

**TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOREST  
AGREEMENT**

*Progress on the implementation of the  
Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement*

**1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

**Jointly prepared by the Commonwealth and  
Tasmanian Governments**

**PROGRESS REPORT**

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### Introduction

Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) are separate Agreements between the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments of NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. Based on good science and extensive consultation, the Agreements set out broad strategies to achieve a balance between conservation and a sustainable and competitive forest industry. The Agreements are in place for 20 years.

Tasmania is covered in a single RFA. The Prime Minister, the then Hon John Howard MP and the then Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Anthony Rundle MHA, signed the Tasmanian RFA on 8 November 1997.

The Tasmanian RFA requires annual reporting on implementation during the first four years and thereafter as part of five-yearly formal reviews, to report progress against milestones.

On 13 May 2005 the then Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP and the then Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Paul Lennon MHA, signed the Supplementary Tasmanian RFA known as the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA).

Then Ministers, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald and the Hon Bryan Green MHA, subsequently agreed that the Governments would jointly prepare a progress report of achievements against milestones and commitments contained in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement until 2010.

This is the third progress report for the TCFA and provides details on the achievement of milestones under the TCFA for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

Details of progress prior to 1 July 2007 are provided in the first two progress reports.

## Progress on Implementation of Agreed Commitments and Milestones

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
3	The Parties to fully implement the actions recommended in the Report of the Inquiry on the progress with Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (2002), subject to the exception outlined in clause 5	No date	The recommended actions have either been fully implemented or are continuing to be implemented. A detailed report on each action was provided as part of the 2007 RFA Five Year Review.  The TCFA has superseded some of the recommended actions.
5	Recovery Plans will continue to be the mechanism for compliance with the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	No date	The Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments are progressing 13 new recovery plans for EPBC Act listed species associated with Tasmanian forests.  A number of these are multi-species plans.
6	The Parties to protect one million hectares of old growth forest – 977,000 hectares on public land, 30,000 hectares minimum on private land	No date	The area of old growth forest protected in formal and informal reserves on public land at 30 June 2008 was 978,220 hectares.  See clause 21 for progress on protecting old growth forest on private land.
7	The Parties to add approximately 141,000 hectares of public land to the CAR Reserve System	June 2006	The Tasmanian Government added 146,800 hectares of public land to the CAR reserve system arising from the TCFA prior to 1 July 2006.  The TCFA commitment to add 141,000 hectares to the CAR reserve system included 1400 hectares of Hydro Tasmania private land is yet to be completed (see clauses 15).  Approximately 500 hectares of Commonwealth land has been protected by the Department of Defence (see clause 13).
8	The Parties agree that all additional protected areas on public land will remain available for mineral exploration and mining under the <i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1995</i> in accordance with clause 79 of the RFA and subject to any requirements under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	No date	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>  All of the new reserves on public land are available for mineral exploration and mining under the <i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1995</i> .
9	The State to finalise the boundaries of the new reserves, with the exception of Commonwealth owned land, at a scale of 1:25,000.	June 2006	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
10	The State to submit plans of new Formal Reserves to Parliament for approval	June 2006	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
11	The State to finalise informal reserve boundaries and identify on Management Decision Classification maps and manage these areas for protection of CAR values, subject to field verification of the existence and extent of those values.	June 2006	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
12	The State to progressively amend Forest Management Plans to include new Formal and Informal reserves	June 2008	A draft management plan to cover all State Forest was prepared by Forestry Tasmania in 2007-08. Public submissions on the draft have been received and a final plan is close to completion for presentation to the Minister for approval.
13	The Commonwealth to protect approximately 500 hectares of Commonwealth owned land as informal reserves. These reserves will be included in new or revised management plans prepared with public participation.	30 June 2008	<p>The Commonwealth Government Department of Defence has incorporated this additional area into environmental management planning systems for the Buckland Military Training Area, and plans are being finalised for these informal reserves incorporating information from key stakeholders. This is being done in conjunction with the Tasmanian Government.</p> <p>The Department of Defence management of these areas is addressed through existing frameworks including the Department's Tasmanian Environmental Management System, Fire Management Plans (currently being reviewed) and other subsidiary plans, Environmental Sections of Range Standing Orders, and the Defence Environmental Clearance Certificate processes.</p>
14	The State to protect 3900 hectares of old growth forest on unallocated Crown land pending completion of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project	No date	<p>All identified areas of old growth forest on unallocated Crown land are being managed for protection pending implementation of the outcomes of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification (CLAC) project.</p> <p>The CLAC assessment has been completed with more than 107,000 hectares of unallocated Crown land and Public Reserves including nearly 6,000 separate parcels being assessed. Of this, some 78,600 hectares have been recommended for reservation under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> and a further 14,200 hectares recommended to be reserved (or retained) as Public Reserves under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i>. The Tasmanian Government has accepted the recommendations of the assessment and is further considering issues concerning management arrangements arising from the recommendations.</p> <p>It is expected that the Parliamentary process to implement the outcomes of the review will occur during 2008-09.</p>
15	The State to protect 3500 hectares of old growth forest on Hydro Tasmania vested land pending a review of Hydro Tasmania's infrastructure management needs. Old growth forest on land not required by Hydro Tasmania to be protected.	Post Hydro review	Hydro Tasmania is protecting all identified areas of old growth forest on Crown land vested to Hydro Tasmania pending the finalisation of the review of Hydro Tasmania's land requirements, which has been completed. Boundaries of areas to be divested have been identified and procedures for the inclusion of these areas in the CAR reserve system commenced. It is expected that this process will be completed in 2008-09.
15	Hydro Tasmania to covenant 1300 hectares of sub-alpine forest on its freehold land	No date	Discussions have progressed between Hydro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries and Water with a view to covenanting the identified areas under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> . Hydro Tasmania is close to completing maps of the areas to be covenanted. A draft covenant agreement is being finalised. It is expected this commitment will be met during 2008-09.

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
16	The Parties agree that any changes to those elements of the CAR Reserve System in Informal Reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- will only occur in accordance with the RFA; and</li> <li>- will maintain the level of protection of identified values at the regional scale; and</li> <li>- that information on all such changes will be publicly available.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	These requirements are being applied to the new Informal Reserves. The processes and changes were audited as part of the 2007 RFA Five Year Review process.
17	The State to maintain records of all changes to informal reserves and net impact on CAR reserve values changes will be recorded	Ongoing and reported as part of five year RFA review	Forestry Tasmania continues to maintain records of all changes to Informal Reserves on State Forest and CAR values within changed areas. Information on changes was reported as part of the 2007 RFA Five Year Review.
18	The State to provide digital data of new formal and informal reserves to the Commonwealth	June 2006	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
19	The Parties to ensure access to data continues to be provided in accordance with clause 90 and Attachment 14 of the RFA	Ongoing	Data access arrangements have been maintained. Boundaries of all Formal Reserves and Informal Reserves are publicly available data in the Tasmanian Land Information System (LIST).
20	The Parties to co-operate to improve the protection of Old Growth forest on private land, particularly for forest communities that complement the new reserves on public land	Ongoing	The Tasmanian Government has continued to cooperate with the Commonwealth in the design and implementation of the Commonwealth's Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) program.
21 (part 1)	The Commonwealth to establish, administer and fund a new market-based program [the Forest Conservation Program] to protect and manage up to 45,600 hectares of forested private land, additional to that secured under the Private Forest Reserve Program, targeting old growth forest and under reserved communities.	Ongoing	See response to clauses 23 and 24 for progress on the FCF program.
21 (part 2)	The program will include a component, capped at \$3.6 million, to protect up to 2400 hectares of forested land in the Mole Creek area	30 June 2008	\$2.96 million has been allocated to purchase seven properties and fund two conservation covenants in the Mole Creek Karst Forest area. At the end of June 2008 four of these properties are now owned by the Tasmanian Government and are Conservation Areas under the <i>Nature Conservation Act</i> . One further property was settled on 1 July 2008. A sixth parcel of land is expected to be finalised in 2008-09. A total of 537 hectares of high value forest and karst landscape has been protected.  The Mole Creek Karst Forest Program concluded at the end of 2007-08.  See <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/mole-creek/index.html">http://www.environment.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/mole-creek/index.html</a> for further information.  Refer to Clauses 23 and 24 for progress on the FCF.

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
23	The Parties to jointly develop and manage the Forest Conservation Fund program through a steering committee and consult with Tasmanian private forest owner representatives on design and implementation	Ongoing	<p>A joint Steering Committee has been formed to manage the FCF program. An Advisory Group, with representatives of key stakeholders, has met on several occasions.</p> <p>The FCF Program has developed a competitive tender process within which landowners can apply for funding for the covenanting of their forested land. On-ground implementation occurs through a service provider team based in Hobart and employing a network of conservation advisors.</p> <p>Round 1 of the tender process was implemented over 2007-08.</p> <p>In 2007-08, the Commonwealth approved 64 applications for funding conservation covenants under the FCF tender process. This covers over 10,000 hectares of forest, with a total funding approval of approximately \$10.6 million.</p> <p>Also in 2007-08, the FCF program made a number of investments into the Tasmanian Midlands Hotspots project (part of the national conservation incentive program: <i>Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots</i>).</p> <p>This enabled the FCF program to fund a number of forest covenant proposals that met FCF objectives outside the scope of the Hotspots project. Funding of approximately \$5.67 million was approved, covering over 4,500 hectares.</p> <p>The FCF Revolving Fund was established in 2007-08. Through this mechanism, forested land is purchased, placed under covenant and revolved for sale on the open market. Some 800 hectares were purchased at a cost of approximately \$2.07 million.</p> <p>Total expenditure approvals for covenant and land purchase outcomes under the FCF program (including Mole Creek) are currently at around \$21.3 million for over 16,100 hectares. Ministerial approval for the expenditure of these funds occurred over 2007-08.</p> <p>See <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/index.html">http://www.environment.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/index.html</a> for further information.</p>
24	The Parties to develop a strategic plan under which the Forest Conservation Fund will be administered	September 2005	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
25	The State will establish conservation covenants on land titles on protected under the Forest Conservation Fund. The Commonwealth to reimburse the State all costs associated with covenanting the land.	Ongoing	<p>The Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries and Water commenced processing and executing conservation covenants in accordance with the terms of the agreement with the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Three covenants were with landholders awaiting signature at 30 June 2008.</p>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
26	The State to provide monitoring and management support services to owners of covenanted land	Ongoing	The Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water have agreed on the arrangements for providing monitoring and support services.  Service provision will commence when the first covenants are executed.
26	The Commonwealth to provide \$5.5 million to the State for ongoing monitoring and management support services to owners of covenanted land	30 June 2006	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
27	The Parties agree that the Private Forest Reserves Program will continue until 30 June 2006, at which time the Program will cease	30 June 2006	The Private Forest Reserves Program (PFRP) formally ceased on 30 June 2006. However, the Tasmanian Government, in agreement with the Commonwealth, is proceeding to finalise outstanding PFRP covenants.  During 200708 a further 14 properties were settled with only two remaining to be completed in 2008-09.  A formal review and evaluation of the PFRP was completed and a report publicly released.
28	The Parties agree to negotiate a new financial agreement for the use of the remaining Private Forest Reserves Program NHT funds held by the State	No date	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
28	The State to transfer any remaining Private Forest Reserves Program NHT funds to the Forest Conservation Fund program	30 June 2006	Audited remaining funds (about \$7.6 million) were transferred by the Tasmanian Government to the FCF program in 2007-08.
29	The State to transfer any remaining Private Forest Reserves Program State Trust Fund funds, at 30 June 2006, to a State Private Property Vegetation Conservation program	30 June 2006	PFRP expenditure from this account ceased on 30 June 2007. Remaining State funds were transferred to the Private Property Vegetation Conservation Program (now called the Private Land Conservation Program).
30	The Parties to jointly fund a package of forest management and operations, industry development and research and development activities for reducing clearfelling of old growth forest on State forest	2010	Four new research projects were submitted to the TCFA Research Implementation Committee and approved.  Harvesting of further variable retention coupes were commenced or completed.  All variable retention coupes established to date were evaluated.  Recommendations were made and implemented to modify coupe designs, retention and influence levels, and burning prescriptions.  A report on safety of variable retention was completed.  Nine of 11 prepared coupes were successfully burnt and regenerated.  Guidelines for implementing variable retention have been prepared and will be updated over time.

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
31	The State to publicly report the area of public old growth harvested by silviculture technique each year	Annually	The area of old growth harvested on public land is reported in Forestry Tasmania's annual Sustainable Forest Management Report.  The area of old growth harvested on State forest in 2007-08 was 2,110 hectares, of which 690 hectares (32%) was clearfelled.
32	The State to review progress in achieving safety, regeneration and log supply objectives through the new old growth forest silviculture	2007	Operational outcomes and research progress were reviewed by an independent international science panel. Final reports have been published.  Findings were presented at a major international conference <i>Old Forests, New Management</i> held in Hobart in February 2008. 260 delegates from 20 countries attended.  A report on a review of the program is being prepared for submission to the Tasmanian Government.
33	The Parties agree that, further to clauses 75 to 77 of the RFA, further Intensive Forest Management will be used to mitigate the impact of the new reserves and the reduction in use of clearfelling in old growth forest	Ongoing	See report on clause 34
34	The State to deliver an integrated program of existing plantation productivity improvement, new plantation establishment and enhanced native forest thinning designed to maintain RFA targets for sustainable sawlog and veneer supplies to industry from State Forests	2010	During 2007-08 the State achieved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 179 hectares of new plantation established</li> <li>• 3 347 hectares of land prepared for planting in Spring 2008</li> <li>• 3 957 hectares of existing eucalypt plantation pruned</li> <li>• 5 779 hectares of existing eucalypt plantation fertilised</li> <li>• 715 hectares of native forest regrowth thinned</li> </ul>
36	The State to deliver management and planning of new reserves on public land	Ongoing	All new reserves on public land are being managed by Forestry Tasmania or the Tasmanian Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts as part of their larger land estate and consistent with relevant reserve management objectives and the Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice 2003.
37	The Parties agree that the management arrangements for new reserves in north west Tasmania will involve consultation with Aboriginal and other communities to maintain access for traditional land uses and to maintain cultural links and uses, consistent with conservation values	Ongoing	The Cradle Coast Authority has convened a stakeholder advisory group to provide a forum for information sharing. The Tasmanian Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts and Forestry Tasmania are represented on this group.  Forestry Tasmania has engaged the community in Northwest Tasmania in relation to planned tourism developments based on new TCFA reserves.
38	The State to phase out the use of 1080 on State Forest	December 2005	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>  The use of 1080 on State forests ceased from 31 December 2005.

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
39	<p>The Parties to work collaboratively on a joint program to accelerate research into and implementation of alternatives to 1080 for browsing animal control on private forest and agricultural lands.</p> <p>The Commonwealth to provide \$4 million in a research, field testing and demonstration program of alternative options for private landholders and work with the State to continue to reduce usage of 1080 on private lands.</p>	30 June 2007	<p>The agreed Operating Plan for the program has continued to be implemented. The Operating Plan sets out the agreed objectives, outputs, governance, reporting, communications strategy and milestones for the program.</p> <p>The Program has to date awarded over \$2.4 million to 17 different research projects, with a further \$1.1 million allocated to fund field testing, demonstration and communication activities.</p> <p>Four external projects have now been completed, a further four have submitted final reports, and the remaining projects are scheduled to deliver results progressively throughout 2009 and first quarter 2010.</p> <p>As well as the regular newsletter, several workshops and public forums were run over the year to keep stakeholders aware of the Program's work, and three presentations and five posters were presented at the Australian Vertebrate Pest Management Conference in Darwin.</p> <p>For more details on research and other projects funded under this program see <a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/forestry/national/cfa/1080">http://www.daff.gov.au/forestry/national/cfa/1080</a></p>
41	The State to develop a pilot wallaby management plan for a forested area on Tasmania's mainland as a priority	ASAP	The Tasmanian Government has commenced drafting a wallaby management plan for Tasmania, including forested areas.
42	The Commonwealth to progress the regulatory process for the wallaby management plans for Flinders and King Islands and the proposed mainland area referred to in clause 41 under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Ongoing	<p>Wallaby Management Plans for Flinders and King Islands were approved by the Commonwealth in 2005.</p> <p>No action is required on the pilot mainland plan until the Tasmanian Government submits it for approval.</p>
44	The State to deliver low-impact access roading to and management of special timber management units on State forest for selective harvesting and access to leatherwood apiary sites to maintain sustainable supplies of leatherwood honey	2007	<p>Construction of the final 14 kilometres of roads was completed in 2007-08.</p> <p>A total of 72 kilometres of roads were built over three years at a total cost of \$3 million.</p>
45	<p>The State to revise the Permanent Forest Estate Policy so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95 per cent of the 1996 area of native forest will be retained</li> <li>• broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest on public land will be phased out by 2010</li> <li>• broad scale clearing and conversion of native forest on private land will be phased out by 2015; and</li> <li>• assessment criteria for regulating forest clearing and conversion ensure regional biodiversity and water quality values will be protected and salinity objectives met</li> </ul>	November 2005	<p><b>Completed in 2005-06.</b></p> <p>The Tasmanian Government revised the Permanent Forest Estate Policy (PFEP) to include the agreed policy provisions. It was publicly released on 14 November 2005.</p> <p>A further revision of the Policy, to incorporate implementation guidelines, was released in February 2007 - See <a href="http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/forests/permanent_native_forest_estate_policy">http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/forests/permanent_native_forest_estate_policy</a> for further information.</p>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
46	The State will design the approach outlined in clause 45 in consultation with the Commonwealth and implement the approach, including publicly release of the revised Permanent Forest Estate Policy	November 2005	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b> The implementation guidelines contained in the February 2007 version of the PFEP were developed in consultation with the Commonwealth Government.
47	Controls on private forest clearing and plantation conversion will not constrain private forest owners from undertaking sustainable commercial harvesting and regeneration of native forests and other land uses on their land that maintain the native forest cover	Ongoing	The revised PFEP specifically provides that sustainable commercial harvesting and regeneration of native forests and other land uses that maintain the native forest cover are not constrained by the policy.
48	The State to introduce new statutory mechanisms to Parliament to prevent clearing and conversion of threatened non-forest vegetation communities on public and private land and use best endeavours to secure the enactment of the proposals	December 2005	<b>Completed in 2006-07.</b>
48	The Parties to amend the 2003 Natural Heritage Trust 2 Bilateral Agreement consistent with this Clause	No date	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
53	The Parties agree to jointly manage a program to facilitate industry retooling and investment in new plant and technology with the aim to maximise recovery of forest products from use of regrowth, plantation and other changes in the resource mix	30 June 2008	The \$42 million Tasmanian Forest Industry Development Program (TFIDP) is funded and administered by the Commonwealth in consultation with the State.  The program closed to new applications in June 2007 and all funding approvals were made by Ministers by 30 June 2008.  By 30 June 2008, Ministers had approved 68 grants for funding under the Tasmanian Forest Industry Development Program (TFIDP) supporting in excess of \$162 million of new investment in the hardwood sector of the Tasmanian forest industry.  During 2007-08 Ministers approved 30 grant applications for funding under the TFIDP totalling \$12.72 million that support total investments of over \$56.78 million. The approved applications include purchase of equipment for use in plantations and regrowth harvesting operations, sawmill and kiln drying upgrades to process small and young logs and investments in processing infrastructure.  During 2007-08, \$21.23 million was paid out by the Commonwealth to approved grantees under the TFIDP.
54	The Parties to consult with industry to determine priority areas for funding [of the program in clause 53]	No date	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
55	The Parties to provide assistance to country sawmillers and to special species timber mills significantly affected by the new agreed reserves in north-west Tasmania	30 June 2007	<p>The \$4 million Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Assistance Program (TCSAP) is funded and administered by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The program closed to new applications in June 2007 and all funding approvals were made by Ministers by 30 June 2008.</p> <p>By 30 June 2008, Ministers had approved 23 grants under the TCSAP. This has resulted in excess of \$8 million of new investment in the country sawmilling sector of the Tasmanian forest industry.</p> <p>During 2007-08 Ministers approved eight grant applications for funding totalling \$1.14 million that support total investments of over \$3.07 million. The approved applications include purchase of sawmill and kiln drying equipment intended to reduce the reliance on old growth forest material, assist in processing small and young logs and increase value adding of sawn material. During 2007-08, \$1.77 million was paid out by the Commonwealth to approved grantees under the TCSAP.</p> <p>The State provided assistance to timber mills significantly affected by the new agreed reserves in north-west Tasmania in 2005-06.</p>
56	The Parties to provide assistance for improved marketing, recovery and value adding for special species timbers	No date	<p>Forestry Tasmania is reviewing the strategy for supply of special species timbers from State Forests.</p> <p>The website for the marketing of recovered special species timbers <a href="http://www.islandspecialtytimbers.com.au">www.islandspecialtytimbers.com.au</a> has been further developed to provide for purchase or auction of special species in stock.</p> <p>Island Specialty Timbers was promoted at woodworking shows and in magazines.</p> <p>A special species project officer has been appointed and a survey of furniture and woodcraft customers commenced</p> <p>The Fine Timbers Tasmania Chain of Custody system was developed and prepared for certification to the Australian Standard 4707-2006.</p>
58	The State to implement publicly accountable systems for monitoring the impact of residue harvesting for biomass energy plants on biodiversity	No date	No biomass energy plants have been established to date: hence implementation of a monitoring system has not been required.
59	The Parties to fund and the State to deliver additional roading and other infrastructure to support implementation of changed harvesting programs required for the introduction of new silviculture in public old growth forests	No date	Forestry Tasmania expended \$4 million during 2007-08 as part of its overall roading program to adjust to new harvesting requirements.

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
60	The Parties to progress all required assessment processes of the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> for a pulp mill in Tasmania	As a priority	<p>The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water Resources approved the Gunns Ltd pulp mill on 4 October 2007 under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>The approval requires Gunns Ltd to meet 48 conditions which are designed to ensure matters of national environmental significance are protected. As part of these conditions Gunns Ltd must submit an Environmental Impact Management Plan for the Minister's approval. In considering the plan, the Minister takes into account expert scientific advice from the specially appointed Independent Expert Group. The plan will impose stringent requirements, including controls on effluent discharge and measures to protect listed threatened species.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts have met on a number of occasions to coordinate their respective regulatory activities and information requirements.</p>
62	The Commonwealth to consider giving the Gunns pulp mill project major project status and facilitation of the project at the national level	No date	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>
63	The Commonwealth to fund and administer, in cooperation with the State, a \$10 million Tasmanian softwood industry assistance program	30 June 2008	<p>The \$10 million Tasmanian Softwood Industry Development Program (TSIDP) is funded and administered by the Commonwealth in consultation with the State.</p> <p>The program was closed to new applications in June 2007 and all funding approvals made by Ministers by 30 June 2008, in line with program guidelines. All funding allocated to the programs was committed to approved projects.</p> <p>By 30 June 2008, Ministers had approved 17 grants for funding under the TSIDP. This will result in excess of \$56.3 million of new investment in the softwood sector of the Tasmanian forest industry.</p> <p>During 2007-08 Ministers approved eight grant applications for funding totalling \$7.8 million that support total investments of over \$44.4 million. The approved applications include purchase of equipment for use in plantation harvesting operations, sawmill and kiln drying upgrades, investments in processing infrastructure and increase value adding of sawn material.</p> <p>During 2007-08, \$3 million was paid out by the Commonwealth to approved grantees under the TSIDP.</p>
64	The Commonwealth to consult with the State and the Tasmanian softwood industry to determine the priorities to increase value added investment in softwood in Tasmania	No date	<b>Completed in 2005-06.</b>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
66	The Commonwealth to fund [\$4 million] and administer a program to support improved training and skills development throughout the forestry sector, including environmental care, changing forest management and wood processing, safety, product quality and business skills	30 June 2009	<p>This commitment is being delivered by Forest Works Ltd (formerly the Forest and Forest Products Employment Skills Company) under an agreement signed with the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in June 2006.</p> <p>Total expenditure to date for the project is \$2,833,330 of which \$833,330 was paid during the 2007-08 financial year.</p> <p>During 2007-08, project activity continued to focus on forming better links between different agencies to promote careers within the forest industry and support improvements to skills and training development.</p> <p>Some key highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the development of programs based on Grow Your Career resources;</li> <li>• participation in school and industry leaders forums in Smithton and Launceston promoting forest industries pathways and industry engagement with schools;</li> <li>• conduct of professional development with Tasmanian Government Department of Education for Pathway Planning Officers based on an intensive forest and rural industries experience; and</li> <li>• reshaping of the licensing process to deliver the recognition of competency and granting of licenses in one process.</li> </ul>
67	The Parties to fund the development of forest tourism and visitor facilities focusing on new reserves on public land created under this Supplementary Agreement	30 June 2007	<p>The Commonwealth is funding and administering a \$3 million grants program to improve visitor facilities in forest areas of Tasmania, focussing on the new reserves created as part of the TCFA. This program incorporates the \$1 million bushwalking infrastructure program under clause 68.</p> <p>Nine projects were successful and will be providing new and upgraded walking and mountain bike tracks, boardwalks and lookouts, signage and interpretation, visitor facilities and tourist brochures.</p> <p>Total expenditure for 2007-08 was \$2,573,137.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has provided \$2 million towards the development of a major tourism project by Forestry Tasmania at Maydena. A property at Maydena has been purchased and construction of the lookout at Abbotts Peak has commenced. Expressions of interest have been sought from tourism operators.</p> <p>See <a href="http://www.forestrytas.com.au/visiting/visitor-sites/central/maydena-adventure-hub">http://www.forestrytas.com.au/visiting/visitor-sites/central/maydena-adventure-hub</a> for further details.</p>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
68	The Commonwealth to fund and administer, in cooperation with the State, and subject to any State approval processes, a \$1 million program towards the provision of bushwalking infrastructure in north west Tasmania	30 June 2007	See clause 67.
69	The Commonwealth to provide \$1 million to a catchment water quality program to be developed and delivered in consultation with the State and drawing on CSIRO expertise, and building on State chemical audit and water monitoring programs to assess the impact of chemical usage in Tasmania's water catchments.	30 June 2007	<p>The Commonwealth Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water are collaborating on implementation of this program.</p> <p>The River Catchment Water Quality Initiative was launched by Ministers on 30 August 2006.</p> <p>Contracts for the individual projects to implement the initiative have been signed with consultant organisations.</p> <p>All program funding has been allocated. Projects are completed or nearing completion.</p> <p>The principal outcome of the program has been the development and testing of the CSIRO Pesticide Impact Residue Index (a model for predicting risk to water quality of using various pesticide chemicals to actual sites), which was launched in September 2008</p> <p>For more information on this program see <a href="http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SSKA-7JA2JK?open">http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SSKA-7JA2JK?open</a></p> <p>The Commonwealth has provided funding in accordance with the Funding Agreement. To 30 June 2008 expenditure on the initiative was \$1 005 000 with 2007-08 expenditure of \$146 000.</p>
70	The Parties to support State research into the Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease through a collaborative partnership	No date	<p>The \$2 million TCFA funded component of the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease program was completed in 2006-07. See <a href="http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-5QF86G?open">http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-5QF86G?open</a> for further information on the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease program.</p> <p>The partnership between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Government is ongoing and remains beyond completion of activities specified in Clause 71.</p> <p>The Commonwealth has committed a further \$10 million from the Caring for our Country initiative over the five years from 2008-09 to 2013-14 for the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program.</p>

Clause	Commitment	Milestone	Progress with Implementation in 2007-08
71	The Commonwealth to provide \$2 million to specific priority projects [on research into the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease developed in consultation with the State	30 June 2007	The program funded under the TCFA has been completed.
72	The Commonwealth to provide \$2.2 million for a communication program to be delivered in consultation with the State	30 June 2006	During 2007-08, the Commonwealth undertook stakeholder education visits to China and several European countries to promote the Australia – Sustainable Forest Management information package. This package was developed in consultation with the Tasmanian Government and was translated into Mandarin, French and German, and well received by stakeholders.  \$200 000 funding was allocated to the Forest Education Foundation to promote Tasmania’s forest industry.
75	The Commonwealth to contribute to the State \$66 million towards intensive forest management activities and \$13 million as a general grant	30 June 2008	The intensive forest management payment was paid over four financial years. The Commonwealth contribution of \$66 million towards intensive forest management activities was finalised with a \$19 million payment in 2007-08.  The \$13 million general grant was paid in June 2005.
76	The Commonwealth will contribute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$2 million towards research into alternatives to clearfelling</li> <li>- \$42 million towards support for the hardwood sawmill industry</li> <li>- \$4 million towards support for country sawmillers</li> <li>- \$2.2 million towards a communication program</li> <li>- \$2 million towards tourism and recreation projects</li> </ul>	30 June 2006 30 June 2008 30 June 2007 30 June 2006 30 June 2007	See comments for clause 30. \$2 million has been provided to the Tasmanian Government.  See comments for clause 53.  See comments for clause 55.  See comments for clause 72.  See comments for clause 67.
77	The State will contribute \$90 million towards the package with specific allocations and estimated expenditure profiles outlined in Tables 1 and 4 of Attachment 2	30 June 2010	The Tasmanian Government has contributed funding in accordance with progressive expenditure under the TCFA. To 30 June 2008 this contribution was \$49 million.
79	The State to provide the Commonwealth with annual acquittal reports and proposed activity statement on Intensive Forest Management funds	Annually	Acquittal reports and proposed activity statements for the IFM program have been provided to the Commonwealth in accordance with the requirements of clause 79.

In addition to funding committed under the TCFA, the Commonwealth approved an additional \$16.8 million (equivalent to 30 per cent of allocated funding) for payment to approved grant recipients of the industry development programs detailed in clauses 53, 55 and 63. These payments were in lieu of tax liability and extended the completion dates of these programs to 30 June 2009.

## Acronyms

CAR	Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative
CLAC	Crown Land Assessment and Classification (project)
CRA	Comprehensive Regional Assessment
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Act)
FCF	Forest Conservation Fund
LIST	Land Information System Tasmania
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
PFEP	Permanent Forest Estate Policy
PFRP	Private Forest Reserves Program
RFA	Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (1997)
TCFA	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (2005)
TCSAP	Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Assistance Program
TFIDP	Tasmanian Forest Industry Development Program
TSIDP	Tasmanian Softwood Industry Development Program