

Regional Forest Agreements Scientific Advisory Panel

Summary Report

The Scientific Advisory Panel provides independent science-based advice and recommendations on improvements to Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements and forest management system.

Meeting 3, Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 June 2019

Chairperson Dr Sandra Brizga

Panel Members Dr John Raison
Associate Professor Lauren Bennett
Professor David Lindenmayer
Dr Lyndall Bull
Dr David Cheal

Key points

- On 24 May 2019, the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) met for a third time.
- The SAP agreed to provide advice on six questions to inform Regional Forest Agreements negotiations. These questions are:
 - Do the RFAs provide equivalent or greater protection for MNES than would be afforded by the EPBC Act? If not, how could the RFAs achieve this?
 - Is the CAR Reserve System adequate, and considering the vulnerability of populations, species and communities to climate change will it be adequate in the future? How could the adequacy of the CAR reserve system be improved?
 - What are the projected impacts of climate change on the full suite of forest values? What improvements could be made to the RFAs to ensure these impacts are appropriately managed?
 - How could active management of forests (to support a range of outcomes) be incorporated into the RFAs as a management tool? How can the productive capacity of forests be improved to support a range of forest industries, including high quality sawlogs, plantation timber, water, honey, carbon sequestration etc.)?
 - How could new plantations contribute to an integrated wood supply strategy? What are the key opportunities and barriers for expansion of the plantation estate, and how could they be addressed?
 - How could the RFAs and the associated forest management system incorporate best practice adaptive processes in order to improve and monitor their effectiveness?
- Throughout the course of the two days, the SAP heard presentations from the following speakers:
 - Lee Miezis (DELWP) supported the panel to confirm the questions for advice.
 - Professor David Lindenmayer presented an overview of the Australia National University research and its implications for RFAs.
 - Monique Dawson (DJPR) discussed the various strategies proposed to support industry.
- The SAP outlined and agreed to an intensive period of work (including out of session) to develop up responses to the questions.



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Next steps

SAP members will meet by teleconference on 4 July 2019 to consolidate their advice on each of the six questions. Preliminary advice from the SAP will be summarised in the next communique.

Prepared by: Dr Sandra Brizga, Chairperson