

**Report to the Australian and Tasmanian  
Governments on the Second Five Yearly Review  
of Progress with Implementation of the  
Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement**

**February 2008**

## **Foreword**

This Report is submitted to the Tasmanian and Australian Governments in accordance with the Terms of Reference issued to me by the Tasmanian Government on 7 June 2007.

My task was to review progress against the agreed milestones and commitments contained in the 1997 Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement, the 2005 Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement and the recommendations arising from the first Review conducted by the Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission in 2002.

This Review was conducted in accordance the requirements of clause 46 of the Regional Forest Agreement. This Report is the report specified in clauses 46(vii) and 47 of that Agreement.

John Ramsay  
29 February 2008

## Executive Summary

In early 2007, the Tasmanian and Australian Governments (the Parties) established the process for the second five-yearly Review of Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

The RFA, signed in 1997, established a framework for the management and use of Tasmanian forests to implement effective forest conservation, forest management, forest industry practices and forest and associated industry development.

As well as undertaking a review of any ongoing RFA commitments, the second Review has considered the recommendations from the initial five yearly Review conducted in 2002 by the Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) and the commitments in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA), a supplement to the RFA which was signed by the Parties in May 2005.

Under the RFA, the Parties made 100 commitments of which 37 were completed or reported on in the 2002 Review. The 2002 Review made 30 recommendations and there are 66 new commitments contained in the TCFA. Thus the 2007 Review considered progress in relation to 159 commitments or recommendations.

Progress was reported in two documents produced by the Parties that were made available for public comment - these were a report entitled *Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement 2002-2007* (the RFA Report) and a report entitled *Sustainability Indicators for Tasmanian Forests 2001-2006* (the Sustainability Indicators Report).

The RFA Report detailed all the commitments and recorded the progress identified by the Parties. The companion report, the Sustainability Indicators Report, provided the best available data that the Parties were able to assemble on meeting seven nationally agreed criteria as applied to the sustainability of Tasmania's forests.

Public comment on these documents was sought from 19 May to 23 July 2007. Twenty seven submissions were received from the public on the two reports.

The simple accounting for the 159 commitments in the RFA Report indicated that 41 had been completed in the Review period, 44 were being implemented but were not completed, 61 were ongoing commitments that had been met during the Review period, eight were no longer required, four were not yet required to commence and one had not commenced.

In many areas the Parties have continued to make significant progress in implementing the RFA obligations.

However, at the half way point of the implementation of the framework for the sustainable management and use of Tasmania's forests, a number of commitments that underpin systemic change have not been fully completed or cannot be reported on.

Further, there are a number of matters that were referred to in the RFA which have assumed a greater significance over the past ten years and now require consideration and action by the Parties.

An overview of the progress achieved and the matters requiring further consideration is set out below.

## **The Forest Reserve System**

During the Review period, there has been ongoing development and further expansion of the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) forest reserve system on public and private land.

As a result of the TCFA, there were commitments for further reservation of areas of a range of forest communities on public land and these have been substantially implemented.

As at 30 June 2006, an extended reserve system (both formal and informal) protects 3,030,000 hectares of public and private land, an increase of 320,000 hectares or 4 per cent since 2001.

On private land, during the nine years of the Private Forest Reserves Program, 38,400 hectares of forests were protected.

In 2007, the Australian Government established the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) with an objective to protect up to 45,000 hectares of forested private land in Tasmania, including at least 25,000 hectares of old growth forest.

## **Ecologically sustainable forest management**

### **Strategic policy and planning relating to Natural Resource Management**

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) framework for Tasmania has been established, including the proclamation of the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, and the establishment of regional NRM Committees and Strategies.

Tasmania's Nature Conservation Strategy has been completed and implementation is ongoing.

The State completed documenting state-wide fire management, nature based tourism and recreational management, cultural heritage and forest pest and disease management policy frameworks.

### **Native vegetation management**

Tasmania's native forest estate has been maintained above the agreed minimum level of 95 per cent of the 1996 area.

The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy has been reviewed and revised to incorporate commitments in the TCFA to phase out the clearing and conversion of native forest to other land uses. The Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy continues to be implemented and monitored through the Tasmanian *Forest Practices Act 1985* (Forest Practices Act). Threatened forest and non-forest vegetation have been given statutory protection under new legislation. The Permanent Native Forest Estate

Policy was revised to prevent clearing and conversion of all threatened (rare, vulnerable and endangered) forest communities.

### **Management of threatened species**

During the Review period, some progress has been made in relation to threatened species. Five new single-species and four new multiple-species Recovery Plans have been developed and implementation has commenced on eight. Tasmania is contributing plans to the development of national Recovery Plans for the swift parrot and the orange-bellied parrot. The Australian Government has adopted nine Tasmanian Recovery Plans as meeting the requirements of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Tasmanian Threatened Species Strategy continues to be implemented and the Threatened Species lists have been reviewed.

### **Management of the CAR reserve system**

The Reserve Management Code of Practice has been completed and implementation has commenced for all formal reserves managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania.

Additional management plans were prepared for formal reserves. All Forest Reserves are covered, but statutory management plans remain to be prepared for three of the 19 national parks and many other reserves.

### **Management of production forests**

The clearfelling of old growth forest on public land is reducing through the implementation of alternative harvesting techniques funded under the TCFA.

The use of 1080 on State forests ceased at the end of 2005, with alternative methods of browsing control now being used. New research information funded under the TCFA is contributing to a substantial reduction in 1080 use on private forest and agricultural land.

Areas of special species-rich forest have been identified and are being managed using long-rotation silviculture to maintain sustainable supplies of special species timber to industry. Additional roads are being constructed to improve access to special species rich stands and leatherwood stands for apiary industry.

TCFA funding is being applied to establish additional areas of eucalypt plantation and in an endeavour to improve the productivity of existing plantations and native forest regrowth in order to maintain high quality sawlog supplies to industry at sustainable levels.

### **Sustainability of wood supply**

Forestry Tasmania completed and published an interim review of sustainable eucalypt sawlog supply from public forest in 2005. In a report released at the end of the

Review period, Forestry Tasmania has reported on the full review, which projects that the statutory supply of high quality eucalypt sawlog can be maintained.

### **Forest Practices System**

In 2005, the Forest Practices Act and *Forest Practices Regulations 1997* were amended to further improve the:

- independence and transparency of the governance arrangements for the administration of the forest practices system;
- certification, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of forest practices plans prepared in accordance with the Forest Practices Code; and
- resources for training, education, monitoring and enforcement of the Forest Practices Code and to provide improved information to the public on forestry operations.

While improved access to information in Forest Practices Plans has added to the transparency of the Forest Practices System, concerns were raised in the Review about the timeliness of the availability of the information.

### **Public reporting and consultation mechanisms**

Results of annual forest practices audits have been published in relevant annual reports. Forestry Tasmania produced annual Sustainable Forest Management reports and placed annual reports on the implementation of District Forest Management Plans on its website.

The Forest Practices Authority's annual reports and audits provide information on all aspects of the forest practices system.

The RFA required the development of a set of appropriate, practical and cost-effective sustainability indicators. The Parties have developed a set of indicators, with public input. These indicators were the basis of the Sustainability Indicators Report prepared for the 2007 Review.

While there was some comment about the nature of some of the indicators and the data available to enable effective monitoring and reporting, the Sustainability Indicators Report provides an informative and structured quantification of the sustainability of Tasmanian forests.

### **Environmental management systems and forest certification**

Forestry Tasmania, Gunns Ltd and Forest Enterprises Australia have been externally certified as complying with the international standard for environmental management systems (ISO 14001) and have also been externally certified against the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708), which supports the sustainable management of forests for wood production.

While an environmental management system for reserves on State forest is in place, a system that is consistent with the RFA principles for environmental management in other conservation reserves still remains under development.

## **Research**

Over 500 forest research publications have been prepared and published since 2002. The Parties have also supported additional research on alternatives to clear-felling of public old growth forests, alternatives to the use of 1080 on private land, Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease and the impact of chemical usage on water catchments.

## **Industry development**

In the Review period, a range of initiatives and commitments to facilitate the wood and wood products industry and other forest-based industries has been progressed.

There was a 35 per cent or 41,000 hectares increase in the area of hardwood plantations in Tasmania from 2001 to 2006. Concurrently there was a decrease of 8,900 hectares in the area of softwood plantation, due partly to areas being converted to hardwood plantation. The total area of plantation in Tasmania now exceeds 230,000 hectares. As at June 2007, Forestry Tasmania had established approximately 26,400 hectares of new eucalypt plantation, pruned over 15,600 hectares of existing eucalypt plantation and thinned over 6,800 hectares of regrowth native forest under programs funded through the RFA and the TCFA, to expand the level of intensively managed forest. Approximately 900 hectares of State forest have been fenced to establish new blackwood resources.

The Forests and Forest Industry Council (FFIC) has continued its research into the development of improved sawing and seasoning methods for young wood from Tasmanian forests.

A wide range of initiatives has been undertaken by the Parties to facilitate improved industry employment, training, information, marketing, export facilitation, networking and research.

Programs have been established to support the development of the wood and wood products industry through industry retooling and new plant investment. As at 1 October 2007, \$42.7 million in funding to support 87 projects with a total value of \$159.1 million has been approved under the programs.

Significant industry development projects were the construction of new integrated processing sites in the Huon Valley and Smithton. At the Huon site, a new regrowth eucalypt sawmill, rotary-peeled veneer mill and wood merchandiser were constructed and opened. A new veneer mill is under construction at the Smithton site.

Assessment of the proposal to construct and operate a new pulp mill in northern Tasmania was progressed by both Governments and approvals granted.

Improved management of the State's forest apiary resource was achieved through extensive consultation between the apiary industry and Forestry Tasmania, facilitated by the FFIC.

A \$4 million forest industry skills enhancement and training project has commenced under the ForestWorks program.

### **Development of forest-based tourism and recreational opportunities**

Construction of a new visitor centre at Coles Bay (Freycinet National Park) and a range of visitor projects in the Great Western Tiers were completed with the assistance of RFA funding.

Forestry Tasmania has pursued a state-wide tourism strategy. New facilities have been completed at Dismal Swamp in the north-west of the State, and facilities expanded at the Tahune Airwalk. In the Derwent Valley a project at Maydena is under development and visitor facilities at the Styx River reserve are being upgraded.

Walking tracks have been upgraded as part of the Tasmanian Walking Track Strategy. A program to improve tourism and visitor facilities focussing on new reserves, including bushwalking in the Tarkine has been established.

### **Certainty of resource access to the forest industry**

The RFA remains in force until 2017. While the RFA provides that the Parties will agree on the process for its extension as part of the third review due in 2012, particular concern was expressed that if possible extension is not addressed until then, industry investment confidence will be affected.

In response to doubts raised about resource security as a result of the decision in *Brown v. Forestry Tasmania* (the Wielangta Case), the Parties amended the RFA in 2007 to re-establish what they considered was the original intent of the RFA in relation to the security provided by the RFA under the Commonwealth's *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* and the EPBC Act.

### **Certainty of resource access to the mining industry**

Access to land for exploration and mining was provided under the Tasmanian *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* and the Tasmanian *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zone) Act 1993*. All new reserves established as a result of the TCFA are available for mineral exploration and mining. One hundred and four exploration work proposals in CAR reserves were assessed for their potential impact on CAR values between 2001 and 2006. The area disturbed was 5.9 hectares.

## **Achieving Systemic Change and Measuring Change and Outcomes**

### **Measuring the success of the RFA**

The RFA continues to be a significant forest conservation management and forest industry restructuring and development program for Tasmania. Since the Parties

signed the RFA in 1997 and the TCFA in 2005, funding in excess of \$350 million of approximately has been committed by the Parties to achieve the RFA outcomes.

While the Review was able to undertake a general overall assessment of progress in achieving the RFA milestones and commitments, there has not been a comprehensive financial and performance audit of whether or not the objectives of the RFA and the subsequent commitments have been achieved.

In light of the fact that the next Review must consider the question of whether the RFA should be extended, it is appropriate that the Parties establish and progressively implement an audit program so that an assessment can be made of the measure of success achieved in meeting the overall objectives.

### **Forest conservation management**

The reservation of land for conservation purposes has been substantially completed, but not all of the commitments for systemic improvements outlined in the RFA that were designed to support effective land management of those conservation values on reserved lands have been completed.

Management plans are not yet in place for all national parks and reserves, an environmental management system consistent with the principles outlined in the RFA is not yet in place for all reserves established under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, and while the Reserve Management Code of Practice was completed in 2003, there has been no publication of compliance auditing undertaken by the two principal reserved land managers in Tasmania.

### **Threatened species**

Preparation and publication of documentation on threatened species has not been completed for many threatened species, even at the level of listing statements. As a result, land managers and others whose decisions may result in impacts on the habitat for threatened species may not always be in a position to make a fully informed decision about protection of that habitat or the appropriate management prescription for a species.

It would appear that the availability of resources has contributed to limited progress on these matters.

### **Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

Limited progress has also been made in relation to matters concerning the management of lands and Aboriginal cultural heritage, which remain the subject of ongoing negotiations between the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and the State.

### **Forest sector restructuring and development**

Underlying the commitment to the RFA by the Parties is the value to the Tasmanian and Australian economies and Tasmanian communities of the forest sector. Notwithstanding a recommendation in the 2002 Review on the need to establish data

to measure the social and economic aspects of the forest sector for the community and the performance of forest based industries, this matter has not progressed.

## **Changing Circumstances**

As with most areas of conservation, land use and management, circumstances change.

Ten years into the implementation of the RFA, some matters mentioned in the RFA and not solely confined to, or the responsibility of the forest sector, (ie climate change and catchment management), have assumed significant importance and are the subject of debate, policy development and action nationally and internationally. Related to these matters are issues associated with the impacts of drought and fire management.

Progress on the original RFA commitment on integrated catchment management has been limited over the past ten years, but has become, in the latter part of the Review period, the focus of greater investment and action by the State.

Similarly, climate change issues have been recognised by decision makers in Australia in the latter part of the Review period as having major importance. As with many other sectors of the Australian economy, there are issues that need to be addressed by the forest sector. The conservation and sustainable management of forests is of key importance to future action on the management of climate change issues. Again in the latter part of the Review period, the Parties have increased their focus and activity in relation to these matters.

During the next Review period, and indeed into the future, there will need to be continuing research, data collection and reporting, policy development and decision making on how these matters are addressed in relation to the management and use of Tasmania's forests, including any impact on the sustainable yield predictions.

While increased knowledge and awareness of the above matters necessitates change, there have also been a number of legislative, policy and practice developments that should be reflected in amendments to the RFA.

There have been changes over the past ten years to the nature of the available forest resource, and harvesting and processing practices have changed. Obtaining data on the quality of high quality saw logs to meet the sustainable yield objective of the RFA and obtaining social and economic data on the value of the forest sector and its future sustainability will be essential information in any consideration of extending the RFA past 2017.

Finally, changes to Commonwealth legislation in relation to the statutory listing of properties to protect their values have resulted in the need to review and amend the RFA in relation to references to national estate properties and their values.

Similarly, while there is a clear case for additional action, changes in relation to threatened species legislation and practice, require amendments to the RFA so that its requirements are consistent with current legislation and practice.

## **Chapter 2      Recommendations**

### **Forest Practices System**

#### **Monitoring activities**

1. That the State requests the Forest Practices Authority to review and report to the Parties on the procedures and practices the Forest Practices Authority follows to guarantee the independence and integrity of its monitoring and compliance functions and activities and any change that it proposes to those procedures and practices.

#### **Availability of Forest Practices Plans**

2. That the State further progresses improvements to the Forest Practices System by requesting the Forest Practices Authority to ensure that information is available from the forest practices planning process as follows:
  - (a) Subject to appropriate non disclosure of personal or sensitive information such as any confidential location of protected sites (although the values to be protected should be identified), the content or draft content (if a request is made prior to the certification of the plan) of forest practices plans, should be disclosed to immediate neighbours as soon as possible after a request is made, at a location agreed between the applicant for the Forest Practices Plan and the neighbour concerned; and
  - (b) Recognising the wider public interest in the ecologically sustainable management of Tasmania's forests, and subject to the non disclosure of the matters identified in (a) above, information on the values protected in any certified Forest Practices Plan and the manner of that protection, should be made available on request to any interested person, by ordinary mail or electronically.

#### **Relationship between the forest sector and its neighbours**

3. That the Parties note the potential benefits that may follow from the review and implementation of the Good Neighbour Charter for commercial tree farming and implementation of a Good Neighbour Charter of wider scope and encourage the proposed signatories to the Charter to conclude the review as soon as possible, execute the charter and release it publicly.
4. That the State consults with the signatories to the proposed Good Neighbour Charter with a view to encouraging the Charter signatories to establish a process for documenting and reporting on the effectiveness of the operational implementation of the Charter.

## **Management Planning**

5. That the State establishes a program, by 30 June 2008, to complete the preparation of management plans or a management regime for all national parks and other formal reserves managed under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, including identifying the cost of the preparation of such plans.
6. That the State resources the program to enable all the management plans or the management plan regime for all national parks and other formal reserves managed under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, to be in place by 30 June 2010.
7. That where management plans are to be prepared for national parks or other formal reserves which involve matters to be resolved in negotiations with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, those negotiations should be subject to an appropriate timetable to achieve resolution prior to 30 June 2009.
8. That any matters covered by the management plan for those national parks or other formal reserves that can be progressed concurrently with negotiations with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community should be progressed in accordance with the program referred to above.

## **Reserve Management**

9. That the Parties, as a minimum, maintain annual funding in real terms for management of all the values of the reserve system in Tasmania and consider increasing the resources available to meet the management needs resulting from the expansion to the reserve system directly resulting from the RFA and the TCFA.
10. That the State ensures the conduct of audits of compliance with the Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice 2003 and the publication of the outcomes of those audits for financial year 2008-09 and thereafter.
11. That the Parties request the Forest Practices Authority to include, as part of the current review of the Forest Practices Code, a review of current mechanisms for ensuring that forest harvesting operations do not impact on the integrity of the boundaries of formal reserves.

## **Threatened Species and Communities**

12. That the Parties progressively prepare and publish Listing Statements or Advice, including conservation advice, for all forest-related threatened species. Priority should be given to completing Listing Statements for all endangered forest-related species by no later than the end of 2008. Listing Statements or Advice should also be prepared for all newly listed species at the time of listing.

13. That the Parties make the Listing Statements or Advice publicly available on an appropriate internet site as each is completed.
14. That the Parties continue to complete Recovery Plans for forest-related endangered species, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, but that priority in terms of time and resources should be given to the Recovery Plans already in preparation and the Listing Statement or Advice process referred to above.
15. That the Parties review the commitments under the RFA for lists of Priority Species with a view to removing duplication and ensuring consistency with lists required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. An up-to-date list of forest-related threatened species and communities that include the RFA commitments should be publicly available on an appropriate internet site.
16. That the State, in consultation with the Australian Government, reviews the processes used within the forest practices system for the protection and recovery of threatened species, in particular the annual independent monitoring and reporting of the application of management prescriptions for threatened species in the development and implementation of Forest Practices Plans.
17. That the Parties continue to improve knowledge of threatened species and threatened communities and the efficacy of existing management prescriptions in protecting those species. This should include explicit monitoring programs, which might be general or for specific species or a combination of both. Priorities for monitoring should be reviewed annually, taking into account the regular threatened species and communities monitoring process undertaken in the forest practices system, with priorities being determined cognisant of current threatening processes, development pressures and relevant government policies.
18. That the Parties consider the need to amend the RFA to reflect the 2006 amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* which require the existence of conservation advice for all threatened species and communities and which enables the exercise of Ministerial discretion in relation to the preparation of recovery plans.

## **Integrated Catchment Management**

19. That the State completes Water Management Plans under the *Water Management Act 1999* in accordance with its commitments under the National Water Initiative Implementation Plan.
20. That the State, as a matter of priority, continues to invest in research into the impacts of forestry practices on hydrological cycles in Tasmanian catchments, including improved models at catchment levels, as well as improved data and

catchment planning processes. The research should be undertaken in collaboration with other research organisations and independent experts and the State should put measures in place to ensure that relevant data on current and proposed plantation establishment and operations is readily available for the work.

21. That the State completes the development of its computer model for impacts of forestry practices on hydrological cycles in Tasmanian catchments that includes prediction of the impact of forest-based activities on catchment water availability.
22. That the State ensures that the wider community is able to access information on the methodology that supports the operation of the model, that there are public opportunities for exchange of information and sharing of opinions in relation to the operation of the model, and that the outcomes of the application of the model to catchments are disclosed and reported on a regular basis.
23. That the State ensures that its Water Management Planning framework appropriately provides for a risk-based approach to management of water interception and extraction activities in accordance with the requirements of the National Water Initiative.
24. That the State requests the Forest Practices Authority to consider, in the current review of the Forest Practices Code, the inclusion of measures to enable the management of the impacts of forest practices on the yield of water in catchments, so as to meet objectives of Water Management Plans.

### **Environmental Management Systems and Forest Certification**

25. That the State completes the development of an environmental management system for all reserves under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* by 30 June 2009 and that the resources required to achieve implementation be allocated to enable implementation as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Fire and Smoke Management**

26. That the State ensures that the state-wide fire management policy framework that applies to all tenures across the State, takes account of the increase in the area of forest plantations since the last Review, the effect of drought and the potential impacts of climate change.
27. That the State ensures that policies in the fire management policy framework on all tenures are made publicly available as the policies are confirmed or revised.

### **Climate Change**

28. That the Parties improve the collection and public reporting of relevant data to ensure that there is an improved understanding of the contribution, both positive and negative, that Tasmania's forests, forest management practices

and the forestry sector generally, make to the global carbon balance and climate change issues.

## **Private Land Management**

29. That the State recognises the importance of providing public information on the success or otherwise of forest regeneration, and requests the Forest Practices Authority to:
  - (a) prepare a report on the success or otherwise of forest regeneration on private land on which native forest was harvested since the 2002 Review;
  - (b) provide a comprehensive report on regeneration success or otherwise of forests on public and private land in its annual report; and
  - (c) provide a consolidated report for consideration as part of the next five year Review.

## **National Estate**

30. That, notwithstanding changes in Commonwealth legislation, the Parties confirm their commitment to management of the national estate values as set out in Attachment 1 of the RFA for the duration of the RFA.
31. That the Parties consider amending the RFA to reflect the changes in the Commonwealth legislation related to the cessation of the national estate listing process. The Parties should consider including appropriate commitments to protect the values of any places listed on the National Heritage List in accordance with the Commonwealth legislation.
32. That, given that the Register of the National Estate will not exist after 31 December 2011, the State examines the current places on the Register and determines whether any properties or values listed should be accorded any ongoing status and the nature of that status.
33. That the State requests the Forest Practices Authority to revise the Forest Practices Archaeological Manual as soon as possible to address all matters other than Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage, and further revise that Manual, as required, to take account of the proposed Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage legislation when it is enacted.

## **Sustainable Yield**

34. That the State ensures that Forestry Tasmania prepares and makes available its report on the review of sustainable high quality sawlog supply from State forests as part of the documentation released for public comment as part of the third RFA Review.
35. That the State, in consultation with the forest processing industry, reviews and identifies appropriate and measurable indicators that show the quality of

sawlogs supplied to the processing sector, and determines the data to be reported and the responsibilities for collecting and reporting on the data.

## **Special Species**

36. That the State completes the special timber species supply strategy by 30 September 2008, which should include information on the resource that remains available by species and the rate at which that resource will be available.

## **Resource Security**

37. That the Parties commence the process of identifying the key issues relevant to considering the extension of the RFA in advance of the next RFA Review in 2012, so that an assessment of all the factors concerning desirability or otherwise of extending the RFA is available to the Review and is published as part of the next Review process. In particular, the progressive shortening of the period of industry resource security provided by the current RFA should be taken into account, together with operational and policy matters that were not prominent at the commencement of the RFA, such as catchment management and climate change.

## **RFA Attachment 12**

38. That the Parties facilitate the preparation by industry of an updated development strategy for the industry, taking account of stakeholder views and the Forest and Forest Industry Strategy (1990), the RFA Employment and Industries Development Strategy, existing and future resource availability and industry developments, and emerging opportunities for new products and services.
39. That the Parties review Attachment 12 of the RFA with the following objectives:
  - (a) to maintain the original focus and intent of enhancing employment and industry development in the forest and forest related sectors as is set out in Clause 72 and Attachment 12 of the RFA and the commitments in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement;
  - (b) to take account of current policies, available programs and potential opportunities with a view to making further appropriate commitments for the next ten years of the RFA; and
  - (c) to remove commitments already discharged or no longer relevant having regard to the preliminary examination of these matters as set out in Appendix 4 Table 1.

## **Information and Education**

40. That the Parties continue a program, in collaboration with industry stakeholders, of community education, information and awareness on the value of forests, the management of forests and the operation of the Forest Practices System in the pursuit of the ecologically sustainable management of forests, to assist the community to understand the issues associated with the management of forests for all values, particularly in light of climate change, biodiversity, catchment management and the domestic processing of wood products.

## **Apiculture**

41. That the State completes the plan for the future of the Tasmanian apiary industry in consultation with the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association and forest industry sector.

## **RFA and TCFA Financial and Performance Auditing**

42. That the Parties should identify the major financial commitments established by the RFA, TCFA and any related financial commitments, to establish a program of independent financial and performance audits of the discharge of those commitments (which may include separate program evaluation) and the achievement of the outcomes sought as a result of those commitments. The Parties should prioritise the audits as considered appropriate. In particular, the audits should address the effectiveness of the programs for (i) protection of forest communities on private land, (ii) intensive forest management, and (iii) industry development and restructuring. Reports produced as a result of audits or evaluations should be published on their completion.

## **Monitoring and Reporting**

43. That, given that Recommendation 5.1 of the 2002 Review stated “[T]hat the Parties, as a priority, develop a process, to obtain reliable data to inform social and economic indicators for the community, and the performance of forest based industries relevant to Attachment 12 of the RFA. The sustainability indicators relevant to the social and economic aspects of the industry need to be reviewed when such reliable data becomes available.”,

Recommendation 5.1 of the 2002 Review should be implemented by the Parties as a matter of high priority. The process should engage all relevant stakeholders in the identification of the data to be collected. This stage of the process should be completed by 30 September 2008. These data should be available to the next five year Review, and form part of the matters taken into account in the decision whether or not to extend the RFA.