

Terms of Reference

Tasmanian Privately-owned Hardwood Plantation Consultative Panel

Purpose

To undertake an assessment of the privately-owned hardwood plantation resource in Tasmania and report to the Minister for Energy and Resources recommended option(s) for enhancing the value of the resource for the owners of the resource and the community more generally.

Functions

The Panel's functions are to:

Stage 1

- 1) consult with the forest growers (or their collective representatives), private landowners with a material interest in tree growing, the forest industry, the rural community, and other stakeholders to explore future options for the hardwood plantation estate in Tasmania;
- 2) consolidate data and evidence, where possible, on existing hardwood plantation resource type, quality, location and tenure across Tasmania;

Stage 2

- 3) provide a report to the Minister for Energy and Resources on the outcomes of functions (1) and (2); and
- 4) arising from the outcomes of functions (1) and (2), assess whether there is a need for Government to facilitate solutions and, if so:
 - a. consider other representatives for the Panel, to be recommended to the Minister for appointment;
 - b. develop options for enhancing the value of the hardwood plantation resource for the owners of the resource and the community generally; and
 - c. develop implementation steps for a preferred option(s), including identification of barriers that will need to be addressed.

Process

The Panel should initiate a process in relation to function (1) as an immediate priority that enables initial input from forest growers, the community, private landowners, the forest industry and stakeholders.

Before providing the report to the Minister referred to in function (3), the Panel should consider the input it receives under function (1) and the evidence and data it obtains under function (2). The Panel should also initiate at least a second engagement process to seek input on draft recommendations with the groups with an identified interest, before it finalises its advice to the Minister.

Membership

- Chair
- Chief Executive Officer (or nominee), Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA)
- Chief Executive Officer, Private Forests Tasmania (PFT)
- Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER)

Administrative Arrangements

The Panel will be supported by a resource from PFT and a resource from DIER.

PFT will provide secretariat support and DIER will provide communications support.

DIER will also facilitate the appointment of any consultancy services that are deemed necessary to support the Panel.

Timeframe

The Panel will commence its work from mid September 2013 and provide its final report to the Minister by the end of December 2013.