

# **Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement**

## **COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – 1999**

### **Introduction**

#### *Context*

The Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) was signed by the Prime Minister and the Tasmanian Premier on 8 November 1997. The agreement is to remain in force for twenty years. Under the RFA there are two major monitoring and reporting requirements (clauses 44 and 45). For the first five years of the Agreement, the Commonwealth and Tasmania provide annual reports on the achievement of agreed undertakings, or milestones (set out in Attachment 3 of the RFA). A performance review is to be undertaken during the last year of each five year period with the first five yearly review scheduled for completion in November 2002.

#### *Commonwealth RFA implementation report for 1999*

This report provides information on Commonwealth action in 1999 towards implementation of the Tasmanian RFA, including progress on Commonwealth-specific milestones listed in Attachment 3 of the RFA and the provision of Commonwealth funding committed to Tasmania under the RFA.

This is the second Commonwealth implementation report. Milestones due and completed in 1998 were reported in the previous report and are not repeated here. This report therefore responds to all RFA milestones that require reporting in 1999 as well as any carried forward from 1998.

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

## TASMANIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT – COMMONWEALTH IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 1999

| Clause     | 1999 Milestone / Action   | Target Date                                   | Action in 1999   |
|------------|---|---|--|
| #23(a)     | The Commonwealth to prepare a policy outline for RFA legislation which will include provisions as specified in clause 22  | by 31 Dec 1997                                | The Regional Forest Agreement Bill 1998 was introduced into the Federal Parliament on 30 June 1998. The Senate's amendments to the Bill being unacceptable to the Government, the Bill was reintroduced into the House of Representatives where all Senate amendments were rejected. The Senate again considered the Bill in the 1999 Spring Sittings where it was again amended unacceptably.   |
| #23 (c)    | The Commonwealth to introduce legislation to provide certainty to the provisions specified in clause 22   | by 30 June 1998                               |  |
| #39        | The State and Commonwealth to jointly participate in further world heritage assessment of the relevant themes   | by 30 June 1998                               | The Commonwealth hosted an expert workshop in March 1999 concerning the World Heritage sub-theme of Eucalypt-dominated vegetation. The final workshop report was produced in December 1999.  |
| #44        | The parties to provide each other with written reports detailing the achievement of the milestones  | annually for the first 5 years; then 5 yearly | This report fulfills this milestone.   |
| #Att 1.6   | The State and the Commonwealth to jointly fund and accredit digital maps at 1:100 000 scale of all lands in Tasmania listed on the Register of the National Estate. | by 31 December 1998                           | The Commonwealth and Tasmania agreed that finalisation of the National Estate boundaries on 1:100 000 maps should be informed by the more detailed 1:25 000 mapping of reserve boundaries (Attachment 6.5 of the RFA), to ensure accuracy and consistency. Tasmania has finalised 1:25,000 scale mapping of reserve boundaries and these have been used by the Commonwealth to propose National Estate boundaries. This work is near completion.   |
| #Att 12.22 | The Parties, based on the Agreement, will promote the sustainability of Tasmanian wood products in domestic and international markets.                              | ongoing                                       | <p>The Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments, together with other state and Territory governments and forests industries, are sponsoring the development of an Australian Forestry Standard as a basis for voluntary forest management certification. The Standard will provide forest managers with a mechanism to promote wood products based on sustainability of forest management.</p> <p>The Commonwealth government is also exploring options for international cooperation on forest certification and labelling of forest products including through an international meeting in New York in November 1999. The meeting generated international interest in promoting comparability and equivalence between certification and labelling schemes. The aim is to ensure benefits arising from Australian certification, particularly through the development of the Australian Forestry Standard, will be optimal and promote access to international markets.</p> |

