

**TASMANIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT –
COMMONWEALTH IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 2000**

Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement

**COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT – 2000**

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. The first five-yearly review is scheduled for completion in November 2002.

Commonwealth RFA implementation report for 2000

This is the third Commonwealth implementation report. It report provides information on Commonwealth action in 2000 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.

The main focus of this report is on those milestones due for completion by the Commonwealth during 2000. However for the sake of completeness the report lists all milestones for which the Commonwealth is responsible, and reports on the achievement of past milestones.

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

A separate report outlines action by the Tasmanian Government towards implementation of specific milestones for which they are responsible.

Clause	2000 Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#8	The State and the Commonwealth to jointly determine the process for extending the RFA.	as part of the third 5 yearly review of the RFA (2012)	Target date not yet reached
#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. The report may be found on the web at: http://www.rfa.gov.au/rfa/national/herwshprpt/index.html
#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 for 2000.
#45	The State and the Commonwealth to review the performance of the RFA.	5 yearly (during the last year) (2002, 2007, 2012)	Discussions have been held between Commonwealth and State officials to agree on a framework for the first 5 year review in 2002.
#91	The State and Commonwealth to develop a set of appropriate, practical, and cost effective sustainability indicators (paraphrased)	by 1 December 1999	The Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments jointly developed a paper on a draft set of Sustainability Indicators, released for public comment 17 November 1999. A copy of the final report is available at: http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/rfa/rfa2002.pdf

Clause	2000 Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#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 revision of place boundaries subsequent to the refinement of reserves at 1:25,000 by Tasmanian officials has been completed with the GIS data being loaded into the Register of the National Estate Spatial Data Base (RNESDB) as records are entered in the Register of the National Estate Database (RNEDB). More than 300 of the 400 (approx) Tasmanian natural place records have been entered into the RNEDB. The entry of the remaining Tasmanian natural heritage place records will be completed by Dec 2001. This text data becomes available on the Internet after entry into the RNEDB.
#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 performance measures that support sustainability of forest management.</p> <p>The Commonwealth government is also exploring options for international cooperation on forest certification and labelling of forest products following an international meeting in New York in November 1999. The Commonwealth initiated a report on critical elements for establishing comparability and equivalence between certification and labelling schemes. The report was released in October 2000 at the Hobart conference on certification and labelling. 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>

Clause	2000 Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#Att 14, 2.5	Latest versions of all jointly owned data—listed in Schedule 1 of Attachment #14—to be exchanged.	within 3 months of commencement of RFA (March 1998)	Data have been exchanged for the National Estate and wilderness. CRA/RFA reports and associated maps are available on www.rfa.gov.au ; they will also be archived on compact disks by July 2001.
#Att 14, 3.	The State and the Commonwealth to delete all copies of Data which they do not own but were provided for of the RFA Purposes, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the respective Data owners	not later than one month after RFA is signed (December 1997)	Completed
#Att 14, 4.1.	The State and the Commonwealth to list and archive Data used for RFA Purposes.	within three months of commencement of the RFA (March 1998)	Listing of datasets is complete. Many datasets still need to be exchanged on CD.

Other relevant clauses of the Tasmanian RFA

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#100	(paraphrased) The Commonwealth agrees to provide to Tasmania, \$20 million, subject to the provisions of the <i>Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997</i> to protect conservation values on private land.	outlined in Attachment 8	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. Expenditure in 2000/01 has been \$1,937,650, increasing the total expenditure to date to \$5,062,175.

Clause	Milestone / Action	Target Date	Implementation Action
#Att 8.18	The Commonwealth will provide funding for the program (to Protect CAR Values on Private Land). Tasmania will contribute to the ongoing administrative costs of the program including monitoring.	N/A	The Commonwealth has provided \$15 m funding to date, Tasmania has contributed \$300,000.
#Att 6.20	Commonwealth Informal Reserves will be included in new and revised Management Plans prepared for these areas.	by the year 2000	Management Plans have been prepared for these areas.