



Chair Report

Welcome to the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network (TFFPN).

As way of background regarding the establishment of the TFFPN, Strategy 8 of the Strategic Growth Plan for the Tasmanian Forests, Fine Timber and Wood Fibre Industry recommended the establishment of an umbrella organisation to develop and represent the shared interests of the whole of the value chain on matters of common interest.

In 2017, the Department of State Growth commissioned an independent evaluation by Timmins Ray Strategic Counsel to assess the perceived need for such an organisation.

It found overwhelming support for such a concept, which, in turn, prompted the Tasmanian Government to provide unencumbered seed funding to enable the concept to be independently moved forward.

An Establishment Committee was formed comprising industry leaders from various industry sectors. It was the Establishment Committee assisted by Timmins Ray strategic Counsel that developed the concept of the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network (TFFPN) as the forum for, and the public voice of, all those people who consider themselves part of the forest industries community.

The organisational objectives of the TFFPN include:

- Increase active community support for the industry (social licence)
- Expansion of the industry's skill base and development of sustainable career paths
- A rationalised, affordable regulatory environment
- Development of a positive investment environment

The TFFPN will provide an inclusive, open and transparent platform on industry matters for all those people who either work within or support a productive, sustainable, and profitable industry in Tasmania.

Membership is open to all those across the value chain who have an interest in the future of their industry and is aimed at 'grassroot' members of the industry

The TFFPN will also provide a focal point for Government to exchange views and dialogue on high level issues of common interest across the sector, to help inform government decision making and public policy.

An establishment Board was formed from the Establishment Committee in November 2017 to oversee the development of a governance framework for the organisation.

Current Directors include:

- Steve Whiteley (Chair)
- Bryan Hayes

- Andrew Morgan

The Board of Governance has overseen the development of a governance framework, including

- Development of a constitution
- Registering TFFPN as a Company Limited by Guarantee with ASIC and achieving charity status with ACNC
- The appointment of a part time (.4) Convenor
- Development of policies and procedures for membership, finance framework, financial sustainability, etc.
- Growth of member numbers
- The planning of the inaugural annual statewide forum

The TFFPN held a very successful launch event on 9th May with over 80 industry leaders in attendance.

Membership is open to anyone who has a genuine interest in the continued future development of a sustainable and profitable forests and forest products industry. Membership continues to grow and is currently around 140 members.

The Board is looking forward to a challenging and rewarding financial year 18/19.

The number of Directors will increase to 5 , and the Board will develop strategies to foster a number of priorities, including –

- Continued significant growth of members
- Ensuring financial sustainability of the TFFPN
- Engage industry key stakeholders in consultation and cooperation
- Build industry wide unity and common purpose
- Partner across the value chain to work on areas of common interest
- Actively engage with 'grass roots' workers
- Develop meaningful conversation with the community to build trust
- Influence those outside the forest sector

As a matter of priority, the Board will be seeking industry support, both financial and real to sustain the TFFPN into the future.

The Board of TFFPN looks forward to working with you, the members, to the benefit of the TFFPN and the industry.

Steve Whiteley

Chair

