

Ref: MS14-000005

To: Parliamentary Secretary [for decision]

**PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Timing: 5 September 2014 – to progress drafting the discussion papers for the first council meeting.

RECEIVED IN PLS  
28 AUG 2014  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

**Recommendations:**

1. That you approve the proposed agenda for the first meeting of the Forest Industry Advisory Council (FIAC) at Attachment A.

Approved / Not approved

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Parliamentary Secretary:



Date: 28/8/2014.

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1.

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

2.

3.

Date Received:

26/8/14

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

7. A proposed annotated agenda for the first meeting of the council has been prepared at Attachment A. The proposed agenda covers the issues and possible council activities <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

[Redacted]

8. The terms of reference for the council are also included at Attachment B for your information.



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25 / 8 / 2014

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A: Proposed annotated agenda for the first meeting of the forest industry advisory council  
B: Terms of reference for the council

PROPOSED ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

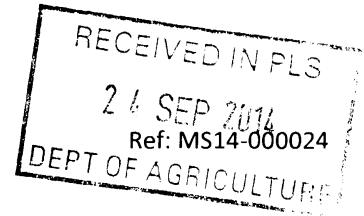
**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

# s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

- d. Does the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) remain current?

*This would be a discussion on whether the goals of the 1992 NFPS remain current, and whether there is a need to update the objectives, policies and actions in the statement. This discussion should recognise the need for state government involvement in any activities on refreshing the NFPS and that there are links to the Regional Forest Agreement extension process.*

# s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



To: Parliamentary Secretary [for information]

**NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT - PROPOSED REFRESH**

**Timing:** 26 September 2014 - to allow your views to be reflected in the briefing for the Forest Industry Advisory Council meeting on 9 October 2014.

**Recommendations:**

1. That you note that the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), signed in December 1992 by the then Prime Minister and mainland Premiers and Chief Ministers, and in April 1995 by the then Tasmanian Premier, is having its relevance questioned by some groups due to the length of time since it was released.

**Noted / Please discuss**

2. That you note that updating and refreshing the NFPS would require agreement from state and territory governments, including forestry and environment portfolios.

**Noted / Please discuss**

3. That you note that an item on a potential refresh of the NFPS has been included on the agenda of the October 2014 meeting of the Forest Industry Advisory Council (FIAC) and the November 2014 meeting of the Forestry and Forest Products Committee (FFPC).

**Noted / Please discuss**

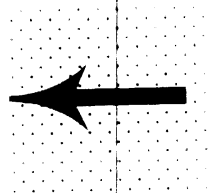
4. That you note that, based on the outcomes from the FIAC and FFPC meetings, a brief will be prepared advising you of the level of support for the proposal to refresh the NFPS.

**Noted / Please discuss**

Parliamentary Secretary:

Date: 23/9/2014

Comments:



**SIGN  
HERE**

**Key Points:**

1. The NFPS (Attachment A) outlines agreed objectives and policies for the future of Australia's forests - public and private, production and conservation, native forest and plantation.
2. As it is now almost 22 years since it was signed, its relevance is being questioned by some groups.

Date Received:

UNCLASSIFIED

3. While “The Vision” and the “National Goals” articulated in the NFPS remain current, the accompanying sections on “Specific Objectives and Policies” and “Implementation” are out-of-date. Updating the NFPS would offer an opportunity for governments to recommit to the principles of sustainable forest management and conservation outlined in the statement, as well as internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable wood production and wood products industries. It would also enable the NFPS to continue providing the overarching policy framework for Australian forest management in a current document.
4. As the NFPS was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, any update will need to be negotiated with the states and territories, including forestry and environment agencies and ministers, as well as the Australian Government environment portfolio. Similarly, consultation should also be undertaken with the forestry industry.
5. The October 2014 meeting of FIAC will be an opportunity to raise the proposal for an update with industry, while FFPC’s meeting in early November 2014 is an opportunity to raise the proposal with state and territory forestry agencies. Both forums will provide an opportunity to canvass views, gauge whether or not a refresh is supported and, if so, the scope of any such proposal.
  - a. Depending on the outcomes from these meetings, and subsequent briefing, you may wish to write to the Prime Minister to outline the proposal and seek his endorsement to formally commence the consultation process to refresh the NFPS.
6. Previous attempts to update the NFPS have recognised that parts of the document are obsolete. **s. 47C(1)**  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]
  - a. Therefore, the proposed approach to be discussed at FIAC and FFPC is one of undertaking a simple refresh rather than implementing a full scale review and revision.
  - b. Such a refresh could involve updating of “The Vision” and the “National Goals”, and deleting the now redundant sections. Subject to the views of FIAC and FFPC, we do not propose to replace these sections as the intention of the refresh would be for governments to restate their commitment to the aims of the NFPS, rather than outline a specific course of action.
  - c. **s. 47C(1)**  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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/ /2014