

What is the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF)?

The Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) is a new program to protect old growth and under reserved forest communities on private land in Tasmania.

The objective of the FCF is to protect up to 45,600 hectares of forested private land, targeting old growth and under-reserved forest communities. The target includes a minimum of 25,000 hectares of old growth forest and up to 2,400 hectares of forest land in the Mole Creek area.

How would the FCF help landowners?

The FCF can provide landowners with financial assistance to help them conserve forest on their land as well as providing them with management planning.

How will the FCF work?

To meet the objectives of this new initiative, a range of incentive schemes will be available in areas of Tasmania over the next four years. Participation in these incentives by landowners will be voluntary and more details about the schemes will be made available shortly.

In accordance with the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement the Australian Government has established a FCF Steering Committee comprising members from both the Australian and Tasmanian Governments. The FCF Steering Committee will coordinate the development of the FCF Strategic Plan and oversee implementation of the FCF.

Will the local community have a say in how the FCF will be run?

The FCF Advisory Group will provide the Steering Committee with the views of the local community and to assist in the implementation of the Fund. The FCF Advisory Group will be consulted on:

- The FCF Strategic Plan.
- Communication strategies and information needed by landholders to allow them to decide if they want to participate in the program.
- How to prioritise applications from landholders to protect forest on private land.
- Approaches to effectively and efficiently monitor conservation agreements implemented under the FCF.

Who are the members of the FCF Advisory Group?

- Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH)
- Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (observers)
- Private Forests Tasmania
- Representative of the NRM Regional Councils
- Tasmanian Conservation Trust
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
- Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority
- Timber Communities Australia



What is the FCF Strategic Plan? The Strategic Plan outlines the methods and guidelines on how the FCF will be implemented. The Plan will include criteria to select high conservation value forest, reporting mechanisms, and operational and funding guidelines.

DEH is currently developing this Strategic Plan and once the Australian and Tasmanian Environment Ministers approve the Strategic Plan, it will be publicly available.

Advisory Group Meetings The FCF Advisory Group held its first meeting on 26 August 2005 in Hobart. The meeting discussed delivery of the FCF, criteria to be considered when assessing the suitability of forest areas and types of management agreements that would provide the basis for assessing reserve value under the program.

Members of the Advisory Group will meet again in late September in Hobart to discuss the details of the new Fund.

DEH will continue to develop the FCF and will provide a draft version of the Strategic Plan to the Advisory Group at their next meeting. Advisory Group members will have an opportunity to consult with their stakeholders before providing comments to the Steering Committee. DEH will also develop a communication strategy to raise landholders' awareness of the FCF prior to starting any on-ground activities.

Further Information DEH is responsible for administering this program and further information on the FCF can be obtained via:
Internet: <http://www.deh.gov.au/land/forestpolicy/fcf/index.html>
Emailing: fcf@deh.gov.au
Phoning: DEH: 1800 803 772

