



Australian Government



Tasmania
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TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT RESEARCH INTO ALTERNATIVES TO 1080

NEWSLETTER 6

January 2007

December in review

With the Project Officer positions and the Grants Program both launched in early December, most of the Project Manager's time in December was spent preparing background data on browsing control used in Tasmania

The Project Officer interviews took place in late December, and the officers are expected to start their work in late January or early February.

January Priorities

Grants Program

Receipt of applications for the first round of the grants program closed on Wednesday 10th January.

There were a total of 23 applications seeking total funding of \$4.6 million.

The applications have been distributed to the review panel members, and the panel will meet on Tuesday 16th January to develop their recommendations on which grant applications to fund for consideration by the Implementation Committee.

Ian Shield, of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, has been engaged by the Implementation Committee to provide independent probity monitoring and advice on the grants selection process. A probity adviser was engaged to provide stakeholders and applicants with assurance that the selection process is in line with that stated in the Grants Overview Document, and that it is fair and impartial.

The Implementation Committee is scheduled to meet on 23rd January to

consider the Review Panels' recommendations, and it is planned to provide applicants with a preliminary notification of their success or otherwise by 25th January. If further technical advice needs to be sought on any of the proposals, this may delay the planned timelines.

A standard deed has been drafted in conjunction with Crown Law and will be sent out to successful applicants with notifications.

It is anticipated that these deeds can be finalised by the end of February to enable projects to commence.

Whether future rounds of funding will be available will be dependent on the total amount of money allocated to grants in this round.

The Implementation Committee is not committed to investing all of the program money in this first round if the objectives of the program will not be served by doing this. Further calls for additional grants may be announced seeking funding for specific research areas.

Background Datasets

The Project Manager has spent much of December updating existing DPIW information as a basis for the development of the Wildlife Management Plans, and to make them available as a background data for the Project Officers and grant applicants.

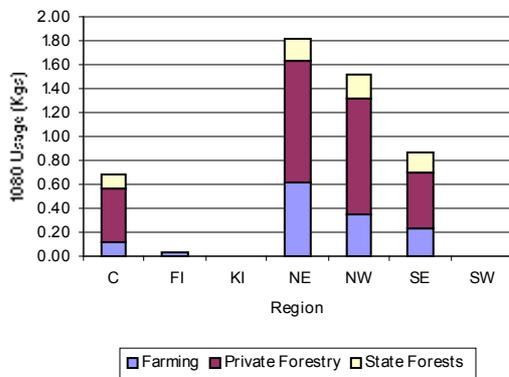
This work has included:

- Allocation of 2005-06 1080 usage data to a site level to allow analysis at a finer resolution and to help target extension and demonstration work;

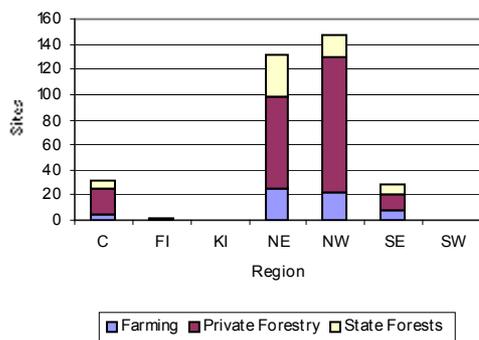
- Collation of 2003-04 to 2004-05 1080 usage data by property/licence for the same purposes.
- Review of Commercial harvest data for mainland Tasmania.
- Breakdown of management regions into land tenure.

As an example of the use of this data, Figure 1 shows that of the 4.9kgs of 1080 used in 2005-06, 59% was used by the Private Forestry sector, with the farming sector using about 27%.

These figures also show that the majority of usage occurred in the



Northern regions, but with substantial use in both the South East and Central regions.



Breaking the usage of 1080 down to the number of properties or coupes provides a bit different picture.

Figure 2 shows that on a property (farming) or coupe (forestry) basis the North East and North West sees much more usage of 1080 than the rest of the State and hence it may be more effective to focus the demonstration and research activities in these areas.

Farmer Attitudes

In 1994 a survey was conducted of browsing animal management issues on farmland in Tasmania.

The survey had over 1000 respondents, and although over 10 years old, still provides some useful historical insights into the browsing control of vertebrates in Tasmania. Findings included:

- Vertebrate pests were considered a problem on 68% of properties;
- 63% of respondents believed that wallaby numbers were increasing on their properties;
- Where landowners reported a “lot” of browse damage:
 - 39-44% of respondents did not use 1080 at all;
 - 15-18% used it in 1 in 10 years;
 - 17-18% used it in 1 in 5 years;
 - 22-24% used it more than once every 5 years.
- More than 90% of landowners employed shooting where ‘some’ browsing pressure occurred, with 37-48% of respondents still shooting even when ‘not much’ damage occurred.
- Wallaby proof fencing was used on 17% of properties;
- 75% of respondents spent between \$0-\$500 per year on browsing control, 16% spent between \$500 and \$1000 per year, and 9% spent more than \$1000 per year on browsing control.

Source: Thompson, R (1994): Browsing Animal Survey Report