmill, with a regrowth peeling mill and log merchandiser under construction and due to commence operations early in 2007. Other wood processing industries are planned to occupy the site in the future. The central element of the Huon Wood Centre is the log merchandiser. Instead of being segregated at bush landings, logs will be carted to the log merchandiser in “truck lengths”, for scanning and crosscutting into the highest value products. These will then be distributed onsite to the relevant downstream industry (eg regrowth sawmill or regrowth peeling mill). Residues will be processed into woodchips, for pulp and paper manufacturing, or into fuelwood. Some products will also be delivered to offsite customers (e.g. other sawmills).

The Circular Head Wood Centre, at Smithton, consists of a log merchandiser that is supplying local sawmills and the export market for eucalypt peeler logs, as well as residues for pulp and paper manufacturing and fuelwood. Other wood processing industries are planned to occupy the site in the future. In particular, a regrowth peeling plant is due to commence construction in early 2007 and to commence operations in early 2008.

19. *The State will facilitate wood and wood-products industry development by the following actions:*

- *supporting the development by industry of comprehensive reports on market trends, commodity and log-price information, and supply and demand factors facing the timber, pulp and paper, panel and woodchip industries;*

In 1999, the Department of State Development (now the Department of Economic Development) conducted a Forestry, Timber and Paper Industry Audit

(<http://www.dsd.tas.gov.au/publications/indaud2.html>) to identify constraints to, and opportunities for growth. The audit provides a benchmark for assessing changes.

From this audit came the setting up of the Building and Construction Industry Council and the Manufacturing Industry Council, both which are supported and assisted through the Department of Economic Development.

The Department of Economic Development has also funded by way of a grant a survey and report of the country sawmill sector. The report 'Country Sawmills in Tasmania' by Bruce Greaves was compiled for the Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Federation in 2006. The aim of the report was to compare the country sawmilling sector now with the sector as it was when it was last surveyed in 1990 and reported by Raoul Dixon in 1992. The survey involved mill visits, telephone contacts and a compilation of industry sourced information.

Private Forests Tasmania has produced a series of market information reports on farm forestry, available on the website, and each year in its quarterly *TREELine* publication publishes information on current market prices for logs and pulpwood. In June 2007 Private Forests Tasmania will be producing a report on options for further development of the industry in Tasmania which will include up to date market analysis and trends.

- *amending the terms of reference of the Forests and Forest Industry Council to provide advice on:*
 - *a strategic overview of the market for forest products and the preference for maintaining and increasing domestic processing in Tasmania; and*
 - *the encouragement of the development of downstream processing in Tasmania, such that the preferred market for growers is within the State*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

- *maintaining an internet site for Tasmanian timber, open to all industry participants, to provide a new method of marketing and increasing awareness of individual products; and*

The 'Tasmanian Timber' website (www.tastimber.tas.gov.au) has been established through the timber research unit of the University of Tasmania and funded by the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board who are responsible for its regular updating.

- *continuing to support the Tasmanian Wood Design Collection through:*
 - *sponsorship and other assistance by Forestry Tasmania;*
 - *continuing the biennial exhibition and purchase program; and*
 - *seeking further opportunities to use the collection to advertise Tasmanian wood design nationally and overseas.*

The Tasmanian Wood Design Collection was established in 1991 with the assistance of the forestry industry. A permanent home for the Collection was established in custom-built galleries in City Park, Launceston with assistance from public and private sources including the FFIC. This gallery provides for a professional presentation of the museum collection and allows the Collection to exhibit diverse range of design pieces and events for the wider Tasmanian, national and international audience. The Design Centre (as it is now known) is the only venue in Tasmania to focus solely upon Tasmanian wood design and its interpretation.

The Collection is a continuously-evolving museum collection of contemporary wood design. It is the only museum collection of its type in Australia and has toured extensively in Tasmania, interstate and overseas.

The Tasmanian Wood Design Collection has maintained and grown its collection since 2002. It continues to receive wide support for Forestry Tasmania and the Forests and Forest Industry Council.

See <http://designcentre.com.au/twdc.php?subpage=43>

20. *The Commonwealth will facilitate, through the Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Program and other programs, industry development for the Private Forests sector by the following actions:*

- *assisting in the expansion of private planting, including by encouraging partnerships and joint ventures between property owners and investors; and*

The Integrated Farm Forestry Planning and Forest Establishment Project, managed by Private Forests Tasmania, was supported through the Farm Forestry Program of the Natural Heritage Trust and has been completed. This was a devolved grant scheme that fostered the participation of landholders in planning and planting approximately 500 hectares of plantations.

Currently Private Forests Tasmania is in the second year of a three-year engagement to manage and deliver the Sustainable Farm Forestry for Conservation and Production Project which has three components targeting participation by 50 landholders. To date the Project has resulted in the establishment of 164 hectares of plantations, re-vegetation of 35 hectares of riparian area and enhanced protection of 360 hectares of existing riparian vegetation.

In partnership with the States and industry, the Australian Government has continued to implement the *Plantations for Australia: the Vision 2020* framework to remove impediments to the development of plantations.

- *assisting the State in programs aimed at achieving increased numbers of private forest owners managing and improving productivity in their forests.*

Refer to paragraph 3 of Attachment 12 for specific funding initiatives.

21. *The Commonwealth will facilitate, through the Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Program and other programs, overall industry development by the following actions:*

- *providing assistance for sawmilling industry redevelopments on a case-by-case basis, designed to help industry adjust to predominantly regrowth and plantation resource supplies, while achieving value-adding investments, improved productivity and international competitiveness;*

See Part 3 of this report, clauses 53-56 for further initiatives under the TCFA to assist the Tasmanian sawmilling industry.

- *encouraging the use of ‘Crown Cut’ regrowth veneer for construction and renovation projects that involve the Commonwealth, including by promotion: within Commonwealth purchasing agencies; and within design specifications; and*

During the review period no further action has been undertaken on this commitment.

- *advocating the use of wood and wood products sourced from regions covered by RFAs and from regions where the Commonwealth has removed export controls on wood sourced from plantations, on the basis that they:*
 - *are recognised as sustainably managed; and,*
 - *will be considered by the Commonwealth to have environmental credentials such that there is no basis for discrimination against such products on the issue of sustainability.*

The Commonwealth has articulated its support for the use of wood and wood products from RFA regions as they are sustainably managed. This includes the *Statement on Sustainable Forest Management in Tasmania* (see item 22).

The *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001* prescribe that wood waste from RFA regions, or regions where equivalent criteria are in place, is defined as an eligible renewable energy source under the Government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) scheme, where certain criteria are met. These criteria reflect the concerns of Parliament surrounding the utilisation of natural resources for electricity generation.

The MRET Act and Regulations set eligibility conditions for creating tradeable renewable energy certificates (RECs) for electricity which is generated by power stations accredited under MRET. They do not prohibit or restrict the use of wood from RFA regions for bioenergy.

The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) is Australia's only third party accredited national forest certification scheme, which demonstrates that forest products have been sourced from SFM. The AFCS comprises two standards, a forest management and chain of custody standard. The former is an interim standard and is due to be finalised in August 2007. The latter has achieved full Australian standard recognition under Standards Australia. There is presently around 1.5 million hectares of native and plantation forest certified in Tasmania under the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS).

Internationally the AFS, the forest management standard of the AFCS, has undergone a thorough assessment by a third party independent assessment and been endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Schemes in 2004 to provide credible international recognition of Australia's only national forest certification scheme.

22. *The Parties, based on the Agreement, will promote the sustainability of Tasmanian wood products in domestic and international markets.*

To promote value adding for Tasmanian special timbers using a certified chain of custody, Fine Timber Tasmania Inc was established with funding from the Commonwealth's Wood and Paper Industry Strategy Funding (WAPIS), Forestry Tasmania, the FFIC and contributions from participants. Certification is imminent.

The FFIC has assisted the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board to attend DesignEX in Sydney and Melbourne to promote Tasmanian timber to architects, specifiers and builders, offering up to date information and promoting timber sub-floors and compliance of timber flooring with 5-star energy rating requirements.

A joint *Statement on Sustainable Forest Management in Tasmania* was signed by State and Commonwealth Ministers in January 1999 and distributed widely to producers in Tasmania. The corresponding marketing strategy is being supported principally by the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board and the Forests and Forest Industry Council.

23. *The Commonwealth, as part of the WAPIS and other programs, will facilitate skills development in enterprises and workplaces by:*

- *developing programs within the harvesting, sawmilling and furniture manufacturing sectors as part of the National Small Business Best Practice Professional Development Program;*

Small Business Professional Development Program was funded in the first review period by the Australian Government and managed by the Tasmanian Office of Vocational Education and Training.

The program worked closely with State and Territory training authorities, and through its action research, developed and trialled different approaches to training to encourage small businesses to take control of their own learning. The learning models developed included mentoring, networks, clusters and tool kits.

The program also supported projects where small businesses first identified their needs and problems, and then tried out solutions in real situations.

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Training has received an allocation of \$4 million in funding, under the TCFA, over four years to support skills development and training initiatives in the Tasmanian forest and forest products industry. See Part 3 of this report for further information.

- *providing assistance in the form of Network grants for sawmilling and furniture small- to medium-sized enterprises in the Commonwealth's Technology Support Centre Program for technology transfer. Grants for sawmilling enterprises would assist in the use of advanced timber-seasoning concepts; and for furniture-manufacturing enterprises, would assist the adoption of intricate and high-volume computer-controlled processing; and*

During the review period no further action has been undertaken on this commitment.

- *working cooperatively with relevant agencies to promote and market National Vocational Education Training packages in Tasmanian forestry and ecotourism;*

The Tasmanian Office of Vocational Education and Training has continued to market the available training packages to industry. In September 2000, the Australian Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tasmanian Government to support the new ecotourism training and employment initiative based on national training packages.

The Australian Government continues to support tourism initiatives in Tasmanian forests through the TCFA. Under the TCFA \$3 million has been made available to tourism-based initiatives.

- *encouraging Tasmanian applications under the Industry Skills Centres Program in the areas of:*
 - *silviculture*
 - *sawing and seasoning*
 - *packaging and export consignment*
 - *merchandising and marketing*
 - *catchment management and*
 - *ecotourism;*

The Australian Government's Infrastructure Program provides capital funding through the Australian National Training Authority to the States and Territories for vocational education and training.

The Tasmanian Office of Vocational Education and Training has actively supported the development of industry skills centres for school students in rural Tasmania.

- *encouraging the uptake of the Commonwealth's work-based New Apprenticeships Program.*

The Australian Government has developed a range of programs designed to encourage the uptake of new apprenticeships. The Australian Government programs included a marketing campaign targeting rural and regional communities.

The Tasmanian Office of Vocational Education and Training has actively encouraged the uptake of apprenticeships in the industry.

24. *The Parties will jointly facilitate skills development by:*

- *encouraging Australian National Training Authority assistance, through the Forest and Forest Products Education Skills Company and the Tasmanian Forest Industry Training Board, of Vocational Education and Training in Schools in the areas of:*
 - *ecotourism*
 - *IT including mapping*
 - *communication, engineering and construction and*
 - *forestry;*
- *encouraging the adoption of the Commonwealth's School-Industry Links Demonstration Program by local forestry and ecotourism businesses in regional centres in Tasmania.*

See responses to items 22 and 23 above.

Minerals Industry Development Actions

25. *The Parties will jointly facilitate minerals industry development and related employment by the following actions:*

- *implementing the Regional Minerals Program for the Western Tasmanian Minerals Province to enable development of an optimal development strategy for the minerals industry;*

The Australian Government-funded Western Tasmanian Regional Minerals Program, to improve the quality of geoscientific data in order to enhance opportunities for mineral exploration and investment, was completed in 2004. Much of the State's geoscientific data was digitised and made available to the minerals industry via the Mineral Resources Tasmania website.

In 2001 the Department of Economic Development contracted consultants to begin preparatory work on the re-zoning at Port Latta for an investment-ready industrial site. The consultant provided:

- a description of the industries that might set up or move to the site over the next 20 years;
- a Circular Head Council Planning Scheme Amendment report;

- a water supply report;
 - an environmental baseline report;
 - an area management plan;
 - a generic development proposal and environmental management plan;
 - an infrastructure requirement report; and
 - a marketing handbook.
- *actively advocating and supporting the Agreement as providing secure access to those areas having land tenure suitable for minerals exploration and mining; and*

The Tasmanian Government at various trade conferences and other relevant forums both in Australia and overseas promotes the guaranteed access for mineral exploration and mining.

Access to land for exploration and mining continues to be provided under the Tasmanian Government's *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* and *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zone) Act 1993*.

- *through data acquisition and research, support the development of an improved geoscientific knowledge base at regional and continental scale to promote investment in mineral exploration.*

Mineral Resources Tasmania, through its own programs and joint projects with Geoscience Australia and the Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits, continues to support the development of an improved geoscientific knowledge base.

The geoscientific data from the Western Tasmanian Regional Minerals Program is available from Mineral Resources Tasmania and has been highlighted and promoted at conferences within Australia and in Toronto, Beijing and London.

In March 2006 the Tasmanian Government announced funding for a four year program to collect new geoscientific data from areas northeastern, northern and northwestern Tasmania and upgrade both the three dimensional geological model of Tasmania and the information held in the TIGER system.

26. *The State will provide and maintain relevant databases and search and retrieval systems online to clients.*

The State Government-funded TIGER project established a database with an online search-and-retrieval system, over the triennium 2000-01 to 2002-03. Further funding was announced in March 2006 to upgrade the information in the database.

Actions to Develop Other Industries Dependent on Access to Forests

27. *Tasmania will facilitate industry development and related employment for woodcraft industries dependent on special- species timbers by the following actions:*

- *assessing the potential for additional areas of State Forest in Tasmania to be managed for the long-term production of special-species timbers and implementing appropriate zoning and management for those areas that are suitable;*

Extensive additional reservation of forests containing special species timbers occurred as part of the TCFA in 2005. The significant changes require amendment of the draft special species zoning and management strategy prepared in 2004. A revised supply strategy will be completed concurrent with the 5-yearly review of high quality eucalypt sawlogs.

- *Promoting access to unprocessed and semi-processed special species timbers and craftwood and by developing new opportunities for the use of species such as silver wattle and white sassafras, noting that these actions are currently being addressed through Forestry Tasmania's 'Island Specialty Timbers';*

Forestry Tasmania has maintained its Island Specialty Timbers business to facilitate access to special-species timbers and craftwood.

- *supporting the establishment of the 'Living Boat Trust' for registration, preservation and study of Tasmania's wooden boats and for recording of associated history;*

The Wooden Boat Centre in Franklin was originally established in 1992 as the Shipwright's Point School of Wooden Boat Building. In December 2000, the school was purchased by the Southern Training, Employment and Placement Solutions and the name changed to the Wooden Boat Centre Tasmania.

The main purpose of the Wooden Boat Centre is currently the delivery of the Diploma of Wooden Boatbuilding. Since 1992, the school has taught more than 400 students and has produced around 50 wooden dinghies and carried out numerous wooden boat repairs. The Centre has a visitor interpretation centre to enable visitors to view the construction of boats without disturbing students. Here visitors can browse the exhibits and purchase Wooden Boat Centre products.

Forestry Tasmania and the FFIC have continued to support the Trust.

- *assisting in the construction of appropriate mooring facilities adjacent to the Shipwrights Point School of Wooden Boat Building;*

This commitment was fully met prior to, and reported on in, the 2002 Review.

- *promoting and fostering the further development of a viable wood design and fine craft industry;*

Forestry Tasmania maintains a program of sponsorship and support for the design and craft industries, including the Tasmanian Wood Design Collection Trust (see item 19).

The FFIC is currently a member of, or supports, the following organisations:

- The Style of Tasmania
- Furniture Designers Organisation
- Fine Timber Tasmania
- University of Tasmania Australian School of Fine Furniture.
 - *providing seeding funds to boost the marketing role of the Tasmanian Design Development Company, with particular emphases on:*
 - *marketing*
 - *developing potential retail outlets, and*
 - *pursuing new markets for corporate crafts through representation at fine-craft and design fairs throughout Australia; and*

As reported in 2002 the Tasmanian Design Development Company became Island Design and subsequently closed in 2000.

- *conducting a study to identify the best potential locations in which to establish 'focus areas' for wood design and other fine craft, and to foster the establishment of such focus areas in other locations that are shown to be commercially viable.*

As reported in 2002 investigation of these issues identified no need for such a study.

28. *The Commonwealth will assist the State in:*

- *maximising the recovery of special-species timbers from forests managed for these timbers and from all other harvested forests; and*

Commonwealth RFA funding (\$0.4 million) was expended prior to 2002.

Tasmania has continued to provide resources to maximise recovery of special-species timbers. Recovery of those logs that do not meet sawlog specifications, has continued via several dedicated commercial contractors. It is planned to increase recovery by expanding the number of contractors who have been training in special-species identification and handling. Under the TCFA, \$3 million was provided for low impact access to Special Timbers Management Units (see Part 3 of this report).

- *establishing a trading house and permanent storage facility for wooden boat boards, such that irregular supply and demand patterns can be managed to optimise the long-term State-wide recovery of boards suited to wooden-boat building from sawmillers processing Huon pine and celery top pine (in particular);*

The Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania (FFIC) received \$0.2 million of RFA funds for this project. The FFIC has established a wooden boat board bank. Suitable boat boards have been purchased through a trust fund. The Trust Fund remains at \$200,000 in terms of the value of timber in storage plus any unspent funds, less cost of insurance, transport etc. Boards suited to wooden boat building, in particular King Billy, Huon and celery top pine were purchased to ensure that timbers in demand for boat building are not used for other purposes and will be available into the future.

29. *Tasmania will facilitate industry development and employment for other industries dependent on forests by the following actions:*

- *developing and implementing an agreed management plan and licensing system for the harvest of *Dicksonia antarctica* tree ferns across all available land tenures, to be administered by Forestry Tasmania and DPIWE and to meet the requirements of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982 (Commonwealth); and*

The *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the *Forest Practices Regulations 1997* were amended in 2002 to provide a regulatory framework for the harvesting of tree ferns across all tenures. The legislation requires all harvesting of tree ferns to be covered by a certified forest practices plan, with all harvested ferns to be affixed with tags provided by the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) prior to removal from the harvest area. Tree Ferns cannot be harvested or traded without tags affixed as a record of their harvest under the terms of the Tree Fern Management Plan, which was agreed to by both governments and introduced in 2002. The plan was revised in 2005 and again in 2006-07. The FPA regulates the harvest of tree ferns across all land tenures. Details on the harvesting of tree ferns are contained in the FPA's Annual Report (www.fpa.tas.gov.au).

- *completing the implementation of the protocol for leatherwood honey management on all Public Land tenures throughout the State, as agreed between the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association, Forestry Tasmania and DPIWE.*

A Community Forest Agreement between Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association Inc was completed and signed in November 2000. The Agreement implements the protocol for leatherwood-honey management on State forest.

The Forests and Forest Industry Council (FFIC) convened an Apiary Working Group with the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association and the Crop Pollinators Association together with Forestry Tasmania to review issues facing the beekeeping industry in Tasmania with particular emphasis on leatherwood. The FFIC commissioned a joint census with the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association of commercial and non-commercial beekeepers to ascertain the use of leatherwood resources and commercial apiary management practices in relation to these. The Apiary Working Group published this as the "Tasmanian Apiary Industry Profile". This document contains information on the size of the industry, employment, access to floral resources on public and private land, pollination services and harvesting in leatherwood-rich coupes. This work also resulted in the publication of a floral database covering flowering sequences for the main species utilised.

The Working Group is now exploring new commercial licensing arrangements to improve the security of tenure for beekeepers on public land and to increase the productivity of hive sites on State forest. The Group is also reviewing the *Guidelines for Beekeeping on State forest*, to further enhance the planning processes for harvesting operations on State forest, for the protection of leatherwood-rich forest. The output from this group will form the foundation for a plan for long-term management of leatherwood within Tasmania. Access roading into Special Timbers Management Units under the TCFA will also enhance access to leatherwood resources.

PART 2

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2002 FIVE YEAR REVIEW

In 2002 the Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) conducted the first five-year review of progress with implementation of the Tasmanian RFA. The RPDC provided the Governments with a Final Recommendations Report – see http://www.rpdc.tas.gov.au/public_land_use/plu_docs/plu_reg_forest_agree.htm. This Report contained a series of recommendations to the Governments.

In May 2005 the Premier of the State of Tasmania and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia signed a Supplementary Agreement to the Tasmanian RFA, referred to as the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA). As part of the TCFA (clause 3) the Governments agreed to implement the RPDC recommendations, except recommendation 4.5. They also agreed (clause 4) that the TCFA represents a full and final response to the RPDC Report.

The following details the actions that have been taken by both governments to implement the RPDC recommendations. Several of the recommendations, as noted, have been superseded by the TCFA.

Land Use

Recommendation 3.1

That the State continues to improve forest community mapping. Particular attention needs to be given to improving the mapping of forest communities in reserves through additional field survey.

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress and ongoing.

In 2004 the Tasmanian Government provided new initiative funding over three years to address this recommendation. Two projects were established with the funding:

- A statewide revision of RFA mapping (RFA Revision Mapping Project); and
- Development and implementation of a system to report changes in native vegetation extent, including facilitation of the development of a change detection program to comply with State reporting requirements (Monitoring Vegetation Extent Project)

RFA Revision Mapping Project

Mapping has so far concentrated on the Ben Lomond Bioregion, which occupies about 620,000 hectares, covering all or parts of 50 1:25,000 map sheets. Forty-one map sheets have been mapped. The forest revision mapping has involved extensive ground-truthing.

Considerable refinement of mapping has occurred, for example:

- Undifferentiated classes are no longer used. There are five *Eucalyptus amygdalina*-dominated forests communities, separated on the nature of the substrate and upgraded since the RFA. The undifferentiated class **DAI** is not mapped in the region.
- Big RFA polygons of *E. sieberi* forests are now resolved to show associated forest types.

- New areas of some important forest and woodland types are mapped eg *E. brookeriana* wet forest (**WBR**) and *E. rodwayi* forest and woodland (**DRO**).
- *Allocasuarina verticillata* forest (**NAV**) is more widespread than was indicated by RFA mapping.

The bioregional mapping approach has resulted in improvement of forests mapped within the reserves of the Ben Lomond bioregion. Revised forest mapping has also been completed in the new reserve at Recherche Bay.

Monitoring Vegetation Extent Project

This project has developed a method to monitor vegetation extent in Tasmania. The method specifically caters for the types of change that are of relevance to reporting on vegetation change in Tasmania. An accuracy assessment for a trial area was completed in 2006. This assessment used a polygon-based random sample covering 1 per cent of the area in areas of non-change, overlaid on recent high-resolution imagery (Quickbird). Each polygon of non-change (which has been attributed from TASVEG) has been visually compared to the Quickbird imagery to check for any change missed. There was virtually no change greater than one hectare that was not detected by the Landsat change detection methods.

Processing of forest data has been completed for the analysis period 2000 to 2005 using the methods formulated and documented from the trial. Pre-processed 2000, 2002 and 2005 imagery received from the Australian Greenhouse Office was used for Indicator 1.1 in the report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006*.

Recommendation 3.2

That the State reserves areas currently vested in the Hydro-Electric Corporation and identified in the RFA as indicative reserves.

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress.

The State continues to make progress towards completing the implementation of this recommendation. Clause 15 of the TCFA is also relevant as some of the old growth areas agreed for protection in the TCFA are within these indicative RFA areas.

Hydro Tasmania is finalising its review of Crown land areas identified for protection under the RFA and TCFA. This review is to identify precise boundaries for land that is or is no longer required by Hydro Tasmania for management of its power generation assets. All areas are being managed for protection pending the finalisation of the review. A review has been completed on several areas to identify boundaries of the proposed reserves and is proceeding on remaining areas. Proposals for divestment of vested land no longer required will be submitted to the Tasmanian Parliament as a single package once the review is completed (estimated to be in 2007).

Recommendation 3.3

That the Parties commit to designing a program that provides for the long term future of the Private Forest Reserves Program and in particular provides for the future financial resources for management, monitoring and reporting of properties conserved under the RFA Private Forest Reserves Program.

Under the terms of the TCFA, the Private Forest Reserves Program (PFRP) ceased on 30 June 2006 – see Part 3 of this report. During the life of the PFRP over 300 covenants have been entered into by private forest owners, covering more than 30,000 hectares. See Part 1 of this report (Attachment 8) for details of the PFRP outcomes.

The PFRP has been replaced by two programs:

- the Australian Government administered Forest Conservation Fund (FCF), that will continue to provide incentives for voluntary protection of old growth and under-reserved forest on private land, and
- the Tasmanian Government administered Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP), which seeks to facilitate conservation of natural values on private land, through property-based planning approaches.

Enhanced conservation of forests on private land remains a priority of the Australian and Tasmanian Governments. Recommendation 3.3 is now being principally achieved through the FCF, established by the Australian Government under the TCFA. The objective of the FCF is to protect up to 45,600 hectares of private forested land, targeting old growth and under-reserved forest communities. The target includes protection of a minimum of 25,000 hectares of old growth forest. The FCF will draw upon the lessons learnt from the Private Forest Reserves Program. Further details of the FCF are provided in Part 3 of this report – see clauses 20 – 29.

The Tasmanian Government provided funding in the 2002-03 Budget to implement a monitoring and stewardship program for those reserves covenanted under the PFRP. This program has been incorporated within the Department of Primary Industry and Water's PLCP and is funded until at least June 2007.

The Monitoring and Stewardship section of the PLCP is responsible for providing services to landholders who have entered into covenants with the Tasmanian Government. These officers provide support and advice to enable those landowners to conserve the natural values under the covenant. They are also monitoring biotic aspects of the covenanted areas to monitor and evaluate the longer-term environmental outcomes of the covenanting program.

In 2005-06, this section of the PLCP:

- continued to build on the Property Monitoring component of the PFRP, with 176 Vegetation Condition Assessments conducted on 55 reserves, covering a total area of 9,734 hectares assessed.
- Provided ongoing stewardship support for landowners with covenanted properties by visiting 78 reserves (with an area totalling 13,910 hectares). These visits were used to provide advice and assistance to landowners managing their covenanted areas.

Recommendation 3.4

That the State reinforces and makes more effective the mechanism for providing the RFA Private Forest Reserves Program with basic forest type and coverage information for areas being assessed under the Private Timber Reserve approval process.

Implementation of this recommendation was commenced but by subsequent agreement of both Governments is no longer being implemented.

The Private Forest Reserves Program (PFRP) ceased on 30 June 2006 as an outcome of the TCFA – see part 3, clause 27 of this report.

Prior to the TCFA, Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) had discussed options with the Private Forest Reserves Program Unit in the Department of Primary Industries and Water for more proactive information exchange from the Private Timber Reserve (PTR) application process. In addition to the core PTR location information, PFT commenced supplying GIS compiled

maps of PTR applications to the PFRP Unit to assist with identifying priority reserve opportunities.

PFT also discussed with the PFRP Unit progressing a whole of state initiative to obtain detailed satellite imagery to improve the base mapping options for private landowners as part of the promotion of whole farm forest property management.

Recommendation 3.5

That the Parties clarify the commitment in Clause 39 of the RFA and make publicly available information on progress to date and how they intend to pursue the implementation of this commitment including the timelines.

Clause 39 of the RFA committed the Parties to jointly participate in a process of further assessment of Australia-wide themes of World Heritage, commencing by 30 June 1998. As described in the 2002 Review, this commitment was met through the commencement of a national process to identify themes.

Since 2002, the Australian Government has significantly revised the legislative arrangements for National and World Heritage listing.

The 2003 amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* established the National Heritage List (NHL).

The April 2004 National Heritage Protocol outlined arrangements for the coordination of Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments systems for the protection of heritage.

Under that protocol it was agreed that, as a general principle, future nominations for World Heritage listing will be drawn from the NHL.

During the thirty-fourth meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council Standing Committee, held on 19 October 2006, it was agreed that the Standing Committee would prepare a paper for Environment Protection and Heritage Council's consideration at its first meeting in 2007 on the further development of Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

Recommendation 3.6

That the State makes known its decision on future access to the deep red myrtle resource in the Savage River Pipeline Corridor by February 2003.

Implementation of this recommendation has been completed.

The Tasmanian Government's decision on future access to the Savage River Pipeline Corridor was announced on 4 June 2003. That decision, to allow continued access to the corridor forests for timber harvesting, but at a reduced harvest level, has been superseded by the TCFA in May 2005. The whole of the corridor is now part of the CAR reserve system and no longer available for timber harvesting.

Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management

Recommendation 4.1

That the State improves the accountability of the Forest Practices System. Issues to consider include:

- *improving transparency and communications, in particular, public access to information on Forest Practices Plans, through a central access point designed to improve industry consultation with neighbours and local communities;*
- *improving on ground implementation of Forest Practices Plans by introducing minimum standards of training, education and accreditation of forest operatives, and introducing systems to convey the detail of the Forest Practices Code and Forest Practices Plans in a form readily available and understandable to forest operatives;*
- *improving public understanding of the Forest Practices System including the Forest Practices Code, the role of the Forest Practices Board and, in particular, the public and legal policy framework in which the Forest Practices Board operates;*
- *providing for a specific position on the Forest Practices Board for a person with ecological and/or conservation expertise;*
- *reviewing the efficacy of the self regulatory aspects of the Forest Practices System in the next five year review of the Forest Practices System; and*
- *ensuring provision of additional funding, including from industry, to support the communication and research functions of the Forest Practices System.*

Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing, with substantial measures to address the recommendation implemented by the Tasmanian Government since 2002.

The Tasmanian Government undertook a major review of the Forest Practices System in 2004.

In September 2004, the then Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, the Hon. Bryan Green, announced a comprehensive package of major changes to the forest practices system, which included:

- Amendment of the *Forest Practices Act 1985* to improve the independence and transparency of the governance arrangements for the administration of the forest practices system, and the certification, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of Forest Practices Plans (FPPs) prepared in accordance with the *Forest Practices Code* (the Code).
- Amendment of the *Forest Practices Regulations 1997* in 2005 to improve the operation of the forest practices system, in particular the introduction of an application fee for FPP certification.
- The provision of additional resources for training, education, monitoring and enforcement of the Code.

The Tasmanian Parliament passed legislation in 2004 and the new Act and Regulations took effect on 1 July 2005 and 1 August 2005 respectively. Details of the changes are provided below.

(a) Governance

The governance model for the forest practices system was changed by replacing the Forest Practices Board, which had directors appointed as experts from representative organisations, with a new Forest Practices Authority (FPA), which has directors appointed by the Minister as independent experts as follows:

- an independent chair, with expertise in public administration, environmental or natural resource management and governance
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in environmental or natural resource management
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in sustainable forest management on private land
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in sustainable forest management on public land
- a person with applied knowledge and expertise in community liaison and local government, from an area in which forestry is a major land use
- the Chief Forest Practices Officer
- a person with independent expertise in biological science/nature conservation.

(b) Forest Practices Advisory Council

The role of the Forest Practices Advisory Council was strengthened as a representative body of stakeholders by the appointment of an independent chair and two new members: one representing local government and one representing forest workers and contractors.

(c) Forest Practices Tribunal

The registry of the Forest Practices Tribunal was transferred from the staff of the former Forest Practices Board to the registry that supports the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal (currently within the Department of Justice).

(d) Reporting on compliance with Forest Practices Plans

Additional reporting on compliance is required. Certificates of compliance now must be lodged with the FPA within 30 days of the completion of the discrete operational phases carried out under a certified Forest Practices Plan (FPP), such as road construction, quarry development and usage, harvesting and reforestation. In addition, persons with a poor track record or poor capacity to supervise operations can be required by the FPA to engage a Forest Practices Officer (FPO) to lodge more regular progress reports on compliance.

(e) Enforcement

Maximum penalties for offences increase from \$15,000 to \$100,000 for each offence and the statute of limitations is increased from one year to three years. The FPA has been given broader powers to impose fines as an alternative to prosecution.

(f) Continuing improvement

The *Forest Practices Act 1985* now formally provides that the FPA will, at least once every five years, review the operation of the forest practices system, including the provisions and operation of the Code, and provide a report to the Minister on the outcome of that review. This does not mean that the Code will be reissued every five years. Rather, it highlights that the forest practices system must undertake research and review and maintain a program of continuing improvement.

(g) Amendment of the *Forest Practices Regulations 1997*

The previous voluntary funding provided by industry for the research and advisory services of the FPA was replaced by a prescribed fee. The prescribed fee provides a more equitable basis for funding of the FPA, as many small operators did not previously contribute to the services that they used.

The changes to the Regulations in 2005 provide two exemptions from the requirements for an FPP. Harvesting and clearing activities are exempt where carried out in relation to defined fire management works or approved vegetation management agreements or conservation covenants. Rare, vulnerable and endangered forest communities are added to the definition of vulnerable land.

The Government has provided the Authority with resources to employ additional staff to inspect and audit operations for compliance with the requirements of the Forest Practices Code.

Additional funding has been provided to the Authority to develop and implement in cooperation with industry, minimum levels of training on the environmental care and the Forest Practices Code to all forest operatives. Upgrading of training requirements for all Forest Practices Officers has commenced.

The Authority has developed a central web-based system to provide information to the public about Forest Practices Plans in any geographic area. Policies are in place for industry to provide specific information about Forest Practices Plans to interested parties on request. The Authority has revised its web site and produced information leaflets on the operation of the forest practices system.

Recommendation 4.2

That the State completes the Nature Conservation Strategy and commences implementation of the Strategy.

The Strategy is completed and implementation is ongoing.

Tasmania's Nature Conservation Strategy was produced by the State Biodiversity Committee, a broadly based group of experts established in 2000 and chaired by the University of Tasmania's Professor Bruce Davis. A consultation draft was released in June 2001.

The State Government released its response to the report (<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/JCOK-5KZTT4?open>) which addresses each recommendation and highlights 17 that are supported as a high priority.

The Strategy is being implemented in accordance with the Government's response.

Recommendation 4.3

That the State completes the Reserve Management Code of Practice and commences implementation of the Code. That the State undertakes annual reporting on compliance with the Reserve Management Code of Practice.

The Code has been completed – implementation is ongoing.

The Reserve Management Code of Practice was completed and released in 2003 – see http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications/tech/management_code/summary.html. The Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania are implementing the Code in all Formal Reserves under their management.

See the report against RFA clause 94 in Part 1 of this report for further information on implementation of this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.4

That the Parties complete the preparation of Recovery Plans for all endangered forest-related threatened species within the next five years. Where species are listed under the Tasmanian Act meet the criteria for listing under the Commonwealth Act, both Parties should contribute funding.

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress but not yet completed.

There are more than fifty Tasmanian endangered forest associated species presently listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Of these, all are covered by recovery plans in place, in preparation or under review. During the last five years recovery plans have been adopted under the EPBC Act for nineteen nationally listed Tasmanian forest species.

Recovery plans are also being prepared for nineteen Tasmanian forest species with a further seventeen forest species included in the revision of previously adopted Tasmanian recovery plans in accordance with the requirements of the EPBC Act. The Australian Government has provided in excess of \$300,000 to Tasmania to assist in the preparation and revision of these recovery plans.

The Priority Species list in Attachment 2 (as revised) of the Tasmanian RFA is used as the basis for determining species listed as endangered on the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* that are "forest-related".

The Threatened Species Section within the Department of Primary Industries and Water has prepared Recovery Plans for twenty of thirty-five forest-related vascular plant species and eight of nineteen forest-related fauna species listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Listing Statements have been prepared for thirteen of twenty forest-related vascular plant species and ten of nineteen forest-related fauna species listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

There are eleven forest-related vascular plant species and five forest-related fauna species that do not have a Recovery Plan or Listing Statement, but which are listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Recommendation 4.5

That the Parties accredit Threatened Species Listing Statements as an alternative to Recovery Plans for listed threatened species, and as providing for adequate management of listed threatened species under the RFA.

The Governments have agreed that this recommendation is not to be pursued.

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments agreed in clause 5 of the TCFA that "In relation to Recommendation 4.5 of the [RPDC Final Recommendations] Report, the Commonwealth Government acknowledges the value of Threatened Species Listing Statements in providing interim direction for many rare and vulnerable Tasmanian species currently without Recovery Plans. However, under its current legislation, the Commonwealth cannot accredit such Statements as an alternative to Recovery Plans for threatened species. Recovery Plans will continue to be the mechanism for compliance with the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*."

Implementation of the Tasmanian RFA 2002-07 Part 2

Recommendation 4.6

That the State provides for the protection of threatened Forest Communities through an appropriate statutory framework.

This recommendation has been implemented.

The statutory framework for the protection of threatened forest communities has been provided through the *Forest Practices Act 1985*.

In 2002 the then Forest Practices Board introduced a moratorium on approval of Forest Practices Plans for the conversion and clearing of threatened forest communities, pending review of the Permanent Forest Estate Policy. In June 2003 the Australian and Tasmanian Governments agreed as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement that Tasmania would formally review its Permanent Forest Estate Policy to include the prevention of clearance and conversion of all threatened forest communities. It was also agreed to amend the *Forest Practices Act 1985* to provide a secure legal mechanism for the Forest Practices Board to implement the Policy when approving Forest Practices Plans. In 2004 the Tasmanian Parliament approved amendments to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* to require that the Forest Practices Authority implement the Policy when carrying out its functions under the Act.

The Permanent Forest Estate Policy was formally amended in November 2005 to include the prevention of clearance and conversion of all threatened forest communities.

In August 2005 the list of threatened forest communities was added to the definition of “vulnerable land” under the *Forest Practices Regulations 1997*. This means that the exemption from requiring a forest practices plan for areas less than 1 hectare no longer applies for threatened forest communities.

In November 2006, the Tasmanian Parliament passed legislation to protect all threatened native vegetation communities (both forest and non-forest). The legislation was in the form of amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and the *Forest Practices Act 1985*. The new legislation establishes a statutory list of threatened native vegetation communities and protects threatened communities from clearing and conversion.

Recommendation 4.7

That the State provide sufficient resources, including financial resources to be allocated in the 2003-04 Budget, to ensure that the implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy for Tasmania is carried out in an effective and timely manner.

Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.

The Threatened Species Strategy was published in November 2000 and outlines the approach to conserving Tasmania's threatened species through two major pathways:

- addressing key threatening processes, and
- addressing priority threatened species.

The Department of Primary Industries and Water received new initiative funding in 2004-05 to develop and implement recovery plans for priority threatened species. This work has progressed and in 2005-06 has included:

- listing statements or recovery plans having been prepared for 72 RFA priority forest-related species;

- a wide range of on-ground works for the recovery and protection of forest-related threatened species;
- specific advice provided to the Forest Practices Authority relating to more than 100 populations of threatened flora and fauna;
- initiation of a range of collaborative programs with other organisations to implement recovery actions and protection programs;
- information and advice in relation to threatened species populations potentially affected by development proposals; and
- presentations and extension activities to educate the public and relevant stakeholders relating to threatened species issues.

Recommendation 4.8

That the State subjects future substantive changes to management prescriptions for Priority Species to public consultation and take note of public comment.

Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.

There are no specific mechanisms for seeking broad public comment on new and revised management prescriptions. However, key stakeholder organisations and experts are consulted and the public has an opportunity to comment through the processes governing the review of the Forest Practices Code (last reviewed for 2000 edition, currently under review with a focus on biodiversity provisions).

Review and consultative processes for management prescriptions for priority species include the following:

- peer review by independent scientists with recognised expertise for the relevant species;
- independent review by the Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee of the management prescriptions contained within the planning tool “Threatened Fauna Advisor”; and
- consultation and review with key stakeholders on all new and revised management prescriptions through the Forest Practices Advisory Council (comprising forest industry, local government, private forest owners, public forest managers, the Department of Primary Industries and Water; and independent conservation scientists).

Recommendation 4.9

That the Parties deliver on the outstanding National Estate commitments contained in Clause 6 and Table 1, Category 3 of Attachment 1 to the RFA, prior to commencement of the next five year review.

Progress with implementation of the remaining few National Estate commitments not completed prior to 2002 is reported under Part 1 – clause 26 and Attachment 1.

Recommendation 4.10

That the Parties prepare a list of relevant research reports at future five yearly reviews

This recommendation has been implemented.

Attachment 13 to the RFA contained a list of Priority Areas of Research designed to be used to guide State and Commonwealth governments when examining research proposals and establishing research programs. Recommendation 4.10 of the RFA requires preparation a list of research reports relevant to these Priority Areas that have been published over review periods. A list of relevant research reports published during the period 2002-2006 is provided in Appendix 1 of this report, to inform the 2007 Review of the Tasmanian RFA.

This list has been compiled using information provided directly by a number of forest research agencies and extracted from their Annual Reports. Informing agencies were:

- Forestry Tasmania
- the Department of Primary Industries and Water
- Forest Practices Authority, Tasmania
- the Hobart node of ensis (joint venture of CSIRO and Scion)
- the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry and its predecessor the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Production Forestry
- Schools of Architecture, Geography and Environmental Studies, Plant Science, and Zoology, University of Tasmania.

Research reports have been selected if they contained research relevant to Tasmanian forestry issues.

Confidential reports, conference papers and presentations, higher degree theses, and reports covering basic science applicable more broadly than Tasmania, are not included. No attempt has been made to collect relevant research reports from interstate or international research organisations since it would be difficult to make such a collection other than partial.

Research reports have been allocated to one of the nine forestry and forest science Priority Areas enumerated in the Tasmanian RFA in 1997. For each Priority Area, reports are then divided into refereed journal publications, books and book chapters, and technical reports.

A total of 537 research reports are listed, comprising 351 journal publications, 19 books and book chapters, and 167 technical reports (see Table 12). The majority of these (508 or 95 per cent) are in four of the nine Priority Areas (Biodiversity Conservation and Management, Pests, Silviculture Techniques, and Soil and Water Conservation) - these are topics that are both directly applicable to forest managers and of interest to the scientific and wider communities. The other five Priority Areas (Carbon Budgets/Flows, Fire, Heritage Conservation (Natural and Cultural), Non-Wood Values of Forests, and Social and Economic Research) are, in comparison, minor topics of research. This lack of reported activity may however partly be because these areas may be subject mostly to basic research performed outside Tasmania and/or not necessarily specific to Tasmania (Carbon Budgets/Flows, Fire), or because the research may be done mostly in combination with other research topics under which the reports are listed (Fire), or because the research may in part be carried out by organisations other than those polled here (Heritage Conservation (Natural and Cultural), Social and Economic Research).

Table 12: Forest research publications 2001-2006

TOPIC	Journal publications	Books and book chapters	Technical reports	Total
Biodiversity conservation and management	95	9	45	149
Carbon budgets/flows	0	0	0	0
Fire	2	0	1	3
Heritage conservation (natural and cultural)	0	1	3	4
Non-wood values of forests	1	0	1	2
Pests	83	1	40	124
Silviculture techniques	145	6	48	199
Social and economic research	5	2	13	20
Soil and water conservation	20	0	16	36
Total	351	19	167	537

Recommendation 4.11

That the list of priority research areas in Attachment 13 should be reviewed by the Parties, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, at future five yearly reviews to determine if priorities have changed.

This recommendation has been implemented.

In accord with Attachment 13 of the RFA, the list of research priorities relevant to the RFA and the period 2007-2011 was produced in 2006. The priorities were collated with input from CSIRO Forest and Forest Products / ensis, the Department of Primary Industries and Water, Forestry Tasmania, the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry, and others, including the Research Priorities Coordinating Committee that reports to the Primary Industries Ministerial Council's Forestry and Forest Products Committee.

A total of 55 research priorities were identified. These have been organised in the list below under the same nine broad research areas identified in the RFA.

These priority research areas can be used as a guide by the Parties when examining research proposals and establishing research programs.

1. Biodiversity conservation and management

- Landscape-level requirements for persistence of forest-dependent species, including predictive biological models for species and communities in different landscape mosaics, and population viability analyses of individual species.
- Long-term ecological research on natural processes, the effects of forest management and climate change, and long-term monitoring at established sites.
- Contribution of regrowth forests to landscape-level measures of biodiversity, including comparison of forests regrowing after logging and wildfire disturbance, the effect of thinning or fuel reduction, and the development of late-successional structures.
- Contribution of plantation blocks to landscape-level measures of biodiversity, and the role of remnant native vegetation in plantation estates.

- Impact of alternative silvicultural techniques on biodiversity, with special reference to mature forest habitat features.
- Impact of forest management on flora and fauna of high conservation significance and their habitats, including value and management of retained habitat.
- Development of a coordinated approach, tools and protocols for vegetation mapping, vegetation extent and vegetation condition assessment.
- Improved systems for natural values and resource condition reporting.
- Taxonomy, ecology, population monitoring and conservation management of poorly known species, whether common or rare.
- Research to underpin Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans, and development of means to assess the effectiveness of such conservation plans.
- Research to underpin management prescriptions for Threatened Species under the Forest Practices Code, and development of means to assess the effectiveness of such prescriptions.

2. Carbon budgets/flows

- Research priorities as identified in the National Greenhouse Response Strategy.
- Determination of carbon stored in Tasmanian forests of different types and disturbance and management histories.
- Determination of carbon fluxes associated with forest regeneration, growth, management, and natural disturbance (e.g. wildfire) or harvesting in different Tasmanian forest types.
- Potential contribution of forestry activities to greenhouse gas amelioration or reduction.

3. Fire

- Research on maximising opportunities for appropriate fuel-reduction, ecological and regeneration burning while minimising smoke and other community impacts.
- Development of fire regimes for ecological forest management in non-production forest areas.
- Relative social impacts and perceptions of wildfire compared to fuel-reduction, ecological and regeneration burns.

4. Heritage conservation (natural and cultural)

- Methods for in-situ management and conservation of Aboriginal and cultural heritage at forest sites.
- Research to underpin management prescriptions for natural and cultural values under the Forest Practices Code, and development of means to assess the effectiveness of such prescriptions.

5. Non-wood values of Forests

- Development of tools for valuation and realisation of non-wood benefits of forests (eg honey production, soil conservation, water, recreation, biodiversity and cultural heritage).

- Impact on forest management of future potential valuation systems for non-wood values (eg carbon credits).

6. Pests

- Continued development of methods for cost-effective detection, identification, impact evaluation and control of pests and diseases in native forests and plantations, including remote-sensing methods for forest health.
- Methods for temporal and spatial prediction of pest damage, and the ability to guide intervention strategies based on yield and economic impact modelling.
- Development of integrated management systems for weeds, browsing mammals, and insect pests.
- Effect of predicted climate change on forest health and susceptibility to pests and diseases.
- Development of methods to assess human and environmental risks associated with use of individual chemicals in forest management, and investigation of approaches to modify, reduce or eliminate chemical use.
- Alternatives to 1080 for management of native browsing animals on private land.
- Research to support methods for elimination of foxes from Tasmania.
- Research to support the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease management strategy.

7. Silviculture techniques

- Implementation of alternative silvicultural techniques for commercial harvesting and regeneration of wet old-growth eucalypt forests.
- Investigation of silvicultural techniques that allow persistence and regeneration of late-successional structures across the range of managed forest landscapes.
- Comparison between natural and anthropogenic disturbances on forest structure, diversity and productivity, and effect of cumulative individual disturbances.
- Continued breeding of plantation trees for wood properties of economic importance to end users.
- Gene pool management of key native forest and plantation species.
- Site-specific silviculture of plantation trees for highest value uses, including effect of genotype, site and management on stand production and end-use product suitability, and integration of predicted wood values into estate planning.
- Development of remote sensing techniques for assessment of forest structure, inventory and productivity.
- Development and verification of process-based models that predict the size-class distribution of trees within plantations.
- Management of plantation and regrowth eucalypts for minimal defect.
- Development of systems that model the effect of management (e.g. fertilisation, weed control, pruning, thinning and genetic selection) on future wood and water yield, fixed carbon and biodiversity parameters.

- Effect of predicted climate change on plantation site suitability and productivity, and silvicultural management techniques that mitigate these effects.

8. Social and economic research

- Development of sustainable forest-based tourism in Tasmania, including the effect of various types of visitation on provider communities and on forest sites, and implementation of international best management practices.
- Determination of market conditions and investment required for industry projects of strategic economic significance, especially those that add value to or provide novel uses for timber.
- Further development of the use of Tasmanian wood products in building and allied construction.
- Further development of sawing and seasoning methods and technologies for regrowth and plantation eucalypt timbers, and the use of this timber in manufactured wood products.
- Research on market awareness of origins and uses of current and future types of timber, the impact of certification, and environmental aspects of timber use and performance.
- Research on community understanding of the concept of sustainability of forest management, on how social acceptability is determined and influenced, and on perceptions of natural and anthropogenic disturbance and change.
- Impact of changes in forestry land uses on human communities.

9. Soil and water conservation

- Determination of natural and historical flow-regimes in Tasmanian streams and rivers and associated water quality parameters.
- Development of predictive systems for determining water use by Tasmanian forests and plantations of various type, age and management, including contributions by weeds and understorey species.
- Prediction of the effect of native forest harvesting and regeneration on local water flows in Tasmanian catchments, including long-term paired-catchment studies.
- Prediction of the effect of plantation establishment, growth, management and harvesting on water yields, in the context of alternative land-uses and land-use changes.
- Impact of forestry practices on head-water stream values, and evaluation of the effectiveness of streamside buffers and other management options in protecting water quality and aquatic systems.
- Development of soil and nutrient management systems and harvesting regimes for maintenance of plantation soil nutrient and organic status across rotations.
- Development of an erosion and landslip risk assessment system for Tasmanian soils and landforms.

Recommendation 4.12

That the State develops an environmental management system for reserves and other public lands consistent with Attachment 5 of the RFA prior to the next five yearly review.

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress.

All Forest Reserves are included in Forestry Tasmania's ISO 14001 accredited Environmental Management System (EMS).

The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment is developing an EMS for national parks, reserves and other public land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service. Major components of the proposed EMS are an environmental policy, upgraded environmental impact assessment process, monitoring and evaluation framework, auditing of compliance with the Reserve Management Code of Practice and a supporting information management system. At least in the short-medium term, the EMS will be consistent with, but not accredited under, ISO 14001.

Recommendation 4.13

That the Parties encourage the development of environmental management systems in the private forest sector

Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.

Formal environmental management systems (EMS) are in place or under development by Gunns Ltd, Rayonier, Norske Skog and Forest Enterprises Australia.

Private Forests Tasmania has continued to work with smaller-scale private forest owners to promote the benefits of the adoption of an appropriate EMS. While to date no smaller landowners have met the criteria for certification under the Australian Forestry Standard, significant progress has been made in improving the environmental management of forests and native vegetation on private property.

The Department of Primary Industry and Water's Private Land Conservation Program provides advice and information to landholders in relation to sustainable management of natural values on private land. The Program is supporting the investigation, development and delivery of tools that can be used by land managers to identify and manage the conservation of natural values. These tools include property-based conservation plans that can provide an important element of EMSs on-farm.

Tasmania's three Natural Resource Management Regions, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of Primary Industries and Water) are collaborating through a statewide project to develop a Tasmanian Framework for Property Management Systems. Amongst other things the project aims to identify and develop linkages between property-based agreements, property planning tools, EMSs and industry best practice schemes, in order to facilitate a greater uptake of EMS-related activity on private land.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, in consultation with the Tasmanian Government, the three NRM regions and landowners, has developed FarmSAT (a farm self assessment tool) to assist landowners meet environmental standards, policies and legislation.

In addition, the three NRM regions continue to provide incentives to landowners to develop property management plans to address environmental issues.

Recommendation 4.14

That the State completes the review of the policy on maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate taking into account public comment. That, subsequent to the review and before the end of May 2003, the State amends the policy to increase the levels of retention of native forest, and specifically to ensure that no further forest communities become threatened and that there is no deterioration in the status of any existing threatened forest community.

Implementation of this recommendation has been completed.

A revised policy on maintaining a permanent native forest estate was issued in November 2005 and can be viewed at <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-6J563R?open>

The process for amending the Policy and consulting with stakeholders commenced in 2001. The completion of the review was delayed by many varying circumstances, including significant differences in views amongst stakeholders affected by the policy.

Tasmania agreed with the Commonwealth, as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement in 2003, to include certain outcomes within the policy and to complete the review by June 2004.

A discussion paper was issued for public comment in February 2004 and a draft revised policy was subsequently prepared for Government consideration.

In the lead up to the 2004 Federal election further consideration of the policy was delayed as consultation with the Commonwealth had to be postponed. Subsequent to the election the Parties entered into further discussions relating to implementation of commitments made in the election relating to Tasmanian forests. These discussions included matters relating to the content of the Permanent Forest Estate Policy.

The TCFA signed in May 2005 contained a commitment by the Tasmanian to complete a review of the Policy by November 2005, incorporating certain provisions contained in clause 45 of the TCFA. See Part 3 of this report for further details.

Recommendation 4.15

That, subsequent to the review of the policy on maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate, the State implements the policy through a legislative framework

Implementation of this recommendation has been completed.

In 2004 the Tasmanian Parliament approved amendments to the *Forest Practices Act 1985* that require the Forest Practices Authority to implement the Policy on Maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate when carrying out its functions under the Act.

Recommendation 4.16

That the Forest Practices Board considers during the next review of the Forest Practices Code, the issue of smoke management from forestry operations, including giving effect to the smoke management guidelines.

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress.

Improved measures have been adopted throughout the industry to minimise the risk of smoke nuisance. Further measures are under development as part of the review of the Forest Practices Code planned to formally commence in early 2007. In 2003 Forestry Tasmania and the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania introduced a coordinated forest industry

approach to providing better public information and coordination of planned burns. Information about the location of planned burns is publicly available through a web-based facility.

Recommendation 4.17

That the State moves quickly to enable proclamation of the Natural Resource Management Act 2002 (Tas) and facilitate regional natural resource management strategies.

Implementation of this recommendation has been completed.

The *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* was proclaimed on 3 March 2003.

All three Regional Natural Resource Management Committees have completed Regional Strategies and Investment Plans, which have been approved by the Australian Government. Implementation of the Strategies is underway.

Wood and Wood Product Industry Development

Recommendation 5.1

That the Parties develop a process, as a priority, to obtain reliable data to inform social and economic indicators for the community, and the performance of the forest based industries relevant to Attachment 12 of the RFA. The sustainability indicators relevant to the social and economic aspects of the industry need to be reviewed when such reliable data becomes available.

Implementation of this recommendation has progressed in some areas but more needs to be done.

The report, *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006*, documents the current indicators used for tracking environmental, social and economic criteria, and the status of the data available to measure sustainability. The indicators used for the report were reviewed at a national and State level since 2002 to reflect, *inter alia*, the ability to obtain reliable data.

The report presents some new social and economic indicators, for example, Indicator 6.1.c (value of forest based services), 6.1.e (degree of recycling of forest products) and 6.4.d (the importance of forests to people), although available data are limited. The report also presents improvements in data for some social and economic indicators, for example Indicator 6.1.b (Value, quantities and use of non-wood products). However, the quantity and quality of data in some important social and economic indicators is less than reported in 2002. Examples are Indicators 6.1.a (Value and volume of wood and wood products) and 6.5.a (Direct and indirect employment in the forest sector). This is largely due to changes in the level and scope of statistical reporting on the forest sector by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This impacts on the ability to report on social and economic indicators of sustainability at both the State and national levels.

The Parties will continue to address this recommendation on an ongoing basis, through exploration of improved data availability.

Recommendation 5.2

That the Parties clarify the intent of Attachment 12 by 30 June 2003 and that the State prepares an industry development strategy, in consultation with the Commonwealth and the Forests and Forest Industry Council, by 30 June 2004, based on that intent and providing an industry vision and an action plan to achieve it. Table 5.1 provides an incomplete list of issues that should be covered by the industry development plan.

Table 5.1 Issues to be considered to clarify the intent of Attachment 12

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Aspects for consideration of further action</i>
<i>Increased domestic downstream processing</i>	<i>Introduction of the Log Supply Charter, improved training and accreditation throughout the production chain, assistance to smaller sectors including special species and furniture industries, Commonwealth assistance to industry development including continuation of Forest Industry Client Manager position, Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package funding.</i>
<i>Industry information</i>	<i>Improve information about the industry and its regional impact, improve social and economic indicator data.</i>
<i>Public education</i>	<i>Improve public information about the RFA, industry value, and sustainability of forest management and wood.</i>
<i>Market information</i>	<i>Provide of up to date market information for the industry including supply and demand information from both public and private forests.</i>
<i>Industry training</i>	<i>Accreditation and training to support Log Supply Charter.</i>
<i>Research and development</i>	<i>Using existing and new research and development opportunities to prepare for the future changes in resource, support for the proposed Tree Technology Cooperative Research Centre.</i>
<i>Forest and product certification</i>	<i>Support for development and implementation of certification schemes and facilitation of international recognition of the Australian Forestry Standard.</i>

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress.

See the report on implementation of Attachment 12 in Part 1 of this report for additional information.

The Parties have not formally clarified the intent of Attachment 12 and the State has not prepared an industry development strategy as recommended by the RPDC. However, the Forests and Forest Industry Council has, at the request of the State Government, considered the intent of this recommendation and has developed a Vision and action plan for the industry. The Vision statement is nearing completion and is awaiting formal endorsement by all of the Council's members.

Many of the issues recommended by the RPDC to be considered for clarification have been progressed by the Parties, particularly through the TCFA.

Some of these include:

Issue	Actions
Increased domestic downstream processing	<p>A Log Supply Charter has been signed by the Government and industry. It is being implemented.</p> <p>Training has been improved throughout the production chain. The State has provided additional resources to improve training and accreditation to forest operatives. The Australian Government is providing \$4 million under the TCFA to improve skills and training in the forest industry.</p> <p>\$56 million in assistance is being provided to the hardwood industry, softwood industry, special species and country sawmillers sectors to improve productivity, value-adding and safety and adjust to changing resource mix through the TCFA.</p> <p>Both Parties have cooperated to assist the development and assessment of significant domestic downstream industry development proposals, such as Gunns Ltd pulp mill and Ta Ann rotary veneer plants.</p>
Industry information	<p>The Parties have provided assistance to improve information about the industry and its regional impact. Examples include Forestry CRC projects on regional economic and social impact of forestry. Much remains to be done to improve social and economic indicator data. The Department of Economic Development funded a report <i>Country Sawmills in Tasmania</i> by Bruce Greaves in 2006 for the Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Federation. The aim of the report was to compare the country sawmilling sector now with the sector as it was when it was last surveyed in 1990 and reported by Raoul Dixon in 1992. The survey involved mill visits, telephone contacts and a compilation of industry sourced information.</p>
Public education	<p>Improved public information about the RFA, industry value, and sustainability of forest management and wood forms an important part of the communications program agreed and funded under the TCFA.</p> <p>Many State and Commonwealth agencies and industry have substantially invested in providing greater levels of public information and education on the industry and aspects related to sustainability of forest management and wood products.</p>
Market information	<p>The Department of Economic Development has facilitated designers and manufacturers to attend niche value adding marketing events, exhibitions overseas (USA, Taiwan, Korea), facilitated workshops for furniture makers and designers, organised site visits for trade delegations to Tasmania.</p>
Industry training	<p>Both Parties continue to support industry training to improve awareness and skills throughout the supply chain. The Australian Government is providing \$4 million under the TCFA to improve skills and training in the industry (for further details see Clause 66 of Part 3 of this report).</p> <p>The Department of Economic Development Skills Response Unit, in conjunction with other agencies and organisations, facilitates industry training as part of its normal function.</p>

Research and development	Both Parties are supporting continued forest research, especially through the new Forestry CRC based in Hobart. A focus of the CRC is partnership with industry to develop and utilise new opportunities based on the future changed resource mix.
Forest and product certification	Both Parties have provided strong ongoing support for development and implementation of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme and facilitation of recognition of the Australian Forestry Standard under the international Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme. The majority of Tasmania's production forests are now certified as sustainably managed under the scheme. Processing industry are taking up chain of custody and product certification.

Wood Resource Security

Recommendation 6.1

That the State continues to improve transparency in reporting, and continuously improves the methodology as identified in previous sustainable yield reviews, with the aim of increasing public understanding of, and confidence in, the sustainable yield reviews of high quality sawlogs from public land.

Implementation of this recommendation is continuing.

Forestry Tasmania has considered the comments of the independent auditors of the 2002 review and is working to continuously improve the methodology as part of the next review of the sustainable yield of high quality eucalypt sawlog from public land to be published in 2007.

A mid-term review of long-term sustainable yield was published in 2005 reflecting the implications of the TCFA. This followed a series of detailed review documents published in 2004 and 2005. ("Sustaining the Volume and Quality of Wood Yields from State forests", in "Towards a New Silviculture in Tasmania's Public Oldgrowth Forests", April 2004; "Towards a New Silviculture in Tasmania's Public Oldgrowth Forests: Final Advice to the Tasmanian Government," April 2005).

Recommendation 6.2

That the State develops a strategy for ongoing supply of special species timbers from public lands. The State needs to provide information to the market to clarify the future resource.

Implementation of this recommendation is in progress.

Extensive additional reservation of forest containing special species timbers occurred as part of the TCFA. However, the TCFA also provided funding for the development of access into remaining areas of Special Timber Management Units, further development of effective recovery and marketing systems for special timbers.

Changes in the approach to harvesting of mixed forests (including the introduction of Variable Retention into oldgrowth coupes) as part of the TCFA will further assist in the longer term management and supply of specialty timbers.

These significant changes are being incorporated into new management and marketing strategies which are still under development.

Other Forest Uses

Recommendation 7.1

That the State finalises its nature based tourism and recreational management policy by 31 March 2003.

A document describing the State's policy framework on nature based tourism and recreational management was completed in 2003.

Recommendation 7.2

That the State continues to work with the apiary industry to resolve the issues on public land for bee keeping and the leatherwood resource. That the State and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association jointly prepare a plan for management of the leatherwood resource in the southern forests by 30 June 2003.

Implementation of this recommendation is continuing.

The Forests and Forest Industry Council (FFIC) has convened an Apiary Working Group with the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA), the Crop Pollinators Association and Forestry Tasmania to review issues facing the beekeeping industry in Tasmania with particular emphasis on leatherwood. The FFIC, in conjunction with the TBA, commissioned a joint census of commercial and non-commercial beekeepers in 2004 to ascertain the use of leatherwood resources and commercial apiary management practices in relation to these. The FFIC published a report on this census in 2005 as the "Tasmanian Apiary Industry Profile". This report contains information on the size of the industry, employment, access to floral resources on public and private land, pollination services, and harvesting in leatherwood-rich coupes. This work also resulted in the publication of a floral database covering flowering sequences for the main species utilised.

The Apiary Working Group is now exploring new commercial licensing arrangements to improve the security of tenure for beekeepers on public land and to increase the productivity of hive sites on State forest. The Group is also reviewing the Guidelines for Beekeeping on State forest, to further enhance the planning processes for harvesting operations on State forest, for the protection of leatherwood-rich forest. The output from this group will form the foundation for a plan for long-term management of leatherwood apiary resources within Tasmania.

The TCFA has also facilitated future management of the leatherwood resource. The introduction of non clearfall silviculture (variable retention) in oldgrowth forest will enhance opportunities to retain and manage leatherwood, as well as enhancing its regeneration within the regrowth forest. A low impact roading program has been funded to enhance access to mixed forest/rainforest within Special Timbers Management Units for both special timbers production and beekeeping.

Monitoring and Reporting

Recommendation 9.1

That the Parties support ongoing research and development for sustainability indicators including, where appropriate, consideration of benchmarks and interpretation to guide performance outcomes.

Implementation of this recommendation is continuing.

The report *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2002-2007* prepared for the 2007 review of implementation of the RFA provides details of ongoing work to develop sustainability indicators. This report provides an interpretation of performance outcomes for most indicators.

Consideration has been given to developing benchmarks for indicators. In most instances it is not possible, meaningful or appropriate to define benchmarks. A few benchmarks have already been defined in the development of the RFA, for example the National Criteria for a Forest Reserve System include benchmarks for forest and old growth reservation levels.

PART 3

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT COMMITMENTS AND MILESTONES

In May 2005 the Tasmanian and Australian Governments signed a Supplement to the Tasmanian RFA, termed the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA). This Agreement contained additional or changed commitments to those in the RFA as well as providing a response to the recommendations arising from the first five year review.

The following provides a report on progress with implementation of each of these commitments up to the end of 2006.

Relationship to the RFA

- 3. The Parties agree to fully implement the actions recommended in the Report of the Inquiry on the progress with Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (2002), subject to the exception outlined in clause 5.*

The recommended actions have either been fully implemented or are continuing to be implemented. A detailed report on each action is provided in Part 2 of this report.

The TCFA has superseded some of the recommended actions.

- 5. In relation to Recommendation 4.5 of the Report, the Commonwealth Government acknowledges the value of Threatened Species Listing Statements in providing interim direction for many rare and vulnerable Tasmanian species currently without Recovery Plans. However, under its current legislation, the Commonwealth cannot accredit such Statements as an alternative to Recovery Plans for threatened species. Recovery Plans will continue to be the mechanism for compliance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

In 2006 the Australian and Tasmanian Governments jointly adopted seven recovery plans and are currently progressing a further six new recovery plans for forest related species listed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Of the plans that have been adopted or are in progress, five are single species plans while eight of the plans include multiple species. See clauses 32-35 in Part 1 of this report for details of these plans.

Strengthened protection of Old Growth forest

- 6. The Parties agree to the protection of one million hectares of Old Growth forest. This Supplementary Agreement provides for additional protection of Old Growth forest, resulting in a total of 977,000 hectares of Old Growth forest reserved on public land. From private land, the Commonwealth will protect a minimum additional area of 25,000 hectares of Old Growth forest, adding to the 5000 hectares of Old Growth forest already protected under the RFA Private Forest Reserves Program.*

This commitment is being implemented.

Subsequent to the signing of the TCFA, it has been identified that the area of 977 000 hectares of old growth forest to be reserved on public land referred to in this clause included approximately 4,400 hectares of privately owned land that was already protected as

part of the CAR reserve system. The correct target for the extent of reservation of old growth forest on public land is 973,000 hectares.

The area of old growth forest protected in formal and informal reserves on public land at 30 June 2006 is 964,000 hectares. In addition, approximately 9000 hectares of additional old growth forest are protected by virtue of clauses 13, 14 and 15, pending reservation.

The one million hectare protection target is to be achieved through implementation of the Forest Conservation Fund (see clause 21) to protect an additional minimum area of 25,000 hectares of old growth on private land.

New public land reserves

7. *Further to clauses 48, 49, 50 and 51 of the RFA, the Parties undertake to add approximately 141,000 hectares to the CAR Reserve System, including 1300 hectares of Hydro Tasmania freehold land, and provide interim protection for approximately a further 7400 hectares pending further consideration for reservation, as outlined in Attachment 1 and shown indicatively on Maps 1, 2 and 3. The new reserves include proposals for approximately 58,000 hectares of Formal Reserves in the Tarkine, Styx Valley and eastern Tasmania.*

This commitment has been mostly completed.

The State has added 146,800 hectares of public land to the CAR reserve system arising from the TCFA as at 30 June 2006. This consists of all new formal reserves and State forest informal reserves and is a net increase of 7,800 hectares on the provisional area of these reserves in the TCFA.

A report on the final reserved areas of State forest land and forest was published by Forestry Tasmania and can be viewed at

http://www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/pdf_files/reserves.pdf

The 141,000 hectares of public land agreed to be added to the CAR reserve system included about 1400 hectares of Hydro Tasmania freehold land and 500 hectares of Commonwealth land. Reservation of these areas is yet to be finalised (see clauses 13 and 15).

Tables 13 and 14 on the following pages show the level of reservation of forest and old growth forest respectively on public land as at 30 June 2006 compared to the target levels defined in Attachment 6 of the RFA and Attachment 1 of the TCFA.

The TCFA targets have been amended in Tables 13 and 14 to correct an error in Table 1 of the TCFA. The TCFA table showed reservation levels on public land as at 2005. These inadvertently included forest and old growth forest on private CAR reserves as part of the public CAR reserve system. Tables 13 and 14 show amended figures for the level of proposed reservation on public land only so that the figures of actual reservation on public land are comparable.

The tables show that RFA reservation targets have been substantially exceeded. While many of the TCFA targets have been met by reservation to 30 June 2006, targets for some forest communities have not yet been met because the full reservations agreed to on other public land (Hydro Tasmania land and Commonwealth owned land) are yet to be finalised – see clauses 13 and 15 below.

8. *The Parties agree that all additional protected areas on public land will remain available for mineral exploration and mining under the Mineral Resources Development Act 1995 in accordance with clause 79 of the RFA and subject to any requirements under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

This commitment has been completed.

All of the new reserves on public land are available for mineral exploration and mining under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*.

9. *The State undertakes to finalise the boundaries of the new reserves, with the exception of Commonwealth owned land, at a scale of 1:25,000 by June 2006, identifying the best management boundaries to protect the identified values and taking account of field verification of values being protected.*

This commitment has been completed.

The boundaries of all the new reserves have been defined on 1:25,000 scale maps.

Table 13 Reservation levels of Forest Communities in Formal and Informal Reserves on Public Land

Forest Community ¹	Reservation							
	1996 area (ha)	1996 reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (%)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (ha)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (%)	2006 reservation (ha) ³	2006 reservation (%) ^{3,4}
Coastal <i>E. amygdalina</i> dry sclerophyll forest	190 210	32 510	59 450	31	69 340	36	69 320	36
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on dolerite	178 310	13 640	28 070	16	31 310	18	31 300	18
Inland <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest	25 810	1 400	2 070	8	2 990	12	2 680	10
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on sandstone	30 110	1 810	5 650	19	8 270	27	7 880	26
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> forest	1 430	530	610	43	630	44	630	44
<i>E. brookeriana</i> wet forest	4 570	270	1 020	22	1 420	31	1 430	31
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on flats	9 010	970	2 290	25	2 650	29	2 640	29
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> forest on rises	13 310	1 320	3 730	28	4 510	34	4 560	34
<i>Banksia serrata</i> woodland	160	120	120	74	120	75	120	75
<i>E. coccifera</i> dry forest	54 550	37 690	41 020	75	44 130	81	42 540	78
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i> forest	790	260	370	47	480	61	490	62
Dry <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	289 590	74 800	91 000	31	98 790	34	98 260	34
<i>E. viminalis</i> / <i>E. ovata</i> / <i>E. amygdalina</i> / <i>E. obliqua</i> damp sclerophyll forest	40 630	6 510	11 800	29	12 130	30	12 180	30
Tall <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	285 750	75 080	86 780	30	95 900	34	96 620	34
King Billy Pine with deciduous beech forest	850	630	770	97	810	95	790	93
<i>E. viminalis</i> and/or <i>E. globulus</i> coastal shrubby forest	1 220	280	280	23	280	23	280	23
Grassy <i>E. globulus</i> forest	14 450	4 230	6 330	44	6 230	43	6 150	43
Huon pine forest	8 980	6 720	7 400	86	7 660	85	7 650	85
King Island <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. brookeriana</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	2 430	130	610	25	500	21	510	21
<i>Leptospermum</i> sp. / <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> swamp forest	18 960	8 590	10 070	53	11 050	58	11 000	58
Callidendrous and thamnisc rainforest on fertile sites	192 110	86 580	102 170	53	141 300	74	141 040	73
Thamnisc rainforest on less fertile sites	378 090	231 610	279 380	74	324 470	86	322 210	85
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> forest	600	220	220	37	400	67	400	67
<i>E. morrisbyi</i> forest	20	0	0	0	20	100	20	94
Dry <i>E. nitida</i> forest	159 860	120 850	136 990	86	142 490	89	142 370	89
Furneaux <i>E. nitida</i> forest	29 820	5 550	6 230	21	18 780	63	18 740	63
<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i> / <i>Pomaderris apetala</i> forest	290	190	190	66	220	76	220	76

Forest Community ¹	Reservation							
	1996 area (ha)	1996 reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (%)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (ha)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (%)	2006 reservation (ha) ³	2006 reservation (%) ^{3,4}
Tall <i>E. nitida</i> forest	74 420	64 090	67 000	90	68 620	92	68 660	92
Dry <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	164 140	36 910	50 820	31	57 140	35	56 010	34
Tall <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	425 630	76 060	107 520	25	123 430	29	123 820	29
Shrubby <i>E. ovata</i> forest	7 200	270	340	5	370	5	350	5
<i>E. pulchella</i> / <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	151 300	13 960	35 530	24	39 940	26	39 590	26
Pencil pine with deciduous beech forest	190	190	190	100	190	100	190	100
<i>E. pauciflora</i> forest on Jurassic dolerite	18 820	2 350	3 730	20	2 970	16	2 960	16
Pencil pine forest	350	330	350	100	350	100	350	99
<i>E. pauciflora</i> forest on sediments	16 210	3 910	4 600	28	5 190	32	5 190	32
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	76 050	13 390	16 230	21	18 250	24	18 330	24
<i>E. risdonii</i> forest	380	170	170	46	180	47	160	43
<i>E. rodwayi</i> forest	8 670	280	430	5	400	5	410	5
<i>E. sieberi</i> forest on granite	17 660	2 190	5 080	29	5 460	31	5 440	31
Silver wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) forest	54 090	9 740	12 430	23	13 990	26	14 100	26
<i>E. sieberi</i> forest on other substrates	45 950	6 250	11 050	24	11 580	25	11 620	25
<i>E. subcrenulata</i> forest	10 240	8 510	8 600	84	8 800	86	8 830	86
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest on granite	3 020	1 320	2 760	91	2 820	93	2 810	93
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest on dolerite	8 430	3 570	5 920	70	6 320	75	6 350	75
Inland <i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest	55 020	3 260	7 140	13	7 970	14	7 940	14
<i>E. viminalis</i> grassy forest	113 320	1 450	3 070	3	2 880	3	3 000	3
Furneaux <i>E. viminalis</i> forest	140	0	120	83	120	86	120	84
Wet <i>E. viminalis</i> forest on basalt	4 180	320	560	14	560	13	810	19
King Billy pine forest	20 140	14 700	15 060	83	18 500	92	18 150	90
TOTAL	3 208 690	975 710	1 245 140	39	1 426 820	44	1 417 220	44

1. Forest extent is as mapped for the RFA in 1996
2. Proposed new reserves on State forest, other public land and Commonwealth land only. The figures published in the TCFA for existing reservation (2005) included private CAR reserves. Private reserves are not included in the figures in this column.
3. Reserves are as at 30 June 2006.
4. The 2006 reserved extent is expressed as a percentage of the unrounded 1996 extent

Table 14 Reservation levels of Old Growth Forest in Formal and Informal Reserves on Public Land

Forest Community ¹	Old Growth							
	1996 area (ha)	1996 reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (%)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (ha)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (%)	2006 reservation (ha) ³	2006 reservation (%) ^{3,4}
Coastal <i>E. amygdalina</i> dry sclerophyll forest	40 090	12 610	24 300	60	26 400	66	26 110	65
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on dolerite	30 490	5 790	15 390	50	18 740	61	18 710	61
Inland <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest	2 860	140	170	6	550	19	530	18
<i>E. amygdalina</i> forest on sandstone	6 600	700	2 160	33	4 680	71	4 230	64
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> forest	970	440	510	53	520	54	520	54
<i>E. brookeriana</i> wet forest	690	40	60	8	230	33	230	33
<i>Banksia serrata</i> woodland	160	120	120	75	120	75	120	73
<i>E. coccifera</i> dry forest	32 630	25 690	27 930	86	29 600	91	28 650	88
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i> forest	600	230	330	54	330	55	340	57
Dry <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	79 820	40 100	48 180	60	54 000	68	53 110	67
<i>E. viminalis</i> / <i>E. ovata</i> / <i>E. amygdalina</i> / <i>E. obliqua</i> damp sclerophyll forest	2 500	670	1 780	71	1 710	69	1 650	66
Tall <i>E. delegatensis</i> forest	104 420	50 880	57 980	56	63 430	61	63 400	61
King Billy Pine with deciduous beech forest	370	340	340	92	370	100	360	97
<i>E. viminalis</i> and/or <i>E. globulus</i> coastal shrubby forest	870	130	130	15	170	19	120	14
Grassy <i>E. globulus</i> forest	4 910	2 720	4 000	81	4 030	82	3 980	81
Huon pine forest	7 610	6 650	7 280	96	7 350	97	7 340	96
<i>Leptospermum</i> sp. / <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> swamp forest	9 960	7 620	8 320	84	10 580	106	9 000	90
Callidendrous and thamnisc rainforest on fertile sites	159 640	79 280	93 870	59	131 000	82	130 460	82
Thamnisc rainforest on less fertile sites	335 900	223 290	265 420	79	308 400	92	305 590	91
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> forest	310	30	30	10	200	65	200	64
Dry <i>E. nitida</i> forest	107 370	85 460	95 520	89	99 930	93	99 700	93
<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i> / <i>Pomaderris apetala</i> forest	270	190	190	72	220	81	220	81
Tall <i>E. nitida</i> forest	49 600	45 290	47 150	95	48 220	97	48 230	97
Dry <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	46 960	19 110	27 590	59	31 560	67	30 390	65
Tall <i>E. obliqua</i> forest	83 490	28 920	44 970	54	52 790	63	52 220	63
Shrubby <i>E. ovata</i> forest	470	110	150	32	160	35	160	35

Forest Community ¹	Old Growth							
	1996 area (ha)	1996 reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (ha)	RFA proposed reservation (%)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (ha)	TCFA proposed reservation ² (%)	2006 reservation (ha) ³	2006 reservation (%) ^{3,4}
<i>E. pulchella</i> / <i>E. globulus</i> / <i>E. viminalis</i> grassy shrubby dry sclerophyll forest	63 840	9 140	26 680	42	30 230	47	29 990	47
Pencil pine with deciduous beech forest	170	170	170	100	170	100	170	97
<i>E. pauciflora</i> forest on Jurassic dolerite	1 870	910	1 280	68	1 110	59	1 130	61
Pencil pine forest	340	330	330	100	340	100	340	100
<i>E. pauciflora</i> forest on sediments	4 300	2 720	2 770	64	3 140	73	3 080	72
<i>E. regnans</i> forest	13 290	4 900	6 320	48	7 480	56	7 470	56
<i>E. risdonii</i> forest	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
<i>E. rodwayi</i> forest	730	120	140	19	140	19	140	19
<i>E. sieberi</i> forest on granite	960	180	790	82	800	83	790	82
<i>E. sieberi</i> forest on other substrates	1 660	320	790	48	830	50	820	49
<i>E. subcrenulata</i> forest	7 420	6 500	6 560	88	6 640	89	6 670	90
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest on granite	2 900	1 280	2 670	92	2 730	94	2 730	94
<i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest on dolerite	5 490	2 190	4 470	81	4 850	88	4 830	88
Inland <i>E. tenuiramis</i> forest	7 980	820	1 540	19	2 130	27	2 100	26
<i>E. viminalis</i> grassy forest	8 500	530	760	9	920	11	890	10
Wet <i>E. viminalis</i> forest on basalt	140	60	100	71	100	71	90	66
King Billy pine forest	17 300	15 290	15 590	90	17 190	99	16 850	97
TOTAL	1 246 430	682 020	835 640	67	972 560	78	963 650	77

1. Forest extent is as mapped for the RFA in 1996
2. Proposed new reserves on State forest, other public land and Commonwealth land only. The figures published in the TCFA for existing reservation (2005) included private CAR reserves. Private reserves are not included in the figures in this column.
3. Reserves are as at 30 June 2006.
4. The 2006 reserved extent is expressed as a percentage of the unrounded 1996 extent

10. *The State will, by June 2006, submit proposals for all new Formal Reserves outlined in Attachment 1 to the Tasmanian Parliament for approval, in accordance with legislative requirements, and use its best endeavours to secure the enactment of the proposals.*

This commitment has been completed.

Plans for all agreed Formal Reserves were submitted to Parliament for approval in June 2006. Parliament approved all of the proposals. The new reserves were gazetted on 12 July 2006.

11. *The State will identify those Informal Reserve areas, as indicated in Attachment 1 on State forest on Management Decision Classification maps as Protection Zones and manage the areas for the protection of the CAR values of that land, subject to field verification of the existence and extent of those values.*

This commitment has been completed.

Boundaries of all informal reserves on State forest were finalised in December 2005 and identified on Forestry Tasmania's Management Decision Classification maps. The reserves are being managed for the protection of their CAR values.

12. *The State will progressively amend Forest Management Plans to include the updated Formal and Informal Reserves, completing the process by 30 June 2008.*

Implementation of this commitment has commenced.

Forestry Tasmania has commenced the process for amendment of Forest Management Plans in accordance with the *Forestry Act 1920*.

13. *The Commonwealth agrees that approximately 500 hectares of Commonwealth owned land, specified in Attachment 1 and shown indicatively on Map 3, will form part of the CAR Reserve System as Informal Reserves. These Informal Reserves will be included in new and revised Management Plans prepared for the areas, with public participation, by 30 June 2008.*

A Management Plan for this area will be developed in conjunction with other informal reserves. The Australian Government (through the Department of Defence and the Department of Environment and Water Resources) will assist in providing information to Tasmania specific to the area.

14. *The State agrees that approximately 3900 hectares of Old Growth forest on unallocated Crown land and shown indicatively on Maps 1, 2 and 3 will not be available for timber harvesting and shall be managed for protection of the Old Growth forest pending completion of the current Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project process.*

This commitment has been implemented.

All identified areas of old growth on unallocated Crown land are being managed for protection pending implementation of the outcomes of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification project (CLAC).

The CLAC assessment has been completed with more than 107,000 hectares of unallocated Crown land and Public Reserves including nearly 6,000 separate parcels assessed. Of this, some 78,600 hectares has been recommended for reservation under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and a further 14,200 hectares recommended to be reserved (or retained) as Public Reserves under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*.

In virtually all cases where old growth forest was mapped as present, the property has been recommended for reservation.

In a few cases recommendations have been made for properties containing small areas of old growth forest to be adhered to adjoining State forest to rationalise management boundaries.

In a very few cases, where the mapped areas of old growth were small (generally less than a couple of hectares) and isolated from any nearby public land and no other conservation values were identified, the property has not been recommended for reservation. However, in such cases where the property is to be considered for sale, sale will be subject to further investigation. If significant values requiring reservation are found, then those properties will be recommended for reservation. Alternatively any values identified (including old growth forest) may be protected by covenant prior to sale.

Mapped areas of old growth forest within the areas recommended for reservation at October 2006 is 4,300 hectares.

15. *The State agrees that approximately 3500 hectares of forest on public land vested in Hydro Tasmania and shown indicatively on Maps 1 and 2 will not be available for timber harvesting and shall be managed for protection of the Old Growth forest values pending a review by Hydro Tasmania of land required for management of their infrastructure. The State further agrees that, subject to further consultation with the Commonwealth, those lands containing Old Growth forests not required by Hydro Tasmania for infrastructure will be protected under appropriate land tenure arrangements. Hydro Tasmania has agreed to covenant approximately 1300 hectares of sub-alpine eucalypt forest (identified on Maps 2 and 3) on freehold land it owns and that this land will be protected as part of the CAR reserve system.*

Implementation of this commitment has commenced.

Hydro Tasmania is protecting all identified areas of old growth forest on Crown land vested to Hydro Tasmania pending the finalisation of the review of Hydro Tasmania's land requirements. A review has been completed on several areas to identify boundaries of the proposed reserves and is proceeding on remaining areas. Divestment of vested land no longer required will be undertaken as a single package once the review is completed (estimated to be in 2007).

Discussions are continuing between Hydro Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries and Water in relation to covenanting the identified areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Changes to elements of the reserve system

16. *Consistent with clause 57 of the RFA, the Parties agree that any changes to those elements of the CAR Reserve System in Informal Reserves:*
- *will only occur in accordance with the RFA; and*
 - *will maintain the level of protection of identified values at the regional scale; and*
 - *that information on all such changes will be publicly available.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

These RFA requirements are being applied to all the new Informal Reserves and will be reported against clause 57 in future RFA Five Year Reviews. The full CAR reserve system is now publicly available as a spatial layer on the Tasmanian Land Information System (LIST)

<http://www.thelist.tas.gov.au/>). Changes to all categories of CAR reserve are publicly available through the annual updates to this spatial layer.

17. *The State undertakes to maintain records indicating the location, extent and purpose of any amendment to the Informal Reserve system and the net impact that any amendments have on CAR values.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

Forestry Tasmania is maintaining a record of all changes to Informal Reserves on State forest and CAR values within changed areas. Information on changes during the review period is provided as part of the current RFA Review – see Clause 57 in Part 1 of this report. The public will be able to observe changes in the spatial layer through the annual updates to the CAR reserves spatial layer on the LIST.

Reporting and data access

18. *The State agrees to provide the Commonwealth with updated copies of digital maps of the Formal and Informal Reserves by June 2006, and at the five yearly reviews. This information will be made publicly available on request. Summary information and digital coverage will be provided between these periods if there are any substantial amendments to the CAR Reserve System.*

This commitment has been completed.

The State has provided digital data of all final boundaries of the new Reserves to the Commonwealth and is publicly available.

19. *The Parties agree that access to data continues to be provided in accordance with clause 90 and Attachment 14 of the RFA. The Parties note that the following datasets are now publicly available through the State's Land Information System Tasmania (LIST):*

- *public land tenure (1:25,000);*
- *forest vegetation communities (1:25,000).*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

Arrangements for data access specified in the RFA have been maintained.

All of the new Formal Reserves and Informal Reserves are incorporated into a publicly available CAR Reserves layer as part of the Tasmanian Land Information System (LIST).

Private land reservation

20. *The Parties agree to co-operate to improve the protection of Old Growth forest on private land, particularly for forest communities that complement the new reserves on public land.*

Tasmania has cooperated with the Australian Government in the design and implementation of the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund program.

21. *The Commonwealth will establish, administer and fund a new market-based program to protect and manage up to 45,600 hectares of forested private land, additional to that secured under the Private Forest Reserves Program, targeting Old Growth forest and under-reserved forest communities. This program will include a specific component, capped at \$3.6 million, to protect up to 2400 hectares of forest land in the Mole Creek area.*

Implementation of this commitment has commenced.

See response to clauses 23 and 24 for progress on the Forest Conservation Fund. The Australian Government is currently developing details of this program.

The Mole Creek Karst Forest Programme has commenced with the appointment of a service provider in Tasmania and a call for landowners to register interest in participating in the programme.

23. *The new program will be developed and managed jointly with the State through a steering committee. The Parties will consult with Tasmanian private forest owner representatives and representatives of other non-government interests on the design and implementation of the program.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

A joint Steering Committee has been formed to manage the program. An Advisory Group, with representatives of key stakeholders, has been established and has met on several occasions.

An expert panel of economists and ecologists has developed an assessment methodology to assess landholder proposals.

24. *The program will be administered in accordance with a strategic plan to be agreed between the Parties within four months from the date of this Supplementary Agreement. Overall responsibility for the administration of the program will reside with the Commonwealth.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

A Strategic Plan has been developed by the Steering Committee in consultation with the Advisory Group. The Plan was approved by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage in May 2006 and can be viewed at <http://www.deh.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/strategic-plan.html>

25. *The State will establish conservation covenants on land titles under the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002 on lands protected by covenant under this program. The Commonwealth will reimburse the State all costs associated with covenanting the land.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

By the end of 2006, no land had been protected under the Forest Conservation Fund. A State/Commonwealth bilateral agreement has been developed outlining how the State will provide covenanting services once successful bids from landowners are approved by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

26. *The State will provide ongoing monitoring and management support services to owners of the covenanted land. The Commonwealth will provide one-off funding to the State of \$5.5 million in 2005-06 from program funding to cover the costs of these services.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water have agreed on the arrangements for provision of monitoring and support services.

The Australian Government has transferred \$5.5 million to the State for the agreed purposes.

27. *The Parties agree that the Private Forest Reserves Program established under clause 59 of the RFA will continue to operate using the remaining funds provided under clause 100 of the RFA until 30 June 2006, at which time the Program shall cease.*

This commitment has been completed.

The Private Forest Reserves Program formally ceased on 30 June 2006. However, the State, in agreement with the Australian Government, is proceeding to finalise outstanding Private Forest Reserves Program covenants, as part of the State's new Private Property Conservation Program.

28. *The Parties agree to negotiate a new financial agreement, subject to the provisions of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997, that will provide for the use of Private Forest Reserve Program Natural Heritage Trust funds held by the State at the date of this Supplementary Agreement and the transfer of any of those funds remaining at June 2006, to the new program outlined in clause 21 above.*

A new financial agreement has been finalised by both Governments.

Final reconciliation of accounts as at 30 June 2006 has been completed. Final acquittal of Private Forest Reserves Program NHT funds and transfer of the remaining funds to the Forest Conservation Fund is to be completed this year.

29. *The State agrees to use the balance, at 30 June 2006, of the State Trust Fund established with Commonwealth funding under clause 101(iv) (excluding any amount provided from the Natural Heritage Trust) of the RFA to fund a State Private Property Vegetation Conservation Program.*

This commitment has been completed.

Tasmania established a new Private Land Conservation Program on 1 July 2006.

Final reconciliation of accounts as at 30 June 2006 has been completed and remaining Private Forest Reserves Program State Trust Fund funds made available to the Private Land Conservation Program.

Forest Management

Oldgrowth silviculture on public land

30. *The Parties are seeking to strengthen protection and sustainable management of Old Growth forest. The Commonwealth supports the State's policy to reduce clearfelling as a silvicultural technique in public Old Growth forests and the State's commitment to achieve non-clearfelling silviculture in a minimum of 80 per cent of the annual harvest area of the coupes Old Growth forest on State forests by 2010. The Parties agree to jointly fund a package of forest management and operations, industry development, and research and development activities to implement this approach. The Parties note Forestry Tasmania will also undertake additional investments, beyond the scope of this funding package, to ensure its statutory wood supply requirements are met.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

Ministers, Senator the Hon Eric Abetz and the Hon Bryan Green MHA, agreed to an Operating Plan for the Australian Government funded Research into Alternatives to Clearfelling in Old Growth Forests Program in February 2006.

The program of research and field trials will complement Forestry Tasmania's ongoing work to reduce the level of clearfelling of old growth forest to no more than 20 per cent of the annual harvest of old growth on State forests by 2010.

A joint Research Implementation Committee has been formed and has met.

Forestry Tasmania has identified coupes for variable retention in its current three year plan of operations. Eight variable retention coupes are planned to be harvested in 2006-07.

31. *The State will publicly report the area of public Old Growth forest harvested by silvicultural technique each year.*

Implementation of this commitment is ongoing.

The area of old growth forest harvested on public land each year is reported in Forestry Tasmania's annual Sustainable Forest Management Report.

The area of old growth harvested on State forest in 2004-05 was 2,600 hectares. Of this 1200 hectares (46 per cent) was clearfelled.

The area of old growth harvested on State forest in 2005-06 was 1,955 hectares. Of this 770 hectares (39 per cent) was clearfelled.

32. *Progress to achieving safety, regeneration and log supply objectives will be reviewed by the State in 2007.*

The review is to be undertaken in 2007.

Intensive Forest Management

33. *Further to clauses 75 to 77 of the RFA, the Parties agree that further Intensive Forest Management will be used to mitigate the impact of new reserves and the reduction in use of clearfelling techniques within Old Growth forest.*

See report on clause 34.

34. *The Parties agree to jointly support, and the State will deliver, an integrated program of existing plantation productivity improvement and development, new plantation establishment, and enhanced native forest thinning programs designed to maintain targets referred to in clause 77 of the RFA for sustainable sawlog and veneer log supplies to industry from State forests.*

To 31 December 2006 the State has delivered on State forest:

- 2177 hectares of new plantation established;
- 2820 hectares of land prepared for planting;
- 10,294 hectares of existing eucalypt plantation pruned;
- 3754 hectares of existing eucalypt plantation fertilised;
- 739 hectares of native forest regrowth thinned.

Reserve management

36. *The State will deliver management and planning for the new reserves on public land created under this Supplementary Agreement.*

All new reserves on public land are being managed by Forestry Tasmania or the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment as part of their larger land estate and consistent with relevant reserve management objectives.

37. *The Parties acknowledge, in particular, the importance of the north west forests both to Aboriginal and other communities, and agree that management arrangements for new reserves will involve consultation with these communities to maintain access for traditional land uses and to agree the basis for long term management plans to maintain cultural links and uses, consistent with the conservation values of these areas.*

The Cradle Coast Authority has convened a stakeholder advisory group to provide a forum for information sharing. The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment and Forestry Tasmania are represented on this group.

1080 use

38. *The State undertakes to phase-out use of 1080 on State forests by December 2005. This will require alternative strategies for browsing animal control in new forest plantings to be developed and implemented.*

This commitment has been completed.

The use of the chemical 1080 for browsing animal control on State forests ceased from 31 December 2005.

39. *The Parties agree to work collaboratively on a joint program to accelerate research into, and implementation of, alternative strategies for browsing animal control on private forest and agricultural lands. The Commonwealth will invest \$4 million in a research, field testing and demonstration program to provide alternative options for private landholders, and work with the State in light of these results to continue to reduce the usage of 1080 on private lands.*

An Operating Plan for the program was jointly agreed by Ministers, Senator the Hon Eric Abetz and the Hon Bryan Green MHA in February 2006. The Plan sets out the agreed

objectives, outputs, governance, reporting, communications strategy and milestones for the program.

A Project Manager has been appointed and a Technical Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Panel have been established. Workshops and other stakeholder meetings have been held.

A peer reviewed report, "Research into Alternatives to the Use of 1080 for Browsing Damage Management in Tasmania" has been prepared (released 3 August 2006).

A Strategic Plan, incorporating details from consultations with key stakeholders and technical experts has been approved by Ministers.

A \$2 million grants program for research in line with the Strategic Plan has been advertised, with successful applicants in the first round announced in February 2007.

Two new project officers have also be employed to carry out trials and demonstrations of alternatives to 1080 over the next three years.

The Australian Government has provided funding for the program in accordance with the TCFA and the schedule in the Operating Plan.

Wildlife management

41. *The Parties note that the wallaby management plans for Flinders and King Islands are currently being developed for public consultation prior to formal consideration by State and Commonwealth regulatory bodies in accordance with relevant legislation. The State will develop a pilot wallaby management plan for a forested area on the Tasmanian mainland as a priority as an alternative animal browsing control strategy.*

The wallaby management plans for Flinders and King Island has been completed and approved by State and Commonwealth regulatory bodies.

The Department of Primary Industries and Water has commenced drafting of a wallaby management plan for the State, including forested areas, with completion expected in 2007.

42. *The Commonwealth will progress the regulatory process for the plans referred to in clause 41 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as a matter of priority.*

The Wallaby Management Plans for Flinders and King Island were approved on 30 November 2005. An appeal by a third party to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal resulted in the Minister's decision being upheld.

No action is required on the pilot mainland plan until the State submits it for approval.

Special species timbers and leatherwood honey resource

44. *The Parties agree to jointly fund, and the State will deliver, initiatives to support access to and management of selected areas of special timbers management units on State forest, for selective harvest of special species timbers, and to provide beekeepers with rotating access to apiary sites to maintain sustainable supplies of leatherwood honey.*

Priority areas for new access were identified in the Huon, Derwent and Murchison forestry districts in consultation with special species industry and leatherwood beekeepers.

Preparation of Forest Practices Plans has commenced for the construction of approximately seventy-two kilometres of new roads under this initiative and. Fourteen kilometres of new low impact roading has been constructed.

Native vegetation clearing and conversion

45. *The Parties have agreed an approach to the phasing out of broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest in Tasmania. The State agrees to revise the Permanent Forest Estate Policy so that:*
- *An overall cap on clearing or conversion of native forest on both public and private land will be established to retain 95 per cent of the 1996 area of native forest;*
 - *Broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest on public land will be phased out by 2010;*
 - *Broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest on private land will be phased out over a period of ten years from the date of this Supplementary Agreement; and*
 - *Assessment criteria for regulating forest clearing and conversion will ensure the protection of regional biodiversity and water quality values and to meet salinity objectives.*

This commitment has been completed.

The Tasmanian Government revised the Permanent Forest Estate Policy to include the agreed policy provisions. The new Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy was publicly released on 14 November 2005 - see <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-6J563R?open>.

46. *The State agrees that the design of the approach outlined in clause 45 will be developed, in consultation with the Commonwealth, and will be implemented within six months of the date of this Supplementary Agreement, including public release of the revised Permanent Forest Estate Policy.*

The policy was revised in consultation with stakeholders including the Commonwealth, forest industry and private landowner representatives. The revised Policy was released in November 2005. It included a requirement for development of implementation guidelines in consultation with stakeholders.

The implementation guidelines have been completed and have been incorporated into a revised Policy released by the Tasmanian Government in March 2007. The guidelines clarify issues of definitions and implementation required to achieve the objectives of the policy.

47. *The Parties agree that the controls on private forest clearing and plantation conversion will not otherwise constrain private forest owners from undertaking sustainable commercial harvesting and regeneration of native forest and other land uses on their land that maintain the native forest cover.*

The revised policy specifically provides that sustainable commercial harvesting and regeneration of native forests and other land uses that maintain the native forest cover are not constrained by the policy.

48. *The State undertakes to introduce new statutory mechanisms to the Tasmanian Parliament by December 2005 to prevent the clearing and conversion of rare, vulnerable and endangered non-forest native vegetation communities on public and private land, and use its best endeavours to secure the enactment of the proposals. The Parties agree to make the necessary amendments to the Bilateral Agreement for the Extension to the Natural Heritage Trust (2003) consistent with this undertaking.*

This commitment has been completed.

Legislation to prevent the clearing and conversion of threatened non-forest vegetation was introduced to the Tasmanian Parliament on 29 November 2005.

A substantial public consultation process on the Bills was conducted during the summer Parliamentary recess during December 2005 – February 2006. The Bills were revised to take account of stakeholder comment and re-tabled in Parliament following the April 2006 State election.

The Bills passed both Houses of Parliament on 28 November 2006. The legislation was proclaimed on 30 April 2007.

The Bilateral Agreement has been amended and agreed by Ministers from both Governments.

Forest Industry Development and Revitalisation

Industry retooling and new plant investment

53. *The Parties agree to jointly manage a program to facilitate forest industry retooling and investment in new plant and technology. The program will aim to maximise recovery of forest products from increasing use of regrowth, plantation and other changes in the resource mix.*

Three programs funded and administered by the Australian Government have been jointly established –

- Forest Industry Development Program (TFIDP)
- Softwood Industry Development Program (TSIDP)
- Country Sawmillers Assistance Program (TCSAP).

An Advisory Committee was established by relevant Ministers in August 2005 to assess applications for funding and make recommendations to Ministers.

Following consultations between the Parties and with the forest industry, Ministers approved guidelines for the three programs on 12 October 2005.

Advertisements were placed in newspapers calling for applications or expressions of interest.

As at 31 December 2006, 106 applications had been received under the TFIDP seeking grants totalling \$108.4 million to support investments of nearly \$232.5 million.

At 31 December 2006, Ministers had approved 20 TFIDP applications for grants totalling \$5,776,690 that support total investments of over \$23 million. The approved applications include purchase of new plantation and regrowth harvesting equipment, plantation pruning equipment, and sawmill and kiln drying upgrades to process small and young logs.

Details of the TSIDP are provided at clause 63 and the TCSAP at clause 55.

54. *The Parties agree to consult with industry to determine the priority areas for allocation and delivery of the funding. Projects considered for funding will be industry and market focused, and commercially viable. Highest priority will be given to commercial proposals in business plans from mills affected by the changes in the resource mix for the improved utilisation of regrowth and hardwood plantation grown wood.*

This commitment has been completed.

Industry was consulted in the development of the guidelines for funding applications for the three programs. The priority areas for funding are detailed in the guidelines.

55. *The Parties agree to provide assistance for country sawmillers and to special species timber mills significantly affected by the new agreed reserves in north-western Tasmania.*

The Australian Government established and administers the Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Assistance Program (TCSAP) in consultation with the Tasmanian Government.

As at 31 December 2006, 33 applications had been received under the TCSAP seeking grants totalling \$6 million to support investments of nearly \$12 million.

At 31 December 2006, Ministers had approved 13 TCSAP applications for grants totalling \$1,816,928 that support total investments of over \$3.6 million. The approved applications are all for the purchase or upgrade of equipment at country sawmills.

The Tasmanian Government has provided specific grants to Britton Bros Pty Ltd (Smithton) and Corinna Timbers (Somerset) to assist these mills adjust to the loss of special timbers resource from the areas reserved in the TCFA in north-west Tasmania. The grants are assisting the retooling and upgrade of the Smithton mill and installation of new kiln drying facilities at the Somerset mill to enable the mills to utilise a different log resource mix.

56. *The Parties agree to provide assistance for the development of improved marketing, recovery and value adding initiatives for special species timbers.*

Forestry Tasmania has developed a business development plan in consultation with special species timbers stakeholders.

Forestry Tasmania is reviewing the strategy for supply of special species timbers from State forests – refer to Recommendation 6.2 in Part 2 of this report.

Management of harvest residue

58. *The State will implement publicly accountable systems for monitoring of the impact of forest residue harvesting for biomass energy plants on biodiversity values.*

No biomass energy plants have been established to date.

Infrastructure development

59. *The Parties agree to provide funding for, and the State will deliver, additional roading and other infrastructure to support the implementation of changed harvesting programs required for the introduction of the new silviculture in public Old Growth forest.*

Forestry Tasmania has expended \$4 million as part of its overall roading program to adjust to new harvesting requirements. Final stages of planned infrastructure on the Southwood Huon site have been progressed.

Pulpmill approvals

60. *The Parties agree to progress all required assessment processes of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as a priority. The Commonwealth has agreed to an accredited State assessment under the Act.*

Priority attention is given to environmental assessments under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), primarily through the Commonwealth/Tasmania assessment bilateral agreement that accredits key Tasmanian assessment processes for the purposes of the EPBC Act. The bilateral agreement, which was put in place in 2000, was reviewed and remade in December 2005. In cases where the

assessment bilateral agreement does not apply intergovernmental duplication is reduced through the use of case-by-case accreditation or coordinated assessments.

The proposal by Gunns Ltd to build a pulp mill at Bell Bay on the Tamar estuary is currently being assessed under the Tasmanian *PulpMill Assessment Act 2007*, a process which has not been accredited by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth is separately assessing the proposal under the EPBC Act. An assessment report will be provided to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources to facilitate a decision to approve the project or not, and if so under what conditions.

62. *The Commonwealth agrees to consider giving the pulp mill project major project status and facilitation of the project at the national level.*

This commitment has been completed.

The proposed pulp mill was given Major Project Facilitation status on 2 June 2005 by the Australian Government Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Ian Macfarlane.

Softwood industry

63. *The Commonwealth will fund and administer, in cooperation with the State, a \$10 million program of assistance to the Tasmanian softwood industry.*

As at 31 December 2006, 22 applications had been received under the Tasmanian Softwood Industry Development Program (TSIDP) seeking grants totalling \$16.7 million to support investments of over \$68 million.

At 31 December 2006, Ministers had approved six TSIDP applications for grants totalling \$2,715,754 that support total investments of over \$10.8 million.

64. *The Commonwealth will consult with the State and the Tasmanian softwood industry to determine the priorities to increase value added investment in softwood in Tasmania. The Parties' objective is to maintain a viable and environmentally sustainable softwood industry in the State.*

This commitment has been completed.

The Commonwealth consulted the State and the softwood industry in the development of the guidelines for funding applications for the TSIDP. The priority areas for funding are detailed in the guidelines.

Skills and training

66. *The Commonwealth will fund and administer a program to support improved training and skills development throughout the forestry sector, including environmental care, changing forest management and wood processing, safety, product quality, and business skills.*

This commitment is being delivered by Forest Works Ltd. (previously known as the Forest and Forest Products Employment Skills Council or FAFPESC) under an agreement signed with the Department of Education, Science and Training in June 2006. The Skills Enhancement and Training Project has commenced and to date the following has been achieved:

- The development of a training calendar for 2007, and;

- Training and skills enhancement in Tasmania has commenced at five sites, including:
 - Visual stress grading and wood machining at McKay Timber in Glenorchy;
 - Sawmilling and processing at the Avoca Sawmill;
 - Training plans have been negotiated and training contracts signed for ten sawmilling and processing trainees at ITC in Launceston; and
 - A wood appearance grading program is currently being brokered for ten existing employees from Clennett Industries in Moonah.

Other elements supporting sustainable environmental and industry outcomes

67. *The Parties agree to fund the development of tourism and visitor facilities in forest areas focussing on new reserves on public land created under this Supplementary Agreement.*

Planning for the Maydena Hauler development is being progressed. Forestry Tasmania has scoped the feasibility of some potential developments in the Tarkine and has upgraded the South Arthur Forest Drive “edge of the Tarkine” as an access point. Signage and interpretation in the new Tall Trees Forest Reserves in the Styx valley have been upgraded.

The Australian Government will fund and administer a \$2 million grants program to improve visitor facilities in forest areas of Tasmania, focussing on the new reserves created as part of the TCFA. A strategic plan and funding guidelines have been prepared in consultation with stakeholders.

68. *The Commonwealth will fund and administer, in cooperation with the State, and subject to any required State approval processes, \$1 million towards the provision of bushwalking infrastructure in northwest Tasmania.*

The Australian Government will fund and administer a \$1 million grants program to assist the development of bushwalking and related infrastructure in the Tarkine region. A strategic plan and funding guidelines have been prepared in consultation with a Tarkine Stakeholder Advisory Group.

69. *The Commonwealth will provide \$1 million to a catchment water quality program, developed and delivered in consultation with the State and drawing on CSIRO expertise. The program will build on State chemical audit and water monitoring programs to assess the impact of chemical usage in Tasmania’s water catchments.*

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water have signed a funding agreement for this program. The funding agreement includes agreed objectives, governance arrangements, reporting requirements and program activities and milestones.

A project manager, management committee and a consultative committee have been appointed and a communication strategy finalised, webpage and brochure developed.

The respective Australian and Tasmanian government ministers jointly launched the River Catchment Water Quality Initiative on 30 August 2006.

There are four projects under the Initiative. All projects are currently being progressed.

1. Defining the nature and extent of agricultural and forestry chemical usage in Tasmania.
2. Pesticide behaviour under Tasmanian conditions.

3. Adaptation of the CSIRO Pesticide Impact Rating Index (PIRI) to Tasmanian conditions.
 4. The collection and analysis of historical information held by forestry companies on water quality monitoring and associated environmental conditions to help validate PIRI.
70. *The Parties agree to support State research into the Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease through a collaborative partnership.*

The Parties have signed a funding agreement for the collaborative Australian Government-funded program. The agreement identifies research projects to be funded.

Work has progressed in accordance with the project plan, and is overseen by a Steering Committee with Tasmanian and Commonwealth representation.

Since the project commenced, a range of activities have been undertaken including characterisation of the cancer, ongoing transmission trials, wild management trials at the Tasman Peninsula and establishment of an “insurance” population of devils, which includes at four zoos on mainland Australia.

Work has also commenced on investigating the feasibility of a vaccine against the cancer.

71. *The Commonwealth will provide \$2 million to specific priority projects, developed and delivered in consultation with the State.*

The Australian Government provided \$1,659,818 of the \$2 million in funding for the program in 2005-06, with \$299,382 to be paid in the 2006-07 financial year. As part of the TCFA these funds have been made available to accelerate research into Devil Facial Tumour Disease in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years.

A budget of \$426,000 has contributed to establishing an insurance population, created by translocating devils that show no sign of the tumour.

72. *The Parties acknowledge that the initiatives outlined in this Supplementary Agreement constitute significant improvements in the sustainable management of Tasmania’s forests, particularly oldgrowth, and its forest industries. The Commonwealth agrees to provide funding towards a communication program to be delivered in consultation with the State.*

The Parties jointly developed and delivered communication about the TCFA after it was signed. The Commonwealth provided funding to support this stage of the program.

The Parties have had discussions on the development of a further agreed joint communications strategy for both a Tasmanian and international audience using the remaining funding.

Financial commitments

75. *The Commonwealth will contribute to the State the following amounts according to the schedule of payments laid out in Table 2 in Attachment 2:*
- (i) *\$66 million towards intensive forest management activities;*
 - (ii) *\$13 million as a general grant to support implementation of the forest package.*

The intensive forest management payment is to be paid over four financial years. To 30 June 2006 the Australian Government has paid \$29 million to the Tasmanian Government.

The \$13 million general grant was paid in June 2005.

76. *The Commonwealth will contribute the following amounts towards joint programs governed by separate Memoranda of Understanding agreed with the State, with estimated profiles of spending laid out in Table 3 in Attachment 2:*

- (i) \$2 million towards research into alternatives to clearfelling;*
- (ii) \$42 million towards support for the hardwood sawmill industry;*
- (iii) \$4 million towards support for country sawmills;*
- (iv) \$2.2 million towards a communication program;*
- (v) \$2 million towards tourism and recreation projects.*

- (i) The \$2 million has been paid to Tasmania.
- (ii) See comments for clause 53.
- (iii) See comments for clause 55.
- (iv) See comments for clause 72.
- (v) See comments for clause 67.

77. *The State will contribute \$90 million of new funding between the signing of this agreement and 2009-10 to fund the balance of the costs of the integrated package, with specific allocations by activity outlined in Table 1 in Attachment 2 and estimated profiles of expenditure outlined in Table 4 in Attachment 2.*

Tasmania has contributed funding in accordance with progressive expenditure under the TCFA.

79. *In relation to funds provided for Intensive Forest Management, the State undertakes to provide to the Commonwealth at the end of each financial year, until the funds are expended, an annual acquittal of both Parties' funds against items of activity and an indication of the proposed level of activity for the following financial year. The Parties intend that combined government funds provided annually for this activity will broadly match expenditure on the activity (allowing some provision for advance payment), and that payments will be changed under clause 78 should there be significant variations in spending from the payments set out in Tables 2 and 4 in Attachment 2.*

Acquittal reports and proposed activity statements for the Intensive Forest Management Program have been provided to the Commonwealth in accordance with the requirements of clause 79.

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

1. Biodiversity conservation and management

Journal publications

- Allen, K.J. (2002). The temperature response in the Ring Widths of *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius* (celery-top pine) along an altitudinal gradient in the Warra LTER area, Tasmania. *Australian Geographical Studies* 40: 287-299
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- Bashford, R. and Boutin, L.J. (2002). The spider fauna utilising *Eucalyptus obliqua* at the Warra LTER site in southern Tasmania. *The Tasmanian Naturalist* 124: 70-76.

- Bonham, K.J., Mesibov, R., and Bashford, R. (2002). Diversity and abundance of some ground-dwelling invertebrates in plantation vs. native forests in Tasmania, Australia. *Forest Ecology and Management* 158: 237-247.
- Bowkett, L.A. and Kirkpatrick, J.B. (2003). Ecology and conservation of remnant *Melaleuca ericifolia* stands in the Tamar Valley, Tasmania, *Australian Journal of Botany* 51: 405-413
- Buchanan, A.M. and Schahinger, R.B. (2005). A new endemic species of *Hibbertia* (Dilleniaceae) from Tasmania. *Muelleria*. 22, 105–109
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- Grove, S.J. (2005). How well can current planning measures maintain ecological integrity in the Tasmanian production forest landscape? *International Forestry Review* 7: 39
- Grove, S.J. and Bashford, R. (2003). Beetle assemblages from the Warra log decay project: insights from the first year of sampling. *Tasforests* 14: 117-129
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