

TFA Implementation Assistance Document

The Signatories to the TFA have collectively worked up the below set of supportive actions and have requested that Governments consider whether they can commit to delivery of these actions to assist in re-establishing confidence in the workability of the TFA following the passage of the TFA Bill through the Upper House.

Possible actions:

1. The FT Shareholder Statement of Expectations, and subsequently the FT Charter and future funding arrangements, are explicit in precluding logging in the Future Reserve Land, or any gazetted reserves, except where consistent with Tasmanian and Commonwealth law.
2. The FT Shareholder Statement of Expectations, and subsequently the FT Charter and any funding arrangement, are explicit in requiring FT to achieve and maintain FSC certification:
 - a. consistent with the delivery of the TFA agreed wood supply requirements (quantity and quality as assessed through the Robinson report 24/10/12) and
 - b. its application for certification is restricted to Forest Management Units of the Permanent Timber Production Zone Land and Specialty Timber Zones, including reserves which are under FT management though are not available for production, and explicitly excludes timber harvesting in the Future Reserve Land and existing reserves.
3. Any FT funding arrangement on FSC certification and/or any other available mechanism is tied to deliverables/milestones or reporting requirements.
4. FT to develop a policy that it will not supply customers from Future Reserve Land or any gazetted reserves except where consistent with Tasmanian and/or Commonwealth law.
5. FT agree to not use the full FSC certificate, brand or logo until such time as all of the TFA 1st Tranche reserves that are 'gazettal ready' at the time the FSC certificate is issued, are gazetted.
6. The Tasmanian Government commits, and departments are resourced, to finalise the gazettals of new reserves under the Nature Conservation Act for the World Heritage component of the First Reserve Order (noting the Hall amendment) as early as possible with the clear intention that this be achieved by the end of 2013.
7. The Tasmanian Government to give consideration to upgrading the tenure of reserves to be Gazetted under the Nature Conservation Act, with particular focus on tenure underlying the World Heritage extension.
8. A new EPBC Act Conservation Agreement over the Future Reserve Land that does not expire until the gazettal of all new reserves in Schedule A, subject to transitional scheduling and providing progress is consistent with TFA durability provisions, is signed between Governments (explicitly including PWS) and FT, with consideration that FFIC members join as signatories.
9. The Tasmanian Government commits, and departments are resourced, to complete the administrative process to 'gazettal ready' the final administrative order on full TFA Tranche 1 reserves with the clear intention of completing all or the great majority by 1st October 2014, with any remainder completed as soon as possible thereafter.

10. Update the Tasmanian RFA to incorporate TFA outcomes
11. The Order to establish the Special Council is explicit in that it is to make decisions by modified consensus, defined as the 'lack of sustained and substantial opposition' by more than one member of the Council to the proposition being discussed and tested for agreement.
12. The Minister appoints a Specialty Timber representative to the Special Council that is supportive of the spirit and intent of the TFA, following consultation with FFIC members
13. All current FFIC representative organisations are appointed to the Special Council
14. FT Shareholder Statement of Expectations to explicitly require it to do everything in its power to reduce the number of transitional coupes that are harvested during the transitional period, including by, but not limited to exploring, with industry, possible mechanisms to either temporarily reduce demand during the transitional period or by more quickly accessing alternative coupes outside the Future Reserve Land
15. To guarantee the best prospect of releasing transitional coupes from the schedule, all Signatories and the Tasmanian and Australian Governments to actively co-operate to ensure that:
 - a. the Rescheduled Harvesting and Transitional Government funding is made available at the earliest possible time
 - b. the HQS Buyback Programme and Regional Sawmillers Structural Adjustment are completed at the earliest possible time.
16. Management of, and funding for the management of, the Future Reserve Land is transferred from Forestry Tasmania to the Parks and Wildlife Service under a formal service agreement or other mechanism as soon as possible after enactment of the Act, recognising the need to look after the interests of employees during this process.
17. The Tasmanian Government will not allow logging in existing reserves, and the Minister as part of his third reading speech will clarify that the intent of Clause 10A, is not to permit harvesting of specialty timbers within existing gazetted reserves under the Forestry Act 1920 and the Nature Conservation Act.
18. The Australian Government will not approve harvesting of wood, including specialty timbers, within World Heritage nominated or listed areas under the EPBC Act.
19. The Tasmanian Government will work with signatories to have in place a transparent dispute resolution mechanism, including a facility for external assistance, within 3 months of the enactment of the TFA Act
20. Governments could assist with any other actions that would contribute to the delivery of the TFA.
21. Confirmation in writing that the WHA gazettal boundary refinement will be finalised in a way that guarantees of wood supply, (quantity and quality as assessed through the Robinson report 24/10/12) can be met, in accordance with the TFA.

29th April 2013