

Tasmanian Forest Safety Code Review Communication Plan

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Version Control

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Safety Code Project Objectives

PF Olsen Australia were appointed by Private Forests Tasmania to review the Tasmanian Forest Safety Code. The project's primary objectives are:

1. to review the Forest Safety Code (Tasmania) 2007 (the Code) 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for the Tasmanian Minister responsible for work health and safety legislation, to amend the Code to remove outdated references and include practices previously not covered by the Code.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

The following communication plan has been developed with full consideration of the constraints imposed by State and Commonwealth governments in order to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 which causes the illness COVID-19.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the communication plan is to ensure that the Tasmanian forest industry continues to respect the Tasmanian Forest Safety Code as an important tool to improve the health and safety of forest workers.

The project aims to amend the currently preserved code. In order to do this content transferred from the 2007 will be tracked during the development of the reviewed Code.

The scope and application of the document will remain similar, some sections have been removed following the advice of the 21 June 2019 Industry forum and new material will be included as requested.

Subject to the discretion of the responsible Minister and the constraints on their powers to amend the old Code, the style of the document will be modernised and a more risk-based language adopted so that it is more consistent with the requirements of the Workplace Health and Safety Act 2012.

Key Stakeholders

Key stakeholders to this project are:

- Steering committee which is facilitated by Private Forests Tasmania
- Workplace Standards Tasmania who are participating as an observer to this project
- Forest Owners of all scales
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania
- Forest Managers
- Contractors
- Forest Workers
- Unions
- Employer organisations

Other interested stakeholders are:

- Forest Practices Authority
- Institute of Foresters / Australian Forest Growers
- ForestWorks
- ARBRE Hub
- Forest Education Foundation

While the scope of this code is strictly Tasmanian, the project brief proposed that the Code format be modernised to make it consistent with other adopted Safe Work Australia Codes of Practice and the document is written so that it will be relevant for forestry operations of all scales, including farm forestry. This will mean that people and organisations with an interest in forestry in the mainland States will be interested observers in this project and may be invited to provide advice and information in respect to some elements of the project.

Project governance

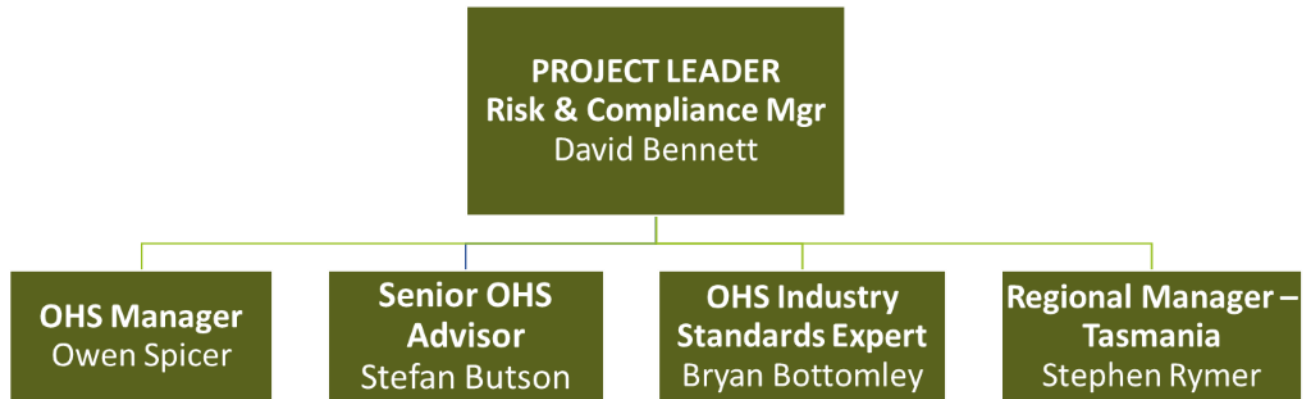
The project is overseen by a Steering Committee. The members of the steering committee are:

- Penny Wells – Private Forests Tasmania (Chair)
- Darren Herd - Forico
- Therese Taylor – Tasmanian Forests & Forest Products Network
- John Webb – Noske Skog
- Stacey Gardiner – Australian Forest Contractors Association
- Alistair Hayward – Sustainable Timbers Tasmania
- Wendy Clarkson – WorkSafe Tasmania (Observer)

The Project Manager is Stephen Clarke from Private Forest Tasmania.

Project Team

The project team was selected because of their connections with the Australian Forest Industry and experience in developing other guidance material in other jurisdictions. The Project teams is outlined below.



Details of individual members of the team are as follows:

David Bennett

David specializes in the development and implementation of cost-effective systems for forest managers, contractors and timber processors, aimed at reducing risk and improving compliance. He is responsible for PF Olsen Australia's risk and compliance systems. He is an experienced forester with qualifications in law. He led the project that prepared Victorian Worksafe's Industry Standard for Safety in Forestry Operations – Harvesting and Haulage and ForestWorks ISC – Log Haulage Manual.

Owen Spicer

Owen is the PF Olsen Australia OH&S Manager with over 30 years' experience in harvesting, haulage, silvicultural and civil operations within plantation and native forests. Owen has conducted more than 1500 safety audits of field operations throughout Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. Owen has performed risk assessments and prepared practical guidance material for contractors involved in forest operations throughout Australia.

Stefan Butson

Stefan has 20 years hands-on experience in the safety sphere. Working with regulators and national and international agribusiness, manufacturing and transport businesses within Australia and New Zealand. Stefan has practical experience implementing drug and alcohol testing and has in depth understanding of human factors that are likely to impair decision making in hazardous workplaces.

Stephen Rymer

Stephen Rymer is based at PF Olsen Australia's office in Launceston. He is a professional forester with over 15 years of experience of plantation management across southern Australia. He has broad experience in both hardwood and softwood plantation establishment, harvesting, certification, fire management and project management. In the last 3 years Stephen has managed operations for PF Olsen Australia clients in Tasmania.

Bryan Bottomley

Bryan Bottomley is principal of Bryan Bottomley & Associates. He is a recognised nationally for his practical approach to developing workable solutions in complex areas of health and safety. He has held senior executive positions in all aspects of the Victorian Government's OHS agency including responsibility for state-wide inspection, audit and prosecution programs. He was involved with preparing the Victorian Worksafe's Industry Standard for Safety in Forestry Operations – Harvesting and Haulage.

Project Timelines

As result of the restrictions on travel and large meetings the communication plan is based primarily around web-based consultations.

Following a Steering Committee meeting on 23 April a draft structure and table of contents for the Code has been endorsed. The project team is embarking upon reviewing the existing code and transforming the content into a newer and more modern style. The Code style was reviewed and endorsed by the Steering Committee, subject to it not interfering with the Minister's power to amend the old Code.

The project has 2 distinct phases.

Phase 1 – Consultation Draft preparation

The first phase involves writing a Consultation Draft. During this process interested people will be invited to register an interest in providing input to the project team. As the team progresses through writing key sections of the Code people who have indicated an interest will be invited to provide input via online questionnaires. Throughout this phase the project team will conduct targeted interviews to ensure the content being developed is appropriate.

Initially the project team will focus on transforming the content of the current code, by reviewing current best practice and seeking input from the Industry. Revised content will be prepared in a style acceptable to the industry. It is planned that this work will be ready for review by the Steering Committee on or before 25th June 2020.

After this the focus will shift to developing new materials so that a Consultation Draft is ready for Steering Committee Review on or before 25th August 2020.

Phase 2 – Formal Consultation

In early September 2020, three (3) industry forums will be convened to enable face to face feedback with the project team. The exact format of these meetings will depend upon the restrictions on travel and large meetings at that point in time.

Two options are currently being considered:

OPTION 1 – FACE TO FACE

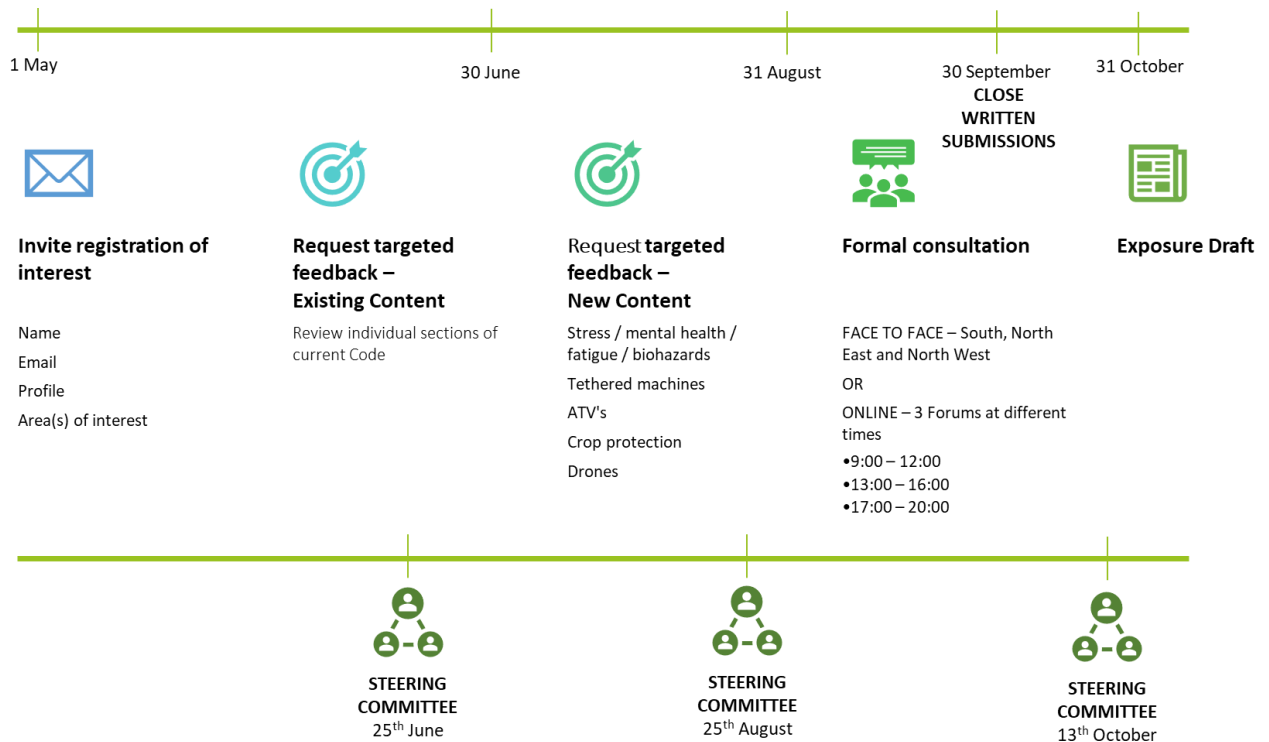
The project plan includes three face to face consultation sessions facilitated by PF Olsen Australia in Private Forests Tasmania's meeting rooms to present the Consultation Draft to the Tasmanian Forest Industry. They will be held in three regions – south, north east and north west Tasmania.

OPTON 2 – ONLINE FORUMS

If travel and meeting restrictions are still in place, then the project team will enable three online forums to present the Consultation Draft to the Tasmanian Forest Industry.

Following the consultation forums, formal written submissions will be invited up until 30th September 2020.

The diagram outlines the consultation process.



Raising Awareness

Awareness of the Code review project will be initially be promoted by Private Forests Tasmania and an invitation to register an interest will be promoted through its e-bulletin and website.

Additionally, each of the following organisations will be approached with a request to send information to their members with a link to the Registration of Interest form:

- Tasmanian Forests & Forest Products Network
- Private Forests Tasmania
- Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
- Construction Forestry Maritime Mining & Energy Union
- Australian Forestry Contractor's Association
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
- Institute of Foresters / Australian Forest Growers
- ForestWorks
- ARBRE Hub
- Forest Education Foundation

Information in respect to the project will also be sent to:

- Private Forests Tasmania with updates for their e-bulletin.
- Tasmanian Forests & Forest Products Network with updates for their e-bulletin.
- Innovatek Ltd for inclusion in their weekly newsletters Friday Offcuts and WoodWeek.

Private Forests Tasmania – Website

Private Forests Tasmania have established a section on their website where Draft material will be posted progressively throughout the project. This website will also provide information for interested parties to register their interest in providing input into the Consultation Draft. Appendix A of this plan outlines the information people will be asked to provide when they register an interest.

The screenshot shows the website header with the PFT logo, 'PRIVATE FORESTS TASMANIA', and a 'CELEBRATING 25 Years of private forestry' badge. The navigation menu includes Home, About PFT, What We Do, Publications, Links, and Contact PFT. The main content area features a 'what we do' banner and a section titled 'Tasmanian Forest Safety Code Review'. To the right of the text is a search bar and a list of resources with plus icons.

Tasmanian Forest Safety Code Review

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 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.

Private Forests Tasmania has agreed to convene the steering committee and WorkSafe Tasmania has agreed to facilitate the review process by participation 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

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Detailed Timetable

The following diagram outlines the detailed timeframes when specific Code content will be considered and developed by the Project Team. During these times interested parties will be given an opportunity to provide input via online questionnaires.

TASMANIAN FOREST SAFETY CODE COMMUNICATION PLAN

Project Start: Friday, 27 March 2020

