# High Level Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) Review and Extension Process

The purpose of this diagram is to detail the five-yearly review and extension process for the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). While an annual report was required for each of the first five years of the RFA, reporting now takes place every five years. When Tasmania’s RFA was extended in 2017 the Australian and Tasmanian governments also agreed to introduce rolling five-year extensions tied to the successful completion of five-yearly reviews.

The Tasmanian RFA five-yearly review is conducted by an independent person or body jointly appointed by the Australian and Tasmanian governments (Clause 9E). Once completed, the independent five-yearly review report is provided to the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Ministers responsible for forestry. The Australian Government must then table the report in the Parliament of Australia (clause 9G). The Australian and Tasmanian governments then make a determination on satisfactory performance under the RFA. Should both parties be satisfied that Tasmania’s forest management demonstrates Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (in accordance with clause 9C), then a statement to that effect is included in the Joint Government Response (JGR). The Australian Government then tables the JGR in the Parliament of Australia and as per clause 9J. Upon public release of the JGR, the five-yearly review is considered to be completed.

If the Australian and/or Tasmanian governments are not satisfied that Tasmania’s forest management demonstrates Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (in accordance with clause 9C), then parties need to agree on remedial actions and timeframes for completion. The JGR will include the list of remedial actions and timeframes. Remedial actions are an agreement or pledge to do something in the next five year period to improve ecologically sustainable forest management. Subsequent five-yearly reviews will confirm whether the remedial actions have been implemented. If the parties do not agree on remedial actions, then the dispute resolution process highlighted within the RFA (clauses 10-15) are activated. If the parties do not agree on remedial actions, then in accordance with clauses 15A-15F, Ministers may withdraw from the automatic extension process. Subsequent extensions will only be considered following satisfactory completion of the penultimate five-yearly review (clause 15E).