

Project: *Tasmanian Forest Safety Code Review*

Project Scope

A. Context

The Forest Safety Code (Tasmania) (the Code) provides practical guidance on how to manage risks in the Tasmanian forest industry. The code has been preserved as an approved code of practice under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

Last reviewed and published in October 2007, the Code is now out of date in places and is in need of revision to remove outdated references and include contemporary practices previously not covered by the Code.

In June 2019 an industry wide forum was convened by Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) in partnership with the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network (TFFPN), WorkSafe Tasmania (WST) and key industry stakeholders, to consider a scope for reviewing the code. The workshop identified a range of areas where the existing code is in need of updating.

An industry representative steering committee, convened by PFT, has been established to oversee the review process.

WST has agreed to facilitate the review process by participation (as an observer) in the steering committee, keeping the responsible Minister informed of the project's progress and in assisting the approval process for the revised code.

Other industry stakeholders have agreed to actively participate as members of the project Steering Committee including the TFFPN, Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), the Australian Forest Contractors Association (Tas) (AFCA), Norske Skog and a representative of the Tasmanian Forest Industry Work Health and Safety Committee.

The review process is planned to be resourced from a range of sources including direct contributions from supporting public and private organisations within the forest industry, and grant funds, if successful, under the Healthier, Safer and Productive Workplaces Program.

B. Project Objective

The projects primary objectives are:

- 1) to review the Forest Safety Code (Tasmania) in consultation with Tasmanian forest industry stakeholders and taking account of key issues identified at an industry forum held on 21 June 2019.
- 2) to develop recommendations for the Tasmanian Minister responsible for work health and safety legislation, to amend the Code to remove outdated references and include contemporary practices previously not covered by the Code.
- 3) to develop a communication plan to keep key stakeholders informed of the progress of the Code Review project, and to raise awareness of, and communicate key changes in, the revised Code across the forest industry.

C. Project Convenor

PFT

D. Project Sponsors

PFT and the TFFPN.

E. Key Activities:

1. Establishment of Project Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee to include senior officers from PFT, WST, TFFPN, AFCA, the Tasmanian Forest Industry Work Health and Safety Committee, STT and Norske Skog (see Attachment 1: Steering Committee Terms of Reference).

2. Establish project resources

TFFPN to seek funding of \$50,000 through WorkSafe Tasmania's Healthier, Safer and Productive Workplaces Grant Program.

Seek balance of funding required (a further \$50,000) from the public and private sector through organisations in the forest industry supporting this project.

TFFPN and PFT to establish trust funds dedicated to the review process.

3. Engagement of consultant/s:

Engage a consultant to deliver the project objectives. The consultant/s' role will include:

- Reporting to the project's steering committee
- Consulting widely across relevant forest industry stakeholders
- Taking account of key issues in the current Code, including those identified by the Tasmanian Forest Industry Work Health and Safety Committee and stakeholders participating in the Code review forum held on 21 June 2019
- Developing recommended amendments to the current Code to bring it up to date and include contemporary practices not previously covered by the Code (eg bullying, fatigue, mental health, tethered machines, chain shot, drones, ATVs)
- Developing an exposure draft amended code for further consultation within the forest industry
- Drafting a communications and awareness plan consistent with the project's objectives
- Facilitating awareness sessions for the industry and training providers around the revised code and key changes in the code

4. Reporting

Report outcomes against the project objectives to the project sponsors and partners via regular reports to the project steering committee.

F. Expected Outcomes:

- Safer forest industry workers through the application of a contemporary safety code of practice
- Forestry practitioners aware of the revised Code and key changes

G. Expected Outputs:

- Regular reports to the project steering committee
- Regular briefings to the relevant Ministers
- Recommended amendments to the Code
- A revised Code
- An awareness program for practitioners operating under and implementing the revised Code

H. Timeframe and Key Milestones:

Nov 2019: Apply for grant funding

Nov-Dec 2019: Advertise for and appoint consultant/s

Jan-Mar 2020: Consultation with industry

February 2020: 1st progress update to Project steering committee

April 2020: draft recommended Code amendments to steering committee

June 2020: recommendations on amendments to Code to responsible Minister

August 2020: Code revised and Gazetted

Aug-Dec 2020: awareness programs implemented

I. Budget 2019/20:

J. Other Resources

- Steering Committee members' time
- Industry stakeholder input
- WorkSafe Tasmania oversight of recommendations to responsible Minister and process to 'make' the agreed amendments.
- PFT engagement and oversight of consultancy.
- TFFPN oversight of grant funds if funding submission is successful