



Australian Government

THE TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT

FOREST CONSERVATION FUND



Fact Sheet 2: Site Assessments

A site assessment is a free, non-binding part of the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF). It involves a visit by a Conservation Adviser to assess the conservation value of the forested land you are interested in protecting. Once a site assessment has been completed, you can decide if you want to submit a tender application for managing your forested land for conservation. If you want to submit a FCF tender application, the Conservation Adviser will provide information and support to you through the tender process.

How do you arrange a site assessment?

A site assessment can be arranged by completing the Request for a Site Assessment form enclosed in this information kit and returning it to the Service Provider. This form registers your interest in the programme, therefore you will need to provide your contact and property details. We recommend you discuss your ideas with family, business associates and other advisers before seeking an assessment.

You can indicate who you would prefer as a Conservation Adviser on the Request for a Site Assessment form.

A Conservation Adviser will contact you to arrange a time to visit that suits you.

What does the site assessment involve?

Generally, a site assessment will involve you showing the Conservation Adviser around your land and discussing your options for protecting the forest. The Conservation Adviser will help you through the tender application process. They can talk about the types of forest the FCF is looking for, and discuss ways to protect the forest that meet your business needs and are required by a Conservation Covenant and Nature Conservation Plan.

Once you have settled on the area of your forest you wish to protect, the Conservation Adviser will record the following values:

- type and area of each forest community
- condition of the forest, e.g. is it old growth, has it been logged
- impact of grazing
- presence and amount of weeds
- presence and impact of root-rot fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*).

The Conservation Adviser will assess the conservation value of your forest to the FCF and this information will form the basis of your FCF tender application if you choose to submit one.

The Conservation Adviser will discuss the results of the assessment with you, and talk about ways of managing the forest to get the best outcome for the forest and your property. Once you have decided on the management activities for inclusion in the conservation agreement, the Conservation

Adviser will provide you with an overall score and discuss the implications of the score.

The mapped information on forest communities collected during the assessment will be provided to the Tasmanian Government to update its vegetation databases.

What happens next?

The Conservation Adviser will compile the outcomes of your discussions into an FCF tender application and send the application to you to check. You will have a limited time to make changes or submit your FCF tender application before the closing date of the tender round and the application lapses.

See *Fact Sheet 3: Tender Application*, for more information.

How much time will the Conservation Adviser take?

The time needed to assess your forests and develop an application will depend on a number of factors, including the size of the forest you wish to protect and the number of different forest types on the land. Visits will only occur at your invitation, and at times that suit you. The Conservation Adviser may need to visit your property several times.

Can the Conservation Adviser provide me with advice on the financial implications of protecting my forest?

The Conservation Adviser can only discuss forest conservation options available to you. They cannot discuss implications for taxation or income, costs or the financial consideration you should specify in your FCF tender application.

Will the Forest Conservation Fund pay for other advice I obtain?

No. Just as in any business decision you make on your property, you may choose to seek independent financial and other professional advice on the implications for your whole property. The FCF can fund only the technical advice and assistance provided by the Conservation Adviser.