## **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) #23 (c)	The Commonwealth to prepare a policy outline for RFA legislation which will include provisions as specified in clause 22 The Commonwealth to introduce legislation to provide certainty to the provisions specified in clause 22	by 31 Dec 1997 by 30 June 1998	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.
#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	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. The Commonwealth government is also exploring options for international cooperation on forest certification and labelling of forest products including though 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.

#91		uses of the Tasmanian RFA raphrased) The State and Commonwealth to develop a set of	by 1 December	The Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments jointly developed
		ropriate, practical, and cost effective sustainability indicators	1999	a paper on a draft set of Sustainability Indicators, released for public comment 17 November 1999. Submissions closed on 17 December 1999 and will be considered in finalising the Indicators in 2000.
#100	mill	aphrased) The Commonwealth agrees to provide to Tasmania, \$20 ion, subject to the provisions of the <i>Natural Heritage Trust of</i> <i>tralia Act 1997</i> to protect conservation values on private land.	outlined in Attachment 8	<ul> <li>NHT to provide \$20 million on a case by case project approval basis. Payments are made in accordance with the NHT legislation, administered on the terms and conditions set out in the NHT Partnership Agreement with Tasmania.</li> <li>No NHT funds under this milestone were spent during 1998-99. To date in 1999-00, the Commonwealth has approved NHT funding \$3,124,525 for property purchases and the establishment of management agreements over private land. It is estimated that a further \$1.5m will be approved in 1999-00.</li> </ul>
#101	(par i) ii) iii)	<ul> <li>aphrased) The Commonwealth agreed to provide to Tasmania:</li> <li>\$57 million in equal installments over 3 years from 1997-98 - new intensive forest management initiative implementation</li> <li>\$13 million in equal installments over 3 years from 1997-98 - employment and industry development initiatives</li> <li>\$10 million in equal installments over 3 years from 1997-98 - roads, tourism infrastructure and new reserve management</li> </ul>	outlined in Attachment 12 outlined in Attachment 12	<ul> <li>(i) The Commonwealth provided \$15.6 million in 1997-98, \$22.5 million in 1998-99 and a further \$18.9 million will be provided in 1999-00.</li> <li>(ii) The Commonwealth provided \$4.41 million in 1997-98, \$4.3 million in 1998-99 and will provide \$4.29 in 1999-00.</li> <li>(iii) The Commonwealth provided \$3.4 million under this commitment in 1997-98 and \$3.3 million in 1998-99. A further \$3.3 million will be provided in 1999-00.</li> <li>The Commonwealth and Tasmanian government continue to work closely to develop two forest based interpretation facilities. The centres will promote appreciation of Tasmania's forests, forest based tourism and recreation and encouragement of employment opportunities. One centre will be located in the Freycinet National Park and will provide a facility for the interpretation of the East Coast of Tasmania. The second facility will be located in the Great Western Tiers area.</li> </ul>
	iv)	\$10 million in equal installments over 2 years from 1997-98 – program to protect CAR reserve System on private land	outlined in Attachment 8	(iv) The Commonwealth provided \$10 million over two years with \$5 million paid in 1997-98 and a further two \$2.5 million payments made in 1998-99.