

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS BILL 1998

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government

(Circulated by the authority of the
Minister for Forestry and Conservation,
the Hon Wilson Tuckey MP)

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS BILL 1998

GENERAL OUTLINE

The Regional Forest Agreements Bill 1998 (the Bill) will provide legislative support to the outcomes of Regional Forest Agreements entered into between the Commonwealth and respective States and Territories.

The Government proposes an amendment to the Bill, providing for the establishment of a Forest Products Advisory Council (FPAC) but with its functions and constitution to be determined by regulations.

This amendment will ensure all stakeholders of the Government's commitment to establishing such a Council, while leaving scope for the actual functions and constitution to be "fleshed out" by regulations.

Such regulations would, of course, be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There will be no direct financial impacts from the passage of the Government's proposed amendment to the Bill. However, it is likely that the establishment and on-going operation of FPAC will require Government funding in the future. If so, the required funding will be sourced from existing portfolio funds or an additional appropriation will be sought.

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL CLAUSES

Clause (1): Forest Products Advisory Council

Clause (1) provides for the establishment of a Council to be known as the Forest Products Advisory Council. The functions of the Council in relation to the forest and wood products sector are to be prescribed in the regulations and the Council is to be constituted in accordance with the regulations.

Clause (2): Regulations

Clause (2) enables the Governor-General to make regulations prescribing matters required or permitted by the Act to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the Act.

This is a consequential amendment to enable regulations to be made in relation to FPAC.