

25th August 2023

Department of Justice
Office of the Secretary
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: haveyoursay@justice.tas.gov.au

Charities and Associations Law (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2023

The Tasmanian Forest Products Association (TFPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide our views on the *Charities and Associations Law (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2023*.

The TFPA is the peak body for forestry that undertakes policy development, lobbying and advocacy for members interests. TFPA represents all elements of the value chain from the sustainable harvesting of plantations and multiple use natural forest resource including forest establishment and management, harvesting, processing of timber resources and manufacture of pulp, paper and bioproducts.

TFPA supports the proposed amendments to ensure greater transparency and probity regarding the charitable fundraising sector.

Additional changes to be considered to the amendment Bill, include:

- i. Increasing the Statute of limitations from six months to up to three years for the Collections for Charities Act 2001. By increasing the timeframe this will allow the Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) sufficient time to commence proceedings following a complaint.
- ii. Amending the interpretation of 'solicit' under subsection (e) by the internet; to include the use of a donate or call to action button.
- iii. Adding a section to include similar powers for the Commissioner to investigate alleged breaches of the Act, as per the proposed amendment under section 17A, 17B and 17C.
- iv. Adding a section to clarify the inappropriate use of charity funds. Similar wording could be used as per the federal *Charities Act 2013*, under section 11 Disqualifying purpose, it states:
 - a. the purpose of engaging in, or promoting, activities that are unlawful or contrary to public policy.

We look forward to continuing to participate in the consultation of this amendment Bill.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Steel
Chief Executive Officer