



## Convenor Report

Following the release of the Strategic Growth Plan in 2017, the Department of State Growth commissioned an independent evaluation to assess the perceived need for an industry organisation capable of representing all sectors of the industry on matters of common interest.

It found overwhelming support for the concept, which, in turn, prompted the Tasmanian Government to offer unencumbered seed funding for the concept to be moved forward.

An Establishment Committee was formed comprising industry leaders and assisted by Timmins Ray Strategic Counsel the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Products Network (TFFPN) was developed.

The TFFPN is a forum for and public voice of all those people who consider themselves part of the forest industries community.

The agreed role for the TFFPN is to be a communication hub, to provide, and exchange information on issues, across the value chain to facilitate knowledge sharing and learning, which in turn will encourage better integration of talents and resources to show case and better strategically market Tasmania's timber products.

Membership is open to all those across the value chain who work within or have an interest in the continued development of a sustainable and profitable forest and timber products industry.

An establishment Board was formed in November 2017 to develop the governance framework for the TFFPN.

I was appointed by the TFFPN Board Convenor in December 2017 to assist the Board establish the TFFPN

The Convenor's responsibilities had been determined to be:

- Pursue the TFFPN's organisational objectives
- Build industry wide unity and common purpose through positive and open leadership
- Coordinate the TFFPN Annual Forum
- Promote the environmental, social and economic benefits of a sustainable and profitable forests and forest products industry
- Expose the community to the breadth and value of opportunities that are being achieved through research, development, innovation and investment
- Provide a public voice for the industry and all those who support it across the value chain'
- Positively engage with the industry's key stakeholders in a spirit of consultation and cooperation
- Promote the industry's needs, concerns, expectations and aspirations across all tiers of government and to all politicians

- Build cooperative coalitions with other industry sectors
- Actively and positively engage with the media

Since taking up the role on a part time basis (.4), much has been achieved –

- A governance framework has been achieved with the TFFPN being registered with ASIC as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is also registered with the ACNC.
- Policy and procedures have been put in place to grow membership stateside and industry wide, grow financial sustainability, set up communication and IT platforms.
- A successful launch was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May attended by more than 80 industry leaders
- Relationship building and networking with members and potential members to understand the role of the TFFPN has been an important aspect
- Membership strategies introduced to grow membership across the state
- The inaugural Forum was held in Launceston on 21<sup>st</sup> September which attracted high calibre speakers as well as state and federal ministers.
- Working with government departments to expand opportunities for the TFFPN for the benefit of members and the forest industry.

There are a number of challenges to look forward to in the 2018/19 financial year.

- Continue to grow the membership of TFFPN by demonstrating the value of the organisation
- Ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the TFFPN
- Build relationships and partnerships with key industry sector leaders, and organisations
- Develop a communication plan
- Ensure the strategic direction of the TFFPN is understood and communicated
- Increase the profile of the TFFPN, within the industry and more broadly
- Manage the Community Engagement Project , funded by Department of State Growth

I look forward to working with you for the benefit of the Tasmanian Forests and related industries.

Therese Taylor

Convenor