

**NSW FOREST AGREEMENTS AND INTEGRATED FORESTRY  
OPERATIONS APPROVALS**

## **NSW Forest Agreements**

# **Implementation Report**

**Upper North East**

**Lower North East**

**Eden**

**Southern regions**

**2006–2007**



**NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT**

**Minister for Climate Change and the Environment**



## NSW Forest Agreements

# Implementation Report

A report prepared as part of the implementation of the NSW forest agreements and integrated forestry operations approvals

**2006–2007**

Upper North East

Lower North East

Eden

Southern regions



NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment

## INFORMATION



This project has been coordinated by the Resource and Conservation Unit of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [formerly the Resource and Conservation Division of the Department of Planning; or Forestry and Rural Industry Policy within the Department of Natural Resources].

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# Foreword

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC  
President of the Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

The Hon Richard Torbay MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Primrose and Mr Torbay,

I have pleasure in presenting to Parliament the eighth annual implementation report on the NSW forest agreements and integrated forestry operations approvals. There are four NSW forest agreements and four integrated forestry operations approvals in place, which cover the Upper North East, Lower North East, Eden and Southern regions of New South Wales.

In accordance with section 21(1) and 21(2) of the *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*, this report provides progress on the implementation of the NSW forest agreements and integrated forestry operations approvals for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

Progress is reported by the:

- achievement of milestones defined in each of the four NSW forest agreements
- results of monitoring of ecologically sustainable forest management criteria and indicators
- compliance with integrated forestry operations approvals for each region.

The report demonstrates continuous improvement in the management of the New South Wales public forest estate and progress towards ecologically sustainable forest management.



**Carmel Tebbutt MP**

**Deputy Premier**

**Minister for Climate Change and the Environment**



# Summary

This is the eighth annual report on the implementation of the NSW forest agreements and integrated forestry operations approvals (IFOAs), prepared under section 21 of the *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*.

There are four NSW forest agreements and IFOAs in place, covering the Upper North East (UNE), Lower North East (LNE), Eden and Southern regions. The agreements and approvals for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions were put in place in 1999, followed by those for the Southern region in 2002.

These agreements and approvals provide a strategic and operational framework to manage public forests in New South Wales, with the overall objective of achieving ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM). Progress towards meeting this objective is achieved partly by regular reporting of the:

- achievement of a range of undertakings or 'milestones', defined in each of the NSW forest agreements
- results of monitoring of the ESFM criteria and indicators
- compliance of harvesting activities in State forests and other Crown timber lands with the IFOAs.

Implementation of the agreements and approvals is a cooperative undertaking between the Parks and Wildlife Group (PWG), the Environment Protection and Regulation Group (EPRG) and the Resource and Conservation Unit of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), which was formerly the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC); and Forests NSW and the Division of Fisheries, Compliance and Regional Relations of the Department of Primary Industries. This report gives details of the activities related to implementation of the NSW forest agreements and IFOAs for the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions during 2006–2007.

## Milestone achievements and highlights

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The continual achievement of milestones will assist progress towards ESFM of NSW forests. In 2006–2007, agencies continued to achieve or work towards the completion of milestones contained within the NSW forest agreements. There were also a number of significant achievements this year. Some of this year's highlights are described below.

### ***National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006***

Agreements were reached to transfer over 16 000 ha of government-owned land in the Lower Hunter area of NSW of high conservation value into conservation reserves to be managed under the *National*

*Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. This was the biggest conservation initiative ever announced for the Lower Hunter and nearly doubled the area of reserve within 50 km of Newcastle.

### **Forests NSW certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708 (INT) – 2003**

In December 2006, Forests NSW gained forest certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708 (Int) – 2003. This is the leading management standard of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS), used to certify large areas of native forests and plantations across Australia.

### **Private native forestry**

A draft Code of Practice was developed to ensure that forest operations will improve or maintain environmental outcomes, and to encourage sustainable management of forests. The draft was publicly exhibited in July–August 2006, with approximately 1700 submissions received.

### **Co-management by government and Aboriginal communities**

In February 2007, the Government finalised an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Githabul native title claimants in northern NSW. The ILUA establishes a co-management arrangement covering approximately 1199 km<sup>2</sup> located north of the townships of Casino and Tenterfield, south of the Queensland – New South Wales State border. This is the largest area ever included in an ILUA in NSW.

### **Decade of public sustainability reporting**

The year 2006–2007 marked the tenth year of sustainability reporting for Forests NSW. The Social, Environmental and Economic (SEEing) Report has evolved over this period to be recognised as a world leader in sustainability reporting in the forest industry.



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# Acronyms and abbreviations

API	Aerial photograph interpretation
AFCS	Australian Forest Certification Scheme
AFS	Australian Forestry Standard
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
BMAD	Bell-miner-associated dieback
BRIMS	Bushfire Risk Information Management System
BVMPs	Branch Visitation Management Plans
CAPs	Catchment Action Plans
CMA	Catchment management authority
COG	Candidate old growth
CRA	Comprehensive regional assessment
CRAFTI	Comprehensive regional assessment aerial photo interpretation
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAFF	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change (formerly Department of Environment and Conservation)
DEH	Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage
DLWC	Former Department of Land and Water Conservation, now part of the Department of Planning and the Department of Natural Resources
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOG	disturbed old growth
EFT	Equivalent full-time
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPRG	Environment Protection and Regulation Group (part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change)

EPA	Environment Protection Authority (now encompassed within EPRG)
EPL	Environment Protection Licence
ESFM	Ecologically sustainable forest management
FA	Forest Agreement
FMZ	Forest management zoning system
FRAMES	Forest Resource and Management Evaluation System
FISAP	Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package
GERI	Great Eastern Ranges (Alps to Atherton) Initiative
GIS	Geographic information system
HCVOG	High-conservation-value old growth
HHIMS	Historic Heritage Information Management System
IFOA	Integrated forestry operations approval
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LNE	Lower North East
MIG	Montreal Process Implementation Group
NFMS	Native Forest Management System
NFPS	Joint State Commonwealth National Forest Policy Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service (now encompassed within PWG)
NRAC	Natural Resources Advisory Council
PAS	Priorities Action Statement
PMP	Park Management Program
RACU /RACD	Resource and Conservation Unit / (former Resource and Conservation Division)
RACAC	Resource and Conservation Assessment Council
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
RVMP	Regional vegetation management plan
PIN	Penalty Infringement Notices

PWG	Parks and Wildlife Group (part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change)
SEEing Report	Social, Environmental and Economic Report
SEEDS	Social, Economic and Environmental Database developed by Forests NSW
SoP	State of the Parks reporting by DECC
TSL	Threatened Species Licence
UNE	Upper North East
VCA	Voluntary Conservation Agreement (as per the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> )
Wildlife Atlas	Atlas of NSW Wildlife



# Glossary

**batter** – An earth slope formed by the placing of fill material or by cutting into the natural hillside.

**biodiversity** – The variety of life forms (the different plants, animals and microscopic organisms), the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form.

**CAR reserve system** – The national reserve system, or CAR reserve system, aims to ensure the protection of a range of forest values. The acronym ‘CAR’ defines the goals of the reserve system: *comprehensive* – full range of forest communities recognised by an agreed national scientific classification at appropriate hierarchical levels; *adequate* – the maintenance of ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities; *representative* – those sample areas of the forest that are selected for inclusion in reserves should reasonably reflect the biotic diversity of the communities.

The establishment of a CAR reserve system is one of a number of arrangements put in place as a result of the joint State–Commonwealth *National Forest Policy Statement* (NFPS) (Commonwealth, 1992). The goal of a CAR system of reserves for Australia was endorsed by all Australian governments as signatories to both the National Strategy for Conservation of Australia’s Biological Diversity (1996) and the NFPS. The CAR system is activated within the *Directions for the National Reserve System – A Partnership Approach* (Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council 2005). Priorities for building the DECC reserve system in each biogeographic region of NSW will be identified in the New South Wales National Parks Establishment Plan (to be published in 2008).

**carbon sequestration** – Carbon sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems can be defined as the net removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere into long-lived pools of carbon, such that the carbon dioxide originally in the atmosphere effectively can no longer physically or chemically act as atmospheric carbon dioxide. The pools can be living, above-ground biomass (e.g. trees); products with a long, useful life created from biomass (e.g. timber); living biomass in soils (e.g. roots and microorganisms); or deeper subsurface environments such as depleted oil and gas reservoirs, unmineable coal seams, deep saline formations or deep ocean.

**Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA)/Regional Forest Assessment (RFA)** – Assessments undertaken by NSW Government and Australian Government agencies and community stakeholders that looked closely at the impacts of changes to forest use and management on the environment, economy and community. The CRAs and RFAs Included assessments of natural, cultural, social and economic values.

**DECC estate** – land acquired, reserved or dedicated under the *National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) Act 1974*. ‘DECC estate’ may also refer to land declared as aquatic reserve under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, or marine park under the *Marine Parks Act 1997*, when managed by DECC. DECC estate was called ‘NPWS estate’ in the RFAs.

**dedicated reserve** – Reserve equivalent to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area Management Categories I, II, III, IV, as defined by the IUCN Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas (1994). Dedicated reserves include, but are not limited to, parks under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and flora reserves under the *Forestry Act 1916*. Status of reserves requires action by Parliament in accordance with legislation for reservation or revocation.

**ecological community** – An assemblage of species occupying a particular area.

**ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM)** – The management of forests so that they are sustained in perpetuity for the benefit of society, by ensuring that the values of the forests are not lost or degraded for current and future generations.

**ecosystem** – Communities of organisms and their physical environment interacting as a unit. See 'forest ecosystem'.

**ecosystem health** – The state of an ecosystem's processes (energy, nutrient, hydrological and biological processes), which maintains the vitality of the system.

**ecosystem vitality** – The ability of an ecosystem to perpetuate itself.

**Environment Protection and Regulation Group (EPRG)** of DECC – leads the State's response to regulating a diverse range of activities that can affect the health of the NSW environment and its people. 'Regulation' is delivered by using a mix of tools, including education, partnerships, licensing and approvals, audit, enforcement and economic mechanisms. The Group generally works outside the protected conservation areas and focuses on the areas where populations and economic activity interact with the environment.

**filter strip** – A strip of vegetation or groundcover along each side of a watercourse/drainage line, retained for the purposes of retarding or reducing lateral flow of runoff and sediment movement into the watercourse/drainage line and reducing the risk of channel and streambank erosion.

**forest** – A vegetation type dominated by woody vegetation having a mature, or potentially mature, stand height exceeding 6 metres, with an overstorey canopy cover greater than 20%.

**forest ecosystem** – Native vegetation overstorey of trees with greater than 20% canopy cover. Forest ecosystems were mapped and defined during the CRAs in terms of floristic composition in combination with substrate and position within the landscape. The **JANIS report** identified forest ecosystems as the primary surrogate for biodiversity in CRAs.

**Forest Management Zone (FMZ)** – A land classification system that sets out management intent across State forests and differentiates between those areas of State forest set aside for conservation and those areas available for timber harvesting and other activities.

**Forest Resource and Management Evaluation System (FRAMES)** – Forests NSW's state-wide forest resource inventory, growth modelling, simulation and harvest scheduling system for the New South Wales public native forest resource.

**forest type** – A class in the hierarchy of vegetation classification of forests characterised by the taxonomic and or structural composition of canopy trees (usually by a dominant species).

**gazettal** – The formal process by which land becomes part of the NSW parks system, announced by a notice published in the NSW Government Gazette.

**habitat** – The living space of a species or community, providing a particular set of environmental conditions.

**Informal reserve** – A reserve that contains, and is managed for, conservation values that contribute to the CAR reserve system and meets the principles for Informal reserves as described in the **JANIS report**.

**JANIS report** – The report by the Joint Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)/Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture (MCFFA) National Forests Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee, titled *Nationally Agreed Criteria for the Establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve System for Forests in Australia* (Commonwealth of Australia 1997).

**native forest** – Any locally indigenous forest community containing the full complement of native species and habitats normally associated with that community, or having the potential to develop those characteristics.

**old growth** – Forest that is ecologically mature and has little disturbance by activities such as logging, building roads or clearing. The definition focuses on forest in which the upper layer or overstorey is in the late-mature to overmature growth phases.

**park** – In this report to refers to all areas of National Park (NP), Nature Reserve (NR), State Conservation Area (SCA), Regional Park (RP), Aboriginal Area, Historic Site and Karst Conservation Reserve (KCR) managed by the Parks and Wildlife Group of DECC. See also **reserve**.

**Parks and Wildlife Group** (DECC) – Manages NSW protected areas, including national parks, wilderness areas and marine parks for conservation, education and public enjoyment. The group also forms partnerships with communities to protect biodiversity and cultural heritage on private and other public lands.

**plantation** – Intensively managed stands of trees of either native or exotic species, created by the regular placement of seedlings or seed.

**public forest** – Any forest on Crown land for which management responsibility has been delegated to government agencies, local governments or other instrumentalities.

**regions** – Relates to NSW forest agreement regions (UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions).

**reserve** – Land identified for conservation or related purposes on a range of tenures, including Crown land, State forest and national park. See also **park**. Includes informal reserves and **dedicated reserves**.

**snig track** – A track along which snigging equipment (i.e. wheeled or tracked vehicles) travels.

**species** – A group of organisms that are biologically capable of breeding and producing fertile offspring with each other but not with other organisms in other groups.

**State forest** – Land dedicated under the *Forestry Act 1916*.

**State Protected Land** – Mapped areas of steep land (generally over 18 degrees), mapped environmentally sensitive land, and riparian land along prescribed streams.

**sustainable yield** – The long-term estimated wood yield from forests that can be maintained from a given region in perpetuity under a given management strategy and suite of sustainable-use objectives.

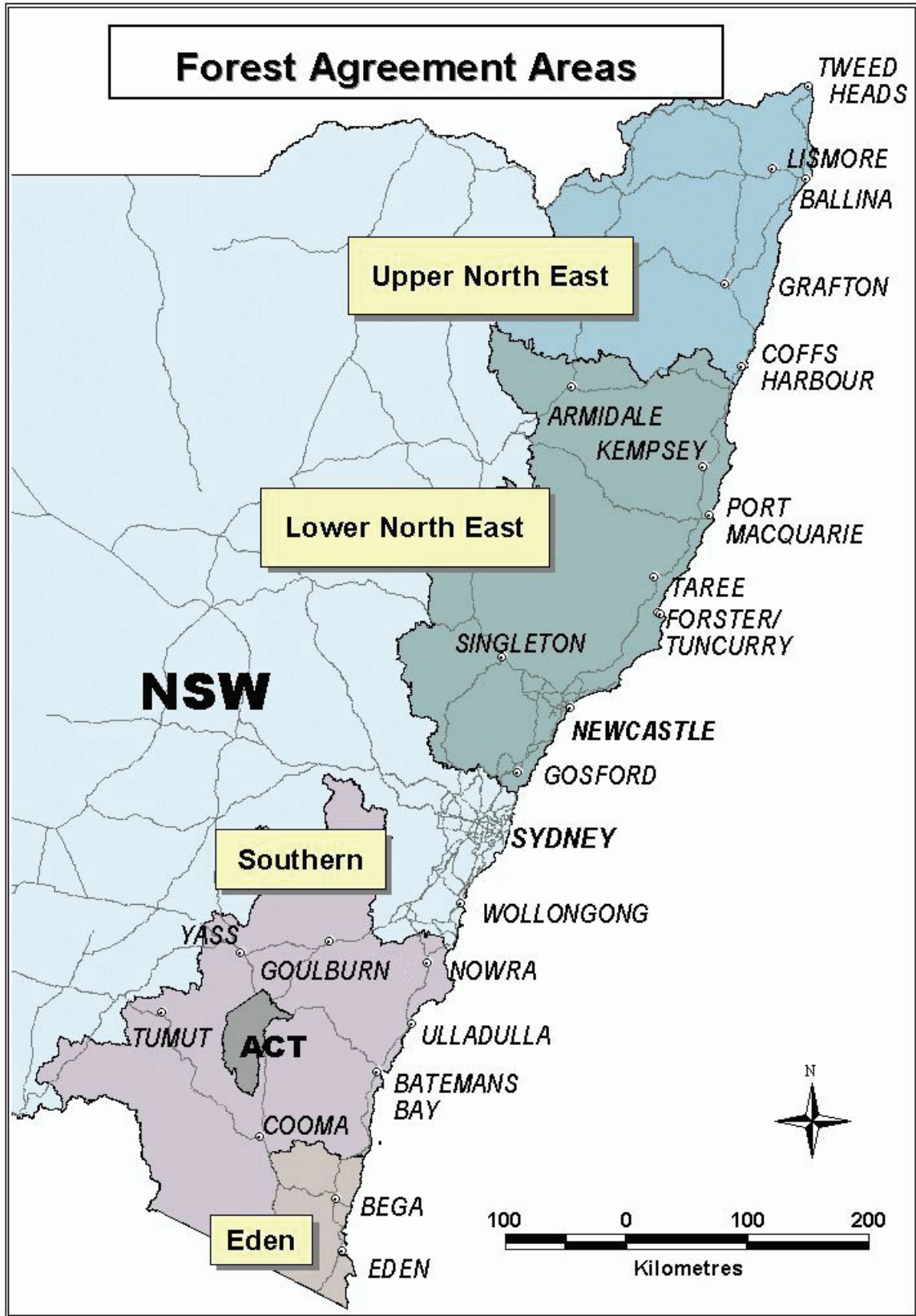
**taxa** – Categories in the biological classification system for all living organisms. Taxa (singular: taxon) are used to organise information about the natural world.

**tenure** – Title to land as controlled by legislation.

**threatened species** – Any species of plant or animal listed under Schedule 1 Part 1 (endangered species), Schedule 1 Part 4 (presumed extinct) and Schedule 2 (vulnerable species) of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or Part 7A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

**threatening process** – A process that threatens, or may have the capability to threaten, the survival or evolutionary development of species, populations or ecological communities.

Map 1A: NSW Forest Agreement Regions





# i Introduction

This is the eighth annual report on the implementation of the NSW forest agreements and integrated forestry operations approvals (IFOAs). It gives details of the progress of the forest agreements and IFOAs applying to the Upper North East (UNE), Lower North East (LNE), Eden and Southern regions. The report is a requirement under section 21 of the *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*.

The forest agreements and IFOAs provide a strategic and operational framework for achieving ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM). ESFM is a key objective of the NSW Government's forest policy. Progress towards ESFM is achieved partly by regular reporting on the:

- achievement of milestones as defined in the NSW forest agreements
- results of monitoring of the ESFM criteria and indicators
- compliance of harvesting activities on State forests and other Crown timber lands with the IFOAs.

The ongoing implementation of the agreements and approvals was a cooperative undertaking between various sections of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) (including the PWG<sup>1</sup> and the former Environment Protection Authority (EPA)<sup>2</sup>), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Fisheries and Forests NSW, and the former Department of Natural Resources (DNR)<sup>3</sup>. Under the NSW Forest Agreements, DECC and DPI now manage public forests in the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions, and their collective work in 2006–2007 produced significant advances in these roles.

## Departmental structural changes

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The **Department of Environment and Climate Change** (DECC) was formed on 27 April 2007 to enable a more integrated response to the unprecedented challenges presented by climate change. The name DECC is used in this report rather than the former name, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Broadly, DECC:

- works towards a healthy environment cared for and enjoyed by the whole NSW community
- manages the State's natural resources, including biodiversity, soils and natural vegetation
- manages natural and cultural heritage across the State's land and waters
- acts to minimise the impacts of climate change
- promotes sustainable consumption, resource use and waste management

<sup>1</sup> PWG encompasses the National Parks and Wildlife Service

<sup>2</sup> The Environment Protection and Regulation Division (EPRG) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change encompasses the Environment Protection Authority.

<sup>3</sup> References to agencies are as they were known at 30 June 2007.

- regulates activities to protect the environment
- conducts biodiversity, plant, environmental and cultural heritage research to improve decision-making.

On 27 April 2007 a new **Department of Water and Energy** (DWE) was created, combining divisions of the former Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the former Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS). DECC took on some functions previously managed by DNR. Management of Western Lands was transferred from DNR to the **Department of Lands**.

Also on 27 April 2007, the Resource and Conservation Unit of the Premier's Department, which oversees annual implementation reporting, was transferred to DECC.

## Report structure

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Progress on the implementation of the NSW forest agreements and IFOAs is presented in three parts:

**Chapter 1** outlines some of the significant achievements that occurred during 2006–2007. The information includes specific milestones required by the agreements, as well as other activities that are part of broader government initiatives to assist sustainable management of forests in New South Wales. Specific details on the progress of individual milestones, as defined in the agreements, are provided in **Appendix 1**.

Additional background information is contained in **Appendixes 2 to 5**, whereas **Appendix 6** summarises the progress of undertakings in the IFOAs that required documents, information or data to be produced.

**Chapter 2** summarises the results of monitoring of the ESFM criteria and indicators. It presents key outcomes and identifiable trends. Comparisons with other years are presented. However, any reported trends are indicative only and are not meant to replace detailed and or statistical interpretation.

**Chapter 3** summarises compliance by Forests NSW with the terms and conditions of the IFOAs for each region. Regulatory agencies report on the results of auditing the terms of licences. Forests NSW reports on its internal compliance monitoring and achievement of non-licence requirements under the IFOAs.

## Conclusion

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This report involves input from the agencies involved in the implementation of the agreements and approvals. As the process shows, there has been a sustained and adaptable approach toward the achievement of ESFM. NSW forest agreements and approvals continue to provide a framework for this.



# 1 Milestone highlights

This chapter briefly outlines some of the significant achievements that occurred during 2006–2007. Specific details on the progress of individual milestones, as defined in the agreements, are provided in **Appendix 1 – Individual milestone progress**.

## Conservation reserve management and additions

DECC continued to prepare plans of management for dedicated reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Of the 377 DECC reserves in the UNE and LNE regions, 147 had plans of management adopted by the NSW Minister for the Environment (by June 2007). A further 55 draft plans had been publicly exhibited and another 64 were in preparation (11 of these in draft form).

DECC acquired new additions to the reserve system, under the 2006 and 2007 Acquisition Program, funded from Treasury capital allocations and grants from the Environmental Trust. For example, land was purchased for addition to Myall Lakes and Jervis Bay national parks. The Myall Lakes purchase (4 ha) consolidates protection of the lake foreshore. The Jervis Bay land (226 ha) was core habitat for the endangered bristlebird, and protected heathland on the higher slopes.

DECC exhibited the draft Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan in late 2006. It proposed including more than 32 000 ha of land in NSW reserves, and set out the area's nature conservation priorities for the next 25 years. The Government implemented Stage 1 of the plan by transferring approximately 20 000 ha of Government land into reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, effective from 1 July 2007. New conservation corridors to link reserves were also created.

In early 2007, two new wilderness areas covering 20 600 ha were declared: the 11 700-ha Mummel Gulf wilderness (west of Wauchope) and the 8900-ha Ettrema (northern addition) wilderness area (south of Moss Vale).

## Forests NSW certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708 (INT) – 2003

In December 2006, Forests NSW gained forest certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708 (Int) – 2003.

This important scheme helps users and consumers of timber products to choose stock from sources that have been independently certified as being derived from legal and sustainably managed forests. The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) has global recognition. It is the leading management standard of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS), which is used to certify large areas of native forest and plantations across Australia.

As part of ensuring that the consumer has confidence in the scheme, AFCS also includes a Chain of Custody Standard to track forest and wood products through the supply chain and thus help consumers to find out whether the wood from forests they purchase is managed to high standards.

## Private native forestry

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Private native forestry is the sustainable logging of native vegetation on private property. Approximately 20% of private native forestry activities require consent under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*, whereas the remaining 80% of activities operate under an exemption to the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. The areas that require consent are generally those on State Protected Land – specifically, mapped areas of steep land (generally over 18 degrees), mapped environmentally sensitive land, and riparian land along prescribed streams.

A draft Code of Practice was developed to ensure that forest operations will improve or maintain environmental outcomes, and to encourage sustainable management of forests. The draft was publicly exhibited in July–August 2006, with approximately 1700 submissions received. Following public exhibition of the Code, the Government referred it to the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) to seek agreement among stakeholders on issues of contention. The NRAC provided a report to the Government in February 2007. The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice came into effect on 1 August 2007. With the introduction of the new Code, all harvesting of native timber for the purposes of private native forestry will require approval through a property vegetation plan, existing consent under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* or the *Soil Conservation Act 1938*, or consent under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

## Forestry regulation on public land<sup>4</sup>

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DECC regulates forestry on public land in NSW to protect threatened species and water quality from forestry operations. The regulation is provided through Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) for each Forest Agreement region, and it is implemented through the setting of best practice conditions within licences issued under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

During 2006–2007, DECC licensed, or set approval conditions for, forestry operations in the UNE, LNE, Southern, and Eden regions. In 2006–2007, DECC issued a number of warning letters to Forests NSW and requested that it undertake remediation action. The range of non-compliances included not retaining adequate hollow-bearing and recruitment trees; incorrect marking of, and incursions into, harvesting exclusion zones; not draining forest roads on the approaches to stream crossings; exceeding the required distances between drainage structures on roads and snig tracks; and not retaining streamside filter strips. Detail on license enforcement findings in 2006–2007 are given in Chapter 3.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: DECC Annual Report: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/whoweare/deccar07235ch4pt1.pdf>

Significant achievements in forest regulation by DECC in 2006–2007 included:

- progress being made on the 5-year review of the IFOAs, with agreement reached on measures to improve protection of threatened woodland bird species and drainage lines and to develop a long-term monitoring program for threatened bat species
- jointly developing a species management plan for the threatened southern brown bandicoot in the Eden IFOA region with Forests NSW
- drafting a revised audit and enforcement strategy, and refining procedures
- developing a framework and trial audits for auditing compliance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* in relation to Aboriginal sites and objects in State forests.

### **Significant achievements for co-management made with Aboriginal communities in 2006–2007**

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In February 2007, the Government finalised an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Githabul native title claimants in northern NSW. The ILUA establishes a co-management arrangement covering approximately 1199 km<sup>2</sup> located north of the townships of Casino and Tenterfield south of the Queensland – New South Wales State border; this is the largest area ever included in an ILUA in NSW. The purpose of the ILUA is to settle the New South Wales section of the Githabul People's native title claim over 112 000 ha of national parks and State forests. It is to be registered in August 2007.

The parties to the ILUA consent to the co-management of 10 national parks and 13 State forests within the ILUA area, as well as to the freehold transfer of 102 ha of land to the Githabul Nation Aboriginal Corporation. The ILUA also provides for employment opportunities.

The Government and the Githabul people will seek consent determination orders from the Federal Court that the claimants hold native title rights over those parks and other public lands, to enable the Githabul people to practise their traditional laws and customs, including the right to access and camp in the areas and to hunt, fish and gather plants for personal use. This is the first time that such a determination of native title has been sought.

In Eden region, nine projects involving Aboriginal communities are in progress or have been completed:

- (i) mapping of Aboriginal Pathways on the Far South Coast
- (ii) Bega Oral History Stage 3, combining historical and oral history into one document
- (iii) Bega Oral History Stage 4, presentation of information gathered in Stage 3 (commenced)
- (iv) Eurobodalla Stage 1 Aboriginal History, an annotated bibliography of cultural heritage research
- (v) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 2, Aboriginal History of Eurobodalla, completed
- (vi) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 3, Understanding and Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, completed
- (vii) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 4, Mapping and Access Protocols for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information, commenced
- (viii) completion of the project 'Indigenous links to the Potoroo' by the Southern Region Catchment Management Authority

- (ix) commencement of a new project, 'Indigenous links to the Koala in the Far South Coast region' by DECC in conjunction with Forests NSW and the Southern Region Catchment Management Authority.

## **State Plan and MER**

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The State Plan, 'A New Direction for NSW', was released in November 2006. The Plan includes 34 priorities and 60 targets designed to deliver better services and improve accountability across the public sector. It identifies priorities for Government action that will help achieve each of these goals over the next 10 years.

The NSW Government adopted the NSW Natural Resources Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy (MER Strategy) in 2006 to improve the monitoring of progress towards the 13 state-wide targets adopted under State Plan Priority E4: Better environmental outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways. DECC is leading the implementation of the MER Strategy in partnership with catchment management authorities (CMAs), DPI (Forests NSW) and other agencies.

## **Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme**

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The *Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Act 2006* commenced in December 2006 to amend the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* in order to establish a biodiversity banking and offsets scheme.

BioBanking allows 'biodiversity credits' to be generated by landowners who commit to enhance and protect biodiversity values on their land. These credits can then be sold. Developers can buy these credits and use them to counterbalance (offset) the impacts on biodiversity values that are likely to occur as a result of development.

## **Action on recovery – NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement**

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A Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS) was developed. It outlines strategies to promote the recovery of each threatened species, population and ecological community and to manage key threatening processes.

The PAS offers guidance on species recovery and provides a priority list of actions for government and non-government organisations that have the resources to contribute to the recovery effort. It also identifies which recovery and threat abatement plans DECC will prepare over the next 3 years to 2010.

Since the draft was published, DECC has updated the PAS. There are now more species covered by the PAS as well as actions for their recovery. DECC has also included new recovery strategies for

some species and refined existing PAS actions for others. A process for prioritising species and identifying actions to be implemented over the next 3 years has also been developed.

## Catchment Action Plans

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Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) are developed under the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*. The CAPs build on the planning and activities undertaken in Catchment Blueprints, Regional Vegetation Management Plans and Water Sharing Plans. CAPs set the direction over 10 years for investment in natural resource management. They outline catchment and management targets to improve natural assets such as native vegetation, water, cultural heritage, soil and biodiversity, and they address issues such as salinity and promote the value of people and communities. As at 30 June 2007, eight catchment action plans had been finalised in NSW.

## Environmental Management System for park management

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The concept of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for park management is being delivered through the Park Management Program (PMP). The program is intended to cover all areas of PWG operations on park. The program will define DECC's values and objectives for park management and will integrate park policy, planning, operations, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and feedback. It provides the tools to make better decisions and will also improve coordination across DECC to make it easier for staff to access information to guide park management decisions and allow adaptive management. The program is helping to improve the way DECC goes about its park management by:

- providing clear, consistent management objectives and operational procedures
- introducing an integrated system to achieve consistent standards in our park management and improve our ability to demonstrate and report on performance
- providing a mechanism that improves the coordination of information across DECC to make it easier for staff to access information to guide park management.

The PMP will involve systems that allow for improved coordination across DECC and make it easier for staff to access information to guide park management. These systems will promote a consistent whole-of-state approach to park management and provide for the transfer of good ideas for improvement in the management of parks across DECC PWG's branches and regions. The PMP will link and build on existing DECC processes and achievements. Both new and existing initiatives will be included, such as the:

- State of the Parks program
- Asset Maintenance System
- Park Management Policy Manual
- Park Facilities Manual
- Park Operation Procedures Manual
- Fire Management Manual
- Levels of Service.

Additionally it will include park planning processes at a range of scales (including Branch Visitation Management Plans and Plans of Management).

The PMP is a highly detailed and multi-faceted program encompassing all work areas of the DECC PWG as well as many interactions with other sections of DECC. In 2006 a Steering Committee was established to develop and implement the Park Management Program Framework – a strategy for integrating the various components. This group has overseen the finalisation and rollout of a number of components since their formation. Work on the PMP, and its components, is ongoing.

## **State of Parks (SoP) data**

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The PWG of DECC has developed a system to report on the values within the whole NSW park system, their condition, and the threats to them. The State of the Parks (SoP) qualitative survey is a system that has been designed to collect broad information on every park in NSW. The assessment is undertaken on a 3-year cycle.

The qualitative SoP survey is undertaken by park staff and is based on a range of information, including staff experience, research, planning documents, specialist opinion, community opinion and corporate databases. A process of crosschecking by local and senior managers ensures accuracy and consistency in responses.

Data from the SoP were first used in the 2005–2006 report to meet PWG's ESFM reporting obligations under the NSW Forest Agreements for the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions of NSW. To further the alignment between the SoP and ESFM reporting processes, the PWG has again incorporated data from the latest (2007) SoP qualitative assessment report in the current ESFM report.

## **Environmental Management System for management of State forests**

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Forests NSW obtained external accreditation to ISO 14001:2004 in June 2006 for its corporate-wide EMS. During the reporting period significant improvements to the EMS were undertaken, including the review of the Forests NSW environmental policy.

## **Decade of public sustainability reporting**

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This year (2006–2007) marks the 10th year of sustainability reporting for Forests NSW. The Social, Environmental and Economic (SEEing) Report (Forests NSW 2007b) has evolved over this period to be recognised as a world leader in sustainability reporting in the forest industry. Forests NSW's sustainability performance across a range of social, environmental, economic and sustainability areas is the subject of the SEEing report. The SEEing Report is complemented by the Forests NSW Annual Report (Forests NSW 2007a) and the NSW DPI Science & Research and Forests NSW Research & Development Annual Report (both available from Corporate Publications at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications>).

# 2 Monitoring ecologically sustainable forest management – criteria and indicators

## Introduction

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This chapter provides a brief summary of the results of monitoring of the ESFM criteria and indicators for the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions for 2006–2007. The monitoring of the indicators is an ongoing process and an evolving one. With a whole-of-government review of the ESFM criteria and indicators likely to commence in the near future, and the continuation of other reporting streams at both corporate and national levels, there is a strong need to align all monitoring and reporting to make best use of resources and improve the accuracy and usefulness of the information provided.

### Achieving ecologically sustainable forest management

The NSW forest agreements and IFOAs set out the strategic and operational frameworks for the management of public forests in New South Wales. A key objective of the agreements and approvals is the achievement of ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM). As a means to measure progress towards this objective, a set of criteria and indicators are applied to each region: the ESFM criteria and indicators.

Monitoring and reporting of these ESFM indicators commenced in 1999–2000 for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions (ESFM Technical Committee 1999a, 1999b) and in 2002–2003 for the Southern region (ESFM Technical Committee 2000) following the implementation of the forest agreements for each region.

Since the inception of the ESFM criteria and indicators, a number of other State, national and corporate monitoring and reporting processes have evolved significantly. These include State of the Parks reporting and Forests NSW SEEing reporting. In 2006–2007, where possible, there has been a concerted effort to streamline ESFM criteria and indicator reporting with other monitoring processes.

Further changes in agency data provision have continued this year. DECC (PWG) are moving to align ESFM criteria and indicators monitoring requirements with their own corporate State of the Parks program where possible. This realignment will improve the longer-term monitoring of indicators and, in some cases, data have become more specific to the requirements of the indicator.

### Monitoring obligations

This chapter summarises the results of monitoring for the ESFM criteria and indicators for the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions during 2006–2007. The ESFM indicators are those described in

Table 1 and Attachment 9 of the UNE, LNE and Eden regions forest agreements and in Table 2 and Attachment 7 of the forest agreement for the Southern Region.

## Using indicators to assess achievement of ESFM

The NSW Government's ESFM system translates the internationally accepted Montreal Process criteria for environmental protection of native forest ecosystems into day-to-day forest management. It is recognised as international best practice.

The ESFM criteria and indicators allow sustainability to be defined and measured. The system contains information about long-term management objectives for conservation, recreation and timber production in New South Wales. This report sets out achievements against those objectives.

The ESFM indicators have been based largely on the original Montreal Process Implementation Group (MIG) set of sub-national indicators (MIG 1998)<sup>5,6</sup>. These sub-national indicators were developed at a national scale as a result of the Montreal Process. Sub-national indicators are reported as part of the Australian Government's State of the Forests reporting every 5 years.

## State of Parks (SoP) Data

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### Data and interpretation

The data presented in this report are for all parks within the NSW Forest Agreement (FA) regions. The term 'park' is used in this report to refer to all areas of National Park (NP), Nature Reserve (NR), State Conservation Area (SCA), Regional Park (RP), Aboriginal Area, Historic Site and Karst Conservation Reserve (KCR) managed by the PWG of DECC.

Table 2A: Total number of parks in each NSW Forest Agreement (FA) region by SoP reporting period

State of Parks Assessment	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
2004–2005	154	194	19	127	494
2006–2007	161	219	21	140	541

Table 2A shows the total numbers of parks in each region in the 2005 and 2007 qualitative assessments. Data from these parks are used in the calculations throughout this report. It should be noted that, in the 2005 reporting period, the total number of parks for the Southern region included five separate management areas for Kosciuszko NP (Snowy River, Alpine, Alpine Resort Zone, South West Slopes and Upper Murray). In 2007, Kosciuszko NP was divided into six separate management areas. In the two reporting periods each of these management areas has been counted separately. In

<sup>5</sup> Defined in *A Framework of Regional (Sub-national) Level Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Australia* (Commonwealth, 1998).

<sup>6</sup> MIG – indicators beginning with the prefix 'MIG' are based on the MIG set of regional (sub-national) indicators



addition, 12 parks are counted twice as they fall into two different regions. Parks that fall partly within a region are included (e.g. Blue Mountains NP).

For some parks the assessment criteria have not been answered, either because there has been insufficient information available or because the issue has not been considered relevant for the particular park (e.g. threatened taxa have not been identified in all parks, so management of this issue is not required and questions relating to management of threatened taxa did not require a response in the SoP survey).

## Criterion 1 – Biodiversity

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MIG Indicator 1.1.a:	Extent of area by forest type and tenure (UNE, LNE, Southern regions)
Indicator 1.1:	Extent of forest ecosystem types and vegetation types by growth stage (Eden region)
Sub-indicator 1.1.a.1:	Understorey vegetation layer (Southern region)
MIG indicator 1.1.b:	Area of forest type by growth stage distribution by tenure (UNE, LNE, Southern regions)
Indicator 1.1:	Extent of forest ecosystem types and vegetation types by growth stage (Eden region)

### Forest type and growth stage

***Additions to the DECC estate resulted in increases to the extent of some forest ecosystems and most growth stage categories. The extent of growth stage categories within State forests remains relatively stable.***

#### Area of forest by forest type and tenure

This indicator uses the area of each forest type over time as a broad measure of the maintenance of forest ecosystems and their diversity. Reporting on forest tenure helps us to understand how different land management administrations can affect forest biodiversity<sup>7</sup>. Changes in the extent of forest ecosystem types are measured against modelled forest type extents that are listed in the RFAs<sup>8</sup>.

#### Change within the DECC estate

Changes in the extent of forest ecosystem types are measured against modelled forest type extents listed in the RFAs.

New gazettals led to increases in the area of forest ecosystems in all regions during 2006–2007<sup>9</sup>.

Table 2-1A shows the changes in area (ha) of growth stage categories within the DECC estate for the UNE and LNE regions.

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<sup>7</sup> Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, [http://www.daffa.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0004/451642/crit-indicators.doc](http://www.daffa.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0004/451642/crit-indicators.doc)

<sup>8</sup> Modelled pre-1750 extent of forest types are contained in Tables 1A and 1B, Attachment 1 of the North East RFA; Table 1, Attachment 1 of the Eden RFA; and Table 1, Attachment 1 of the Southern RFA.

<sup>9</sup> The formal process by which land becomes part of the NSW parks system, whereby notices are published in the NSW Government Gazette.

Table 2-1A: Changes in area (ha) of growth stage categories within the DECC estate – UNE and LNE regions (2006–2007)

Eucalypt forest growth stage	Total change since last reporting period (ha)	
	UNE region	LNE region
Rainforest	+84	+267
Mature forest	+21	+318
Disturbed mature forest	+997	+15
Young forest	+178	+163
Recently disturbed forest	0	0
Not growth staged	+202	+5 971
<b>Total</b>	<b>+1 482</b>	<b>+6 734</b>

Source: PWG

For the UNE region during 2006–2007, there was an increase in the extent of 64 of the 163 measured forest ecosystems, by a total area of 6671 ha across six new reserves and eight existing reserves. For 48 of these 64 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of candidate old growth (COG) forest in the parks system of 3947 ha. For 34 of the 64 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of disturbed old growth (DOG) forest in the parks system by 1242 ha (Table 2-1B). Around three-quarters (77%) of these additions are therefore classified as old-growth forest in some form, containing significant areas of habitat for those species dependent on old growth elements.

The area of threatened forest ecosystems given formal protection within the reserve system also increased, with the gazettal of additions in UNE in 2006–2007. This included an increase in the reserved area of one endangered forest ecosystem, Rainforest, which increased by an area of 84 ha. The reserved area of several vulnerable forest ecosystems also increased, including 1 ha of Heath and 8 ha of Coastal Mallee. The reserved areas of rare forest ecosystems also increased, including a 154-ha increase in the Banksia forest ecosystem.

Several endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna species were recorded in the reserve additions in the UNE. A full list of threatened species recorded in the newly reserved areas is provided in Appendix 3.

Additions to Cataract NP in UNE in 2006–2007 increased the size of the reserve from 1471 ha to 3373 ha. This addition enhanced the management of the reserve and improved the protection of

Table 2-1B: Change in area (ha) of old-growth-stage categories within the DECC estate – UNE and LNE regions (2006–2007)

Eucalypt forest old growth stage	Total change since last reporting period (ha)	
	UNE region	LNE region
Candidate old-growth forest (COG)*	+3 947	+2 267
Disturbed old-growth forest (DOG)	+1 242	+66
<b>Total</b>	<b>+5 189</b>	<b>+2 333</b>

\* Includes any HCVOG

Source: PWG

vegetation communities that are under-represented in the reserve system. Around 1418 ha of the addition is identified as wilderness under the provisions of the *Wilderness Act 1987*.

A new nature reserve, Duroby NR, was gazetted in UNE in 2006–2007. This reserve is 31.34 ha in area. The addition of Duroby NR to the reserve system formally protects around 27 ha of the endangered Rainforest forest ecosystem, small areas of the vulnerable Wet Bangalow – Brushbox forest ecosystem, and the severely depleted Wet Flooded Gum – Tallowwood forest ecosystem. The latter is a priority for private land protection within UNE.

In the LNE region during 2006–2007 there was an increase in the extent of 113 of the 200 forest ecosystems by a total area of 2333 ha across five new reserves and 13 existing reserves.

For 43 of the 113 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of COG forest in the reserve system by 2267 ha. For another 12 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of DOG forest in the reserve system by 66 ha. A quarter (25%) of these additions is classified as some form of old-growth forest, containing significant areas of habitat for those species dependent on old growth elements.

The area of threatened forest ecosystems given formal protection within the reserve system also increased with the gazettal of additions in 2006–2007. In particular, significant areas of rare forest ecosystems were added, including 309 ha of Peppermint – Silvertop Ash – Stringybark, 267 ha of Rainforest, 45 ha of Dry Redgum – Bloodwood – Apple, 21 ha of Mangrove, and 1 ha of River Oak. Increases in the reserved areas of vulnerable forest ecosystems included 157 ha of Open Ribbon Gum, 105 ha of Dry Grassy Stringybark, 104 ha of Red Gum and 96 ha of Apple Corkwood – Crabapple and Mixed Stringybarks. The reserved area of one endangered forest ecosystem, the Peppermint – Mountain/Manna Gum ecosystem, increased by 3 ha.

Several endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna species were recorded in the additions in LNE. A list of threatened species recorded in the newly reserved areas is provided in Appendix 4.

The addition of 1871 ha to Mummel Gulf NP in LNE in 2006–2007 has increased the protection of 82 ha of Rainforest, 310 ha of COG and 992 ha of DOG, as well as of several forest ecosystems, including the rare Open Silvertop Stringybark – Blue Gum ecosystem and the vulnerable Dry Grassy Stringybark and Open Ribbon Gum ecosystems. Gazettal of this land also conserves habitat for threatened flora and fauna species, including a number of vulnerable species: koala, parma wallaby, powerful owl and glossy black-cockatoo.

The gazettal of 2589 ha to Curracabundi NP has linked two formerly disjunct parks: Monkeycot NR and Woko NP. This addition incorporates 82 ha of Rainforest, 809 ha of COG and 1035 ha of DOG. Under-represented forest ecosystems occurring within this addition include Dry Grassy Tallowwood – Grey Gum, Escarpment Redgum and Stringybark–Apple. Gazettal of this land conserves many threatened flora and fauna species. There are several threatened fauna records from this area, including for vulnerable species (parma wallaby, spotted-tailed quoll and glossy black-cockatoo). Gazettal of the additions has also improved the management of biodiversity in this area.

As noted in previous annual reports, high-conservation-value old-growth forest (HCVOG) is not reported separately because of Government decisions in 2002 to require the same level of protection for both HCVOG and COG. As a result of this decision these categories are reported in combination rather than individually.

There were additions to the 'not growth staged' category in both the UNE and LNE regions (Table 2-1A) due to additions to the reserve system that contain forests that does not require growth staging, such as mangrove, swamp, scrub, paperbark and swamp oak.

Changes to forest type, structure, or growth stage resulting from fire were not recorded.

There were increases in the area of forest ecosystems by growth stage distribution within the reserve system in the Southern region during 2006–2007 as a result of the gazettal of new land into the reserve system. Table 2-1C lists changes in area of growth stages and old-growth-stages within the DECC estate in the Southern region.

During this reporting period, there was an increase of 6480 ha in the extent of 32 forest ecosystems in the Southern region. In addition, for 29 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the percentage of COG in the reserve system. Significant areas of old-growth forest were added to reserves such as Burrinjuck and Dandelong NRs and Morton and Woomargama NPs.

Table 2-1C: Change in area (ha) of growth stage and old-growth-stage categories within the DECC estate – Southern region (2006–2007)

<b>Eucalypt forest growth stage</b>	<b>Southern region</b>
Candidate old-growth forest	2 480.87
Disturbed old-growth forest	2 339.38
Disturbed mature forest	511.99
Mature forest	317.34
No old growth category	424.12
Rainforest	9.6
Recently disturbed forest	0
Unknown successional stage	0
Young forest	396.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 480.38</b>

Source: PWG

There were no additions to the reserve system in the Eden region in the 2006–2007 year.

## Forest type and growth stage change within State forests

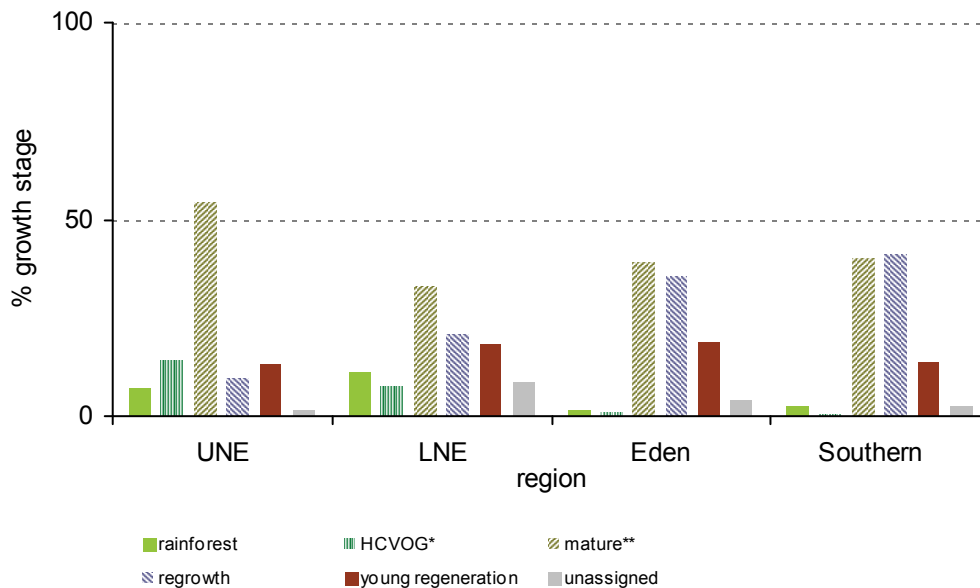
As stated in earlier annual reports, the size of the State forest estate has decreased since 1999–2000 because of various land transfers, principally those facilitated by the *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002*, *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003* and *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2005*. The distribution of growth stages has remained relatively stable during this period.

There was little change in growth stage extent within State forests in the UNE, LNE and Eden regions between 2005–2006 and 2006–2007. Minor changes in the percentage distribution of growth stages by region were recorded, and these may have been due to the decrease in estate size and to harvesting activities.

The largest growth stage extent in State forests continued to be mature forest, followed by regrowth forest and young regeneration (Figure 2-1A).

A large area (9% or 41 000 ha) continued to be ‘unassigned’ in the LNE. This reflects the fact that no information had been collected about the forest structure layer in the unassigned area and Forests NSW has not been able to enter information into the geographic information system (GIS) structure layer.

Figure 2-1A: Growth stage extent in State forests – all regions (2006–2007)



Source: Forests NSW data

\* high-conservation-value old growth

\*\* Mature forest includes mature and candidate old growth; regrowth forest includes young forest; young regeneration includes recently disturbed forest; ‘unassigned’ includes no growth stage assigned.

## Fragmentation

MIG Indicator 1.1.e: Fragmentation of forest types (UNE, LNE, Southern regions)  
Indicator 1.2: Extent of connectivity in the forest landscape in relation to threatened species, habitat, general retained habitat on private land and conservation reserves (Eden region)

***The Great Eastern Ranges (Alps to Atherton) Initiative (GERI) was a major step to help connect ecosystems already reserved within the parks system and other retained habitat on private and public land along more than 2800 km of the great eastern ranges of Australia.***

### Data and interpretation

No new data are available for Forests NSW this reporting period because fragmentation is not a feature of the landscape that Forests NSW (and PWG) has been able to accurately map and quantify.

For DECC, although techniques are available to measure connectivity and fragmentation across the landscape, the necessary uniform forest type mapping does not exist for NSW. PWG reports that it is unable to analyse fragmentation within and between parks and other retained habitats across all of the regions. Notwithstanding this, the addition of lands in critical landscape corridors and areas that are important for effectively and efficiently managing existing DECC public reserves is a priority for the reserve system. Additions to the formal reserve system outlined for the previous indicator include areas meeting these criteria.

The Great Eastern Ranges (Alps to Atherton) Initiative (GERI) was launched in 2007. This is a major initiative to address the connectivity of ecosystems, including forest ecosystems. The project aims to increase connections between ecosystems already reserved within the parks system and other retained habitat on private and public land, along more than 2800 km of the great eastern ranges of Australia from Walhalla in Victoria to Atherton in Far North Queensland. The initiative is a strategic response to climate change and other threats. More details and updates on this initiative can be found at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/a2a/alpstoathertonbackground.htm>.

## Forest-dwelling species

MIG indicator 1.2.a: A list of forest-dwelling species (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)  
Indicator 1.3.b: List of representative species by abundance. Representative sample to include threatened species, key functional groups and indicator species (Eden region)

***No outcomes specific to this indicator are reported.***

### Data and interpretation

Data were provided in the 2003–2004 reporting year on the number of forest-dwelling species recorded on the DECC estate in each of the regions. No new data are available from Forests NSW and PWG on this indicator for this reporting period. PWG considers that species records in the Atlas of NSW Wildlife are likely to reflect research efforts rather than true changes in the range of species occurring on PWG-managed lands. Significant increases in the number of forest-dwelling species within a region for a given year are often due to the contribution of large data sets, which can often have records dating back over many years.

## Threatened species, populations and ecological communities

MIG Indicator 1.2.b: The status (threatened, rare, vulnerable, endangered or extinct) of forest-dwelling species at risk of not maintaining viable breeding populations, as determined by legislation or scientific assessment (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)  
Sub-indicator 1.2.b.1: The status of endangered populations and ecosystems as determined by legislation or scientific assessment (UNE, LNE, Southern regions)

***Additional forest-dwelling species, populations and ecosystems have been listed on the schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act this year. However, this does not necessarily mean there has been a decrease in the status of forest-dwelling species.***

### DECC estate

In NSW, the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) is the main piece of legislation that provides for the protection of endangered, vulnerable or presumed extinct flora and fauna species, populations and ecosystems. Flora and fauna species may be listed for protection under Schedules 1 (endangered species, populations and ecological communities) and 2 (vulnerable species) of the Act. Determinations for listings are made by the NSW Scientific Committee<sup>10</sup>, and details of these determinations can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/committee/ListOfScientificCommitteeDeterminations.htm>.

Schedules of the *TSC Act* apply across all tenures and are maintained by the NSW Scientific Committee.

This measure does not necessarily reflect the true rate at which species are becoming threatened. Nor does it identify whether the condition of species already listed as threatened is improving or worsening. The rate at which species are listed on the schedules under the TSC Act can also reflect:

- the state of knowledge about species, populations and ecological communities
- changes to the Scientific Committee process in processing proposals for listing
- changes to the *TSC Act* regarding what can be listed
- changing awareness among the general community regarding the listing process.

### Listing of forest-dwelling species

The information below provides details on the data (specifically in relation to the additions or deletions) that are presented in Table 2-1D.

There were no reclassifications during 2006–2007 for vertebrate fauna or for flora.

In the UNE region, there was one new listing for vascular plants during the 2006–2007 reporting period. The new listing was for *Bertya* sp. (Chambigne NR, M. Fatemi 24) in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act.

In the LNE region, there was also one new listing for vascular plants during 2006–2007. The new listing was for *Caladenia porphyrea* D.L. Jones in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act.

<sup>10</sup> An independent committee of scientists appointed by the Minister for the Environment.

In the Southern region, there were two new listings for vascular plants during 2006–2007. The new listings were for *Pimelea axiflora* F. Muell. ex Meissner subsp. pubescens Rye under Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Act and *Pomaderris walshii* J.C. Millott & K.L. McDougall under Part 1 of Schedule 1A of the *TSC Act*.

In the Eden region, there was one new listing of a vascular plant during 2006–2007. The new listing was for *Astrotricha* sp. Wallagaraugh (R.O. Makinson 1228) Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the *TSC Act*.

Table 2-1D: Status of forest-dwelling species – all regions (2006–2007)

Region	Schedule 1 endangered		Schedule 2 vulnerable	
	Listed before 2006–2007	Listed during 2006–2007	Listed before 2006–2007	Listed during 2006–2007
<i>UNE region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	18	0	92	0
Invertebrate fauna	3	0	0	0
Vascular plants	84	1	56	0
<b>Total listed</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>LNE region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	12	0	80	0
Invertebrate fauna	1	0	0	0
Vascular plants	45	1	71	0
<b>Total listed</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Eden region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	11	0	40	0
Invertebrate fauna	1	0	0	0
Vascular plants	23	1	16	0
<b>Total listed</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Southern region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	19	0	58	0
Invertebrate fauna	0	0	0	0
Vascular plants	27	2	29	0
<b>Total listed</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: PWG



### Listing of endangered populations and ecological communities

In 2006–2007 an additional three endangered populations and one endangered ecological community were listed under Schedule 1 of the *TSC Act* (Table 2-1E). The newly listed populations are all located within the LNE region. They are:

- the orchid *Diuris tricolor* Fitzg. (the pine donkey orchid) in the Muswellbrook local government area
- *Leionema lamprophyllum* (F. Muell.) Paul G. Wilson subsp. *obovatum* F.M. Anderson in the Hunter Catchment
- a population of the underground orchid *Rhizanthella slateri* (Rupp) M.A. Clem. & Cribb in the Great Lakes local government area
- the newly listed endangered ecological community of Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregions.

Table 2-1E: Status of endangered populations and endangered ecological communities – all regions (2006–2007)

All regions	Schedule 1	
	Listed before 06/07	Listed during 06/07
Endangered population	10	3
Endangered ecological community	44	1
<b>Total listed</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: PWG

### Threatened species surveys in State forests

Trained Forests NSW staff undertake surveys for flora and fauna during the planning phase of forestry operations. Threatened species surveys are required for current licensing conditions under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*<sup>11</sup>. Threatened species surveys focus mainly on locating target species. However, as part of the survey process, Forests NSW ecologists and suitably trained staff record most fauna and flora species detected. If threatened species are detected during surveys, Forests NSW applies protective measures as per requirements in the IFOA.

In 2006–2007, Forests NSW conducted 940 pre-harvest flora and fauna surveys of State forest in the UNE and LNE regions. Data were not available on the number of pre-harvest surveys undertaken in Southern and Eden in 2006–2007. However, the number of individuals recorded in 2006–2007 has increased compared with that in 2005–2006. Surveys across all regions resulted in a total of 5316 individual sightings of threatened flora and fauna species (Figure 2-1B).

<sup>11</sup> i.e. the Threatened Species Licence contained in the IFOA for each region.

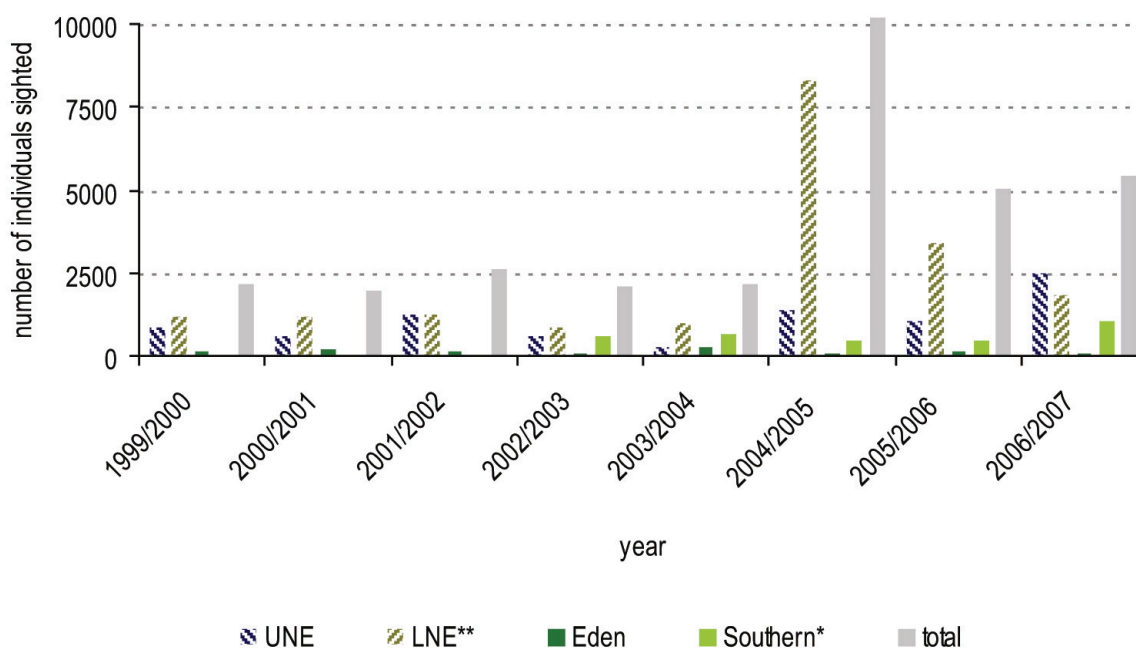
Examples of findings for 2006–2007 were as follows.

In the UNE, 2461 threatened species were recorded, including 186 sightings of *Petauroides volans* (greater glider), 199 sightings of *Petaurus australis* (yellow-bellied glider), 254 sightings of *Calyptorhynchus lathami* (glossy black-cockatoo), 304 of *Pteropus poliocephalus* (grey-headed flying-fox) and 121 sightings of *Phascolarctos cinereus* (koala).

Also recorded in the UNE were 110 occurrences of *Astrotricha cordata*, an endangered shrub that occurs in dry sclerophyll communities on exposed rocky sites, 16 occurrences of *Melaleuca irbyana* (weeping paperbark), which is found in limited places in north-east NSW, and 219 records of *Corchorus cunninghamii* (native jute).

In the LNE, 1814 threatened species were recorded (3150 in the previous reporting period). Records included 462 sightings of *Petauroides volans* (greater glider) (greater numbers than the previous year), 175 sightings of *Pteropus poliocephalus* (grey-headed flying fox), and 78 sightings of *Mixophyes balbus* (stuttering frog)<sup>12</sup> (fewer than in the previous year).

Figure 2-1B: Forests NSW threatened species survey results – all regions



\* Monitoring for the Southern region began in 2002–2003.

\*\* For clarity reasons, 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 figures do not include records for the wattle *Acacia chrysotricha*, which was sampled in large numbers in the Lower North East region in those periods.

For 2005–2006 and 2006–2007, data for the UNE and LNE regions have been obtained from the Forests NSW biodata system as opposed to the Social, Economic and Environmental Database (SEEDS) developed by Forests NSW. Biodata provides a more comprehensive list of threatened species recorded than SEEDS. For Eden and Southern regions the data continue to be supplied from SEEDS at this stage. Forests NSW is in the process of reviewing SEEDS with the aim of linking the Biodata and SEEDS systems for more comprehensive reporting outcomes in the future.

Source: Forests NSW data

<sup>12</sup> Numbers for stuttering frog included numbers of tadpoles.

Added to the list of previously known occurrences in the LNE were 18 000 records of the endangered shrub *Acacia chrysothricha* (Newry golden wattle). These records were added following surveys performed before native forest and plantation harvesting—and associated operations—in Newry State Forest – a known location for the plant. Additional surveys were related to plantation re-establishment and hazard reduction burning work. Many of the latter sightings were at sites recently disturbed from forestry operations, and others were at sites previously affected by wildfire in 2004. In the Southern region, 1048 threatened species were recorded. Records included 206 sightings of *Petauroides volans* (greater glider), 22 sightings of *Tyto tenebricosa* (sooty owl) and 53 sightings of (eastern bent-wing bat). Ninety-six threatened species were recorded in the Eden region, comprising 68 sightings of the yellow-bellied glider, 10 sooty owl, 4 greater glider, 1 powerful owl and 13 glossy black-cockatoo.

## Species management measures

Indicator 1.3: Management measures in place to maintain species extent and abundance (interim for the first 5 years of Agreement) (Eden region)

***For PWG, 67% of responding parks in the Eden region were implementing plans or comprehensive plans specifically targeting threatened taxa. This was followed by Southern (57%), UNE (56%) and LNE (40%). No new data are available from Forests NSW on this indicator for this reporting period.***

### Data and interpretation

No new data are available from Forests NSW on this indicator for this reporting period.

This indicator was reported on for all of the regions by PWG annually from the 2001–2002 reporting period until the 2004–2005 reporting period. Data and narrative on species management activity in relation to recovery planning and threat abatement have been provided in past reports.

In 2004–2005 this indicator was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. An SoP survey was not conducted in the 2005–2006 reporting year, and no other data relevant to PWG lands were collated for this indicator. As a consequence, reporting on this indicator for PWG-managed lands did not occur during the 2005–2006 reporting period.

### *Changes between 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 SoP reporting*

The SoP qualitative assessment was undertaken during 2007, and reporting on this indicator for all regions is possible. The 2007 SoP qualitative survey is similar to the 2004–2005 survey (i.e. the 2005 survey) in that it reports on the condition of threatened taxa (species, populations and communities), and does not provide species extent and abundance as required by this ESFM indicator.

To assess the approach to managing threatened taxa, the 2007 SoP survey expands on the criteria available in the 2005 SoP assessment. In the 2005 SoP assessment, two categories were available for reporting on this indicator: 'A planned approach to management is being implemented specifically targeting threatened taxa'; and 'Little or no management or only reactive management specifically targeting threatened taxa is undertaken'. There has been an expansion and refinement of the categories available for reporting on this measure in the 2007 SoP survey to provide greater differentiation between the approaches to planned management. Similarly, the 2007 SoP survey

expands on the criteria available for reporting on the impacts on threatened taxa. In the 2005 SoP survey, two categories were available: 'The condition of all or most threatened taxa is stable, improving or secure' and 'The condition of all or most threatened taxa is declining'. The 2007 survey allows respondents to also differentiate between negative impacts on threatened taxa diminishing, not increasing, and being negligible.

There has been both an absolute and relative increase in reporting on this measure since the 2005 SoP qualitative assessment. Three hundred and seventy of the original group of 494 parks reported on the approach to management of taxa within parks in the 2007 assessment.

Table 2-1F reports on the 2007 SoP assessment responses in terms of the approach to management of threatened species, populations and communities in the control group of parks (i.e. those that were part of both the 2005 and the 2007 surveys). In 2005, 141 (49%) of the 290 parks were implementing plans (including fully implemented comprehensive plans) specifically targeted at the management of threatened taxa. In 2007, both in terms of numbers and as a proportion of total respondents, this had increased slightly, with 190 (51%) of the 372 respondents implementing plans or implementing comprehensive plans (i.e. more parks responded within the control group to this question and more were implementing plans).

Reporting on the impact of management on threatened taxa had also increased for the control group of parks, from 287 of a possible 494 in 2005 to 370 in 2007. Table 2-1G summarises the 2007 survey responses regarding the impact of management of this control group of parks (again, the group that was part of both the 2005 and 2007 surveys). There has been a percentage decrease (between 2% and 3%) in the 'impacts on threatened taxa increasing' for the control group of parks between the two reporting periods – from 7% in 2005 to almost 5% in 2007.

*Table 2-1F: Responses of control group of parks to management of threatened taxa within parks in all regions (proportion of parks responding): approach to management (2006–2007)*

<b>All regions – approach to management (2006–2007)</b>	<b>Proportion of all parks responding</b>
Implementing comprehensive plans	5%
Implementing plans	46%
Responsive management	23%
Minimal management	26%

Source: PWG

*Table 2-1G: Responses of control group of parks to management of threatened taxa within parks in all regions (proportion of parks responding): effect of management (2006–2007)*

<b>All regions – effect of management (2006–2007)</b>	<b>Proportion of all parks responding</b>
Impacts negligible	10%
Impacts diminishing	13%
Impacts not increasing	70%
Impacts increasing	7%

Source: PWG

Table 2-1H: Management and condition of threatened taxa within parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
<i>Implementation</i>					
Implementing comprehensive plans	6	9	0	3	18
Implementing plans	65	48	10	57	180
Responsive management	25	37	1	28	91
Minimal management	32	47	4	17	100
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>389</b>
<i>Effect of management</i>					
Impacts negligible	9	14	2	13	38
Impacts diminishing	21	25	2	11	59
Impacts not increasing	86	90	10	79	265
Impacts increasing	12	12	1	4	29
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>389</b>

Source: PWG

#### 2006–2007 survey results

Table 2-1H presents two sets of data. The first assesses the approach to planning for the management of threatened taxa within reserves. The second assesses the impacts of that on threatened taxa. These results should be evaluated in the knowledge that in most cases parks represent subsets of species' distributions; although management of the species, population or community on park may have local benefits, they may still be at threat owing to broader environmental or land management impacts.

Five percent of the 389 parks responding reported that they were implementing comprehensive plans (no constraints on the implementation of plans) for the management of threatened taxa. Forty-six percent reported that they were implementing plans specifically targeted at threatened taxa. Twenty-six percent reported that responsive management of threatened species was being undertaken, whereas slightly fewer (23%) of the parks responding to this question reported that minimal management specifically targeted at threatened taxa was being undertaken in the park.

Across the regions, the majority (68%) of parks responding reported that the impacts on taxa were not increasing. Seven percent of parks reported that impacts on threatened taxa were increasing.

The proportion of responding parks that were implementing plans or comprehensive plans specifically targeting threatened taxa was highest in the Eden region (67%), followed by Southern (57%), UNE (56%) and LNE (40%). The proportions of responding parks that could report negligible, diminishing or not increasing impacts on threatened taxa were similar in all regions, i.e. Southern (96%) followed by Eden (93%), LNE (91%) and UNE (90%).

## Criterion 2 – Productive capacity of forest ecosystems

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### Land available for timber production

***An estimated 54% (approximately 906 649 ha) of native and plantation State forests are available for timber production across all regions.***

MIG Indicator 2.1.a: Area of forest land and net area of forest land available for timber production (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

Information provided for this indicator applies to State forests only. Figures reported do not include private forestry activities.

#### Data and interpretation

##### *Native forest*

The total area of State forest in the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions was approximately 1.69 million hectares in 2006–2007.

The native forest estate covers approximately 1.28 million hectares. Of this, approximately 683 455 ha (53%) is not available for native forest harvesting, because of number of restrictions. These restricted areas include those reserved for conservation, special prescription areas and non-harvest-management areas (they do not include softwood production areas, which are reported on separately). An area of 362 364 ha (29% of the total native forest) is especially protected for conservation<sup>13</sup>.

The following were reported at 30 June 2007:

- The total area of Forests NSW native forest in the UNE region was approximately 390 439 ha. Approximately 41% was available for harvest and 48% was reserved for conservation purposes or unable to be harvested because of other restrictions<sup>14</sup>. About 11% of the native forest estate requires further assessment<sup>15</sup>.
- The total area of Forests NSW native forest in the LNE region was approximately 452 392 ha. Approximately 49% was available for harvest. Approximately 51% was unable to be harvested, including areas reserved for conservation or subject to harvest exclusions or other restrictions, and areas requiring further assessment (11.5%).
- The total area of Forests NSW native forest in the Eden region was approximately 163 530 ha. It is estimated that 70% was available for harvest. Approximately 30% was reserved for conservation or was unable to be harvested because of other restrictions.
- The total area of Forests NSW native forest in the Southern region was approximately 280 841 ha. Around 58% was available for harvest. Approximately 42% was reserved for conservation or was unable to be harvested because of other restrictions. Only about 0.1% of the native forest estate required further assessment.

<sup>13</sup> Land for conservation purposes is classified as FMZ 1, 2 or 3A under the FMZ system described in *Managing Our Forests Sustainably: Forest Management Zoning in NSW State Forests* (State Forests of NSW, 1999).

<sup>14</sup> The area of State forest identified as available for harvest (FMZ4) is not representative of the actual 'on ground' area available for harvest. Harvestable areas may be subject to the conditions of the IFOAs, which protect various forest values, such as riparian filter strips and threatened species habitat exclusions. Further operational exclusions may arise because of 'on ground findings' such as unmerchantable forest types, accessibility, rock, and low-volume areas; these are termed 'operational exclusions'.

<sup>15</sup> Areas for further assessment are classified as FMZ 8 under the FMZ system.

### Plantations

Softwood plantation accounts for approximately 17% (288 000 ha) of the total State forest estate across all regions. This is an increase of 8000 ha of softwood plantation since the 2005–2006 period. Most plantation softwood (approximately 206 498 ha) is found within the Southern region. This equates to around 41% of the total State forest estate in the Southern region. The Eden, UNE and LNE regions have around 42 000 ha, 22 000 ha and 17 500 ha of softwood plantation, respectively. About 67% of the area of the total softwood plantation estate is available for harvest.

About 4% of the total State forest estate across all regions is hardwood plantation, down from 6% the previous year owing to a change in reporting by Forests NSW to now exclude retained vegetation in the plantation figure. Hardwood plantations are primarily found within the UNE (approx 58 000 ha) and LNE (approx 16 900 ha). There is an apparent reduction in plantation area in LNE (compared with the 29 000 reported in 2005–2006). This is solely caused by a change in reporting by Forests NSW. In 2005–2006 ‘retained vegetation’ was included in the plantation hardwood estimate, whereas in 2006–2007 only the actual plantation area is reported. About 48% of the total area of the hardwood plantation estate is available for harvest.

### Total growing stock

Indicator 2.1.b: Total growing stock of both merchantable and non-merchantable tree species on native forest land available for timber production (UNE, LNE, Southern regions)

**No outcomes to report**

#### Data and interpretation

No new data are available from Forests NSW on this indicator for this reporting period.

### Timber products compared with sustainable volume

Indicator 2.1.d: Annual removal of wood products compared with sustainable volume (UNE, LNE, Southern regions)  
Indicator 2.1.b: Annual removal of timber and non-timber products from forest ecosystems compared with those estimated to be ecologically sustainable by tenure (Eden region)  
Indicator 2.1.d: Annual removal of timber products and non-timber products from forest ecosystems by volume (Eden region)  
Indicator 6.1.a: Value and volume of wood and wood production (Southern region)

***258 253 m<sup>3</sup> of quota sawlogs (or 294 648 m<sup>3</sup> including poles and girders) were harvested from Forests NSW native forest and hardwood plantations across all regions. Regional volumes did not exceed those permissible under the terms of the NSW forest agreements and IFOAs.***

#### Quota sawlogs defined

In previous reports, Forests NSW reported ‘quota sawlogs’ as Veneer Logs and High Quality Large Sawlogs only. High Quality Large logs are defined in the UNE, LNE and Southern IFOAs as having a diameter under bark of at least 40 cm. In Eden the definition of High Quality Large logs is 40 cm under bark butt diameter or 36 cm under bark butt diameter for logs over 4 m long. Large Veneer Logs are defined in the UNE and LNE as having a centre diameter under bark of at least 40 cm.

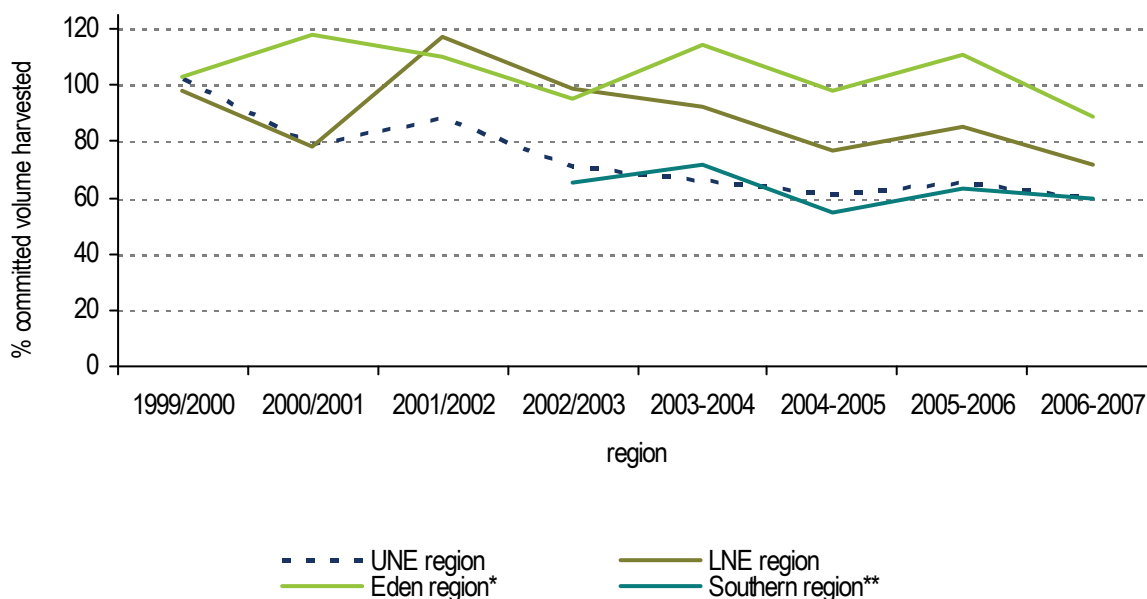
Forests NSW had not included poles or girders as quota logs although in some cases they would qualify as High Quality Large Sawlogs (and would need to be reported). For comparisons with previous years, Figure 2-2A below does not include poles and girders in the quota figures. However poles and girders have been reported in the text and tables.

### Committed volumes harvested

Timber volumes permitted to be harvested by Forests NSW are designated in the NSW forest agreements, RFAs and IFOAs. An annual variation from the designated volume is permissible to accommodate changes in environmental and economic circumstances. This provision, as identified in the IFOAs, allows for harvest volumes in any one year to vary from the committed volume<sup>16</sup> by 25%, but not to exceed 5% over a 5-year-period.

In 2006–2007 the volume of quota sawlogs harvested in all regions was 258 253 m<sup>3</sup> (294 648 m<sup>3</sup> when poles and girders are included). This represented 66% of the committed volume of 388 500 m<sup>3</sup> (or 76% of committed volume including poles and girders). Figure 2-2A shows the percentages of committed quota sawlogs harvested by region (excluding poles and girders).

Figure 2-2A: Percentages of committed quota sawlog volumes harvested – all regions



Poles and girders are *not* included in these figures even though in some cases they would qualify as High Quality Large Sawlogs (and would need to be reported)

\* All quota sawlogs harvested from native forest.

\*\* Timber harvesting under the terms of NSW forest agreements and IFOA began in 2002.

Source: Forests NSW data

<sup>16</sup> The volume of timber that may be harvested each year under the terms of the NSW forest agreements and IFOAs.



All quota sawlogs harvested from native forest (and hardwood plantation) in 2006–2007 were within the volumes permitted under the terms of the forests agreements and IFOAs for all regions.

In the UNE during 2006–2007, 65 257 m<sup>3</sup> of quota sawlogs (77 437 m<sup>3</sup> when including poles and girders) was harvested from Forests NSW native forests and hardwood plantations. This represents 60% of the committed volume of 109 000 m<sup>3</sup> a year, as specified in the UNE IFOA, or 71% when poles and girders are included.

In the LNE region, quota sawlogs harvested from the region during 2006–2007 totalled 114 608 m<sup>3</sup> (137 748 m<sup>3</sup> including poles and girders), representing 72% of the committed volume of 160 000 m<sup>3</sup> a year as specified within the LNE IFOA (or 82% of committed volume when poles and girders are included).

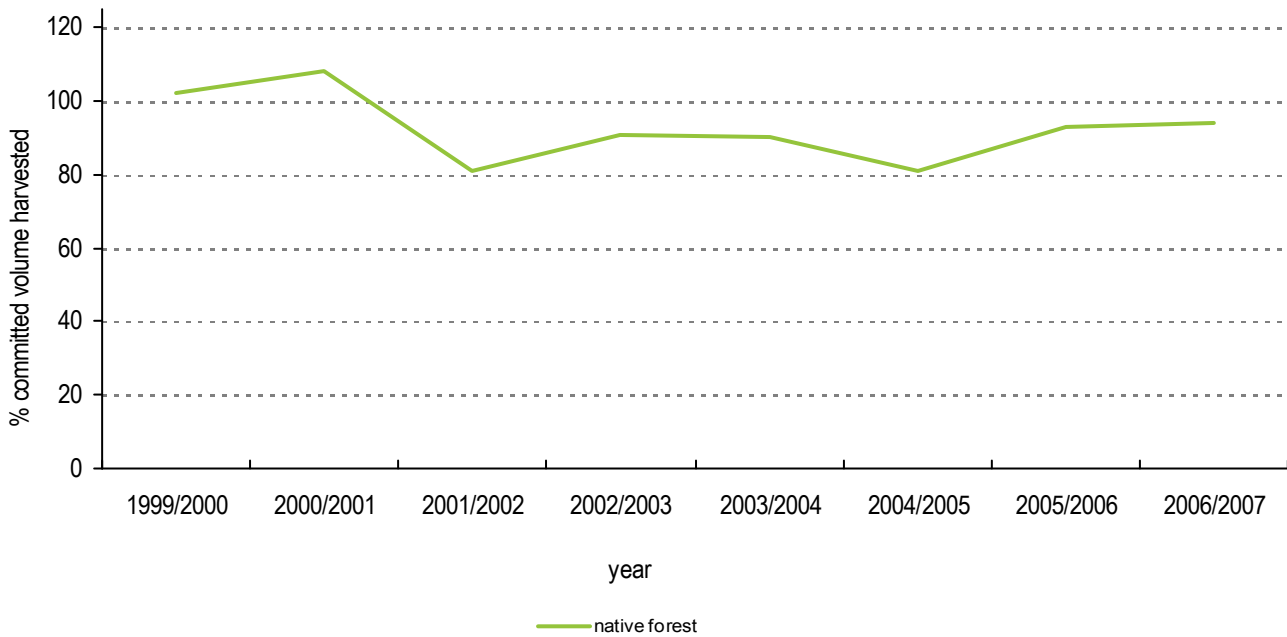
Quota sawlogs harvested from the Eden region are wholly obtained from Forest NSW native forests, as no hardwood plantation is located in the region. Quota sawlog volumes harvested in 2006–2007 totalled 20 408 m<sup>3</sup> (no poles and girders were harvested). This represented 89% of the committed volume of 23 000 m<sup>3</sup> in accordance with the Eden IFOA.

Quota sawlogs harvested from the Southern region have been wholly obtained from Forests NSW native forests. Quota sawlogs volumes harvested during the year totalled 57 982 m<sup>3</sup> (or 59 056 m<sup>3</sup> when poles and girders are included). This volume represents around 61% of the committed volume, which was about the same as the previous year, based on a committed volume of 96 500 m<sup>3</sup> a year (48 500 m<sup>3</sup> for the South Coast and 48 000 m<sup>3</sup> for Tumut).

Quota sawlogs harvested during 2006–2007 were largely obtained from Forests NSW native forest (92%), with the remainder from hardwood plantations (8%). This marks a leap in the amount of hardwood obtained from hardwood plantations, with most sourced from the LNE region (19 536 m<sup>3</sup> or nearly 17% of LNE quota sawlogs). The total volume of hardwood plantations quota harvested was 21 526 m<sup>3</sup> (33,056 m<sup>3</sup> when poles and girders are included), which is an increase of 10,760 m<sup>3</sup> on 2005-06 volumes (or 10,926 m<sup>3</sup> when poles and girders are included).

Pulp-grade sawlogs also form part of quota sawlog volumes for the Eden region. Quota pulp-grade timbers are calculated by using a committed volume of 345 000 t/year. They are hardwood only, obtained from native forest. In Eden, 324 960 t of pulp-grade timbers was allocated in 2006–2007 (94% of the committed volume). Committed volume percentages of pulp-grade timbers in Eden since 1999–2000 are shown in Figure 2-2B.

Figure 2-2B: Committed volumes harvested – pulp grade timbers (Eden region only)



Source: Forests NSW data

**Non-quota sawlogs and pulp-grade timbers**

In 2006–2007, 388 205 m<sup>3</sup> of non-quota logs were harvested from Forests NSW native forests and hardwood plantations across all regions. This is a reduction of 26 898 m<sup>3</sup> from the 415 103 m<sup>3</sup> of non-quota logs harvested in 2005–2006. Non-quota pulp grade timber harvested from Forests NSW native forest and hardwood plantations, excluding Eden, totalled 249 755 t in 2006–2007. This is an increase of about 40 000 t from 2005–2006. Native forest and hardwood plantation pulp grade timbers for Eden region are not included here, as they form part of the quota volumes designated in the IFOA reported above. Non quota figures are presented in Tables 2-2A and 2-2B.

Table 2-2A: Volumes of timber products other than quota sawlogs from State forests – UNE and LNE regions (2006–2007)

Log type	Unit	UNE region			LNE region		
		Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation	Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation
Veneer*	m <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	25 801	n/a	n/a	230
High quality large*	m <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	79 395	n/a	n/a	0
High quality small	m <sup>3</sup>	29 623	457		19 314	11 786	
Low quality	m <sup>3</sup>	61 338	7 879	32 808	83 689	65 136	688
Poles/piles and girders**	m <sup>3</sup>	11 250	930	0	12 541	10 600	0
Fencing/landscape/sleepers (sawn)	m <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	2 755	0	0
<b>Non-quota logs total</b>	<b>m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>102 210</b>	<b>9 266</b>	Not presented	<b>118 298</b>	<b>87 522</b>	Not presented
Pulp grade***	tonnes	13 652	892	0	63 686	55 717	0

\* Veneer and high quality large sawlogs harvested from Forests NSW native forests and hardwood plantations comprise quota log volumes. Quota sawlog volumes are reported under Criterion 2 in chapter 2.

\*\* Poles and girders have been reported as non-quota in this table, but see discussion above under the heading 'Quota sawlogs defined'.

\*\*\* Non-quota pulp grade timber

Source: Forests NSW data

Table 2-2B: Volumes of timber products other than quota sawlogs from State forests – Eden and Southern regions (2006–2007)

Log type	unit	Eden region			Southern region		
		Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation	Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation
Veneer*	m <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0
High quality large*	m <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	120 951	n/a	n/a	296 541
High quality small	m <sup>3</sup>	1 277	0		9 220	0	
Low quality	m <sup>3</sup>	9 418	0	49 030	37 923	0	881
Poles/piles and girders**	m <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	1 074	0	0
Preservation logs	m <sup>3</sup>	0	0	22 374	0	0	8 334
Fencing/landscape/sleepers (sawn)	m <sup>3</sup>	160	0	0	11 836	0	881
<b>Non-quota logs total</b>	<b>m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10 856</b>	<b>0</b>	Not presented	<b>60,053</b>	<b>0</b>	Not presented
Pulp grade***	tonnes	n/a	n/a	208 014	115 808	0	395 735

\*Veneer and high quality large sawlogs harvested from Forests NSW native forests and hardwood plantations comprise quota log volumes. Quota sawlog volumes are reported under Criterion 2, in chapter 2.

\*\* Poles and girders have been reported as non-quota in this table, but see discussion above under the heading 'Quota sawlogs defined'.

\*\*\* Pulp grade timber volumes harvested from Forests NSW native forest in the Eden region comprise part of quota log volumes. Quota log volumes are reported under Criterion 2 in chapter 2.

Source: Forests NSW data

## Standing volume of species logged

Indicator 2.3: Standing volume of log stocks by species groups and diameter-at-breast height class for multi-aged and regrowth native forest and available for timber production by land tenure (Eden region)

**No outcomes to report**

No new data are available from Forests NSW on this indicator for this reporting period.

## Species and royalty of logs harvested

Indicator 6.1: Average volume and royalty value of logs harvested per annum by species and grade by tenure (Eden region) (This indicator was defined within the Eden region set of criteria and indicators under Criterion 6 – Socio-economic Benefits. For continuity of reporting it has been included under Criterion 2 – Productive capacity of forest ecosystems.)

**No outcomes to report**

No new data are available from Forests NSW on this indicator for this reporting period.

## Volume of non-timber products

Indicator 2.1.b: Annual removal of timber and non-timber products from forest ecosystems, compared with those estimated to be ecologically sustainable by tenure (Eden region)

Indicator 2.1.d: Annual removal of timber products and non-timber products from forest ecosystems by volume (Eden region)

Indicator 2.1.e: Annual removal of non-timber forest products (e.g. berries, mushrooms, game, honey, wildflowers, tree ferns and possums) compared with the sustainable level (Southern region)

These indicators are applicable to the Eden and Southern regions. However, data have been provided on the quantities of non-timber products harvested in all regions (including the UNE and LNE regions). Values of products harvested have been provided for the Eden region only.

***The quantities of non-timber products removed from State forests have generally decreased across all regions. For national parks, honey continues to be the key non-timber product obtained.***

### Data and interpretation

#### *PWG Southern and Eden regions*

In the Southern region the only non-timber forest product licensed for removal is honey. Across the region 55 licenses are currently active. These licences were for a total of 174 sites (Table 2-2C). Apiary licence conditions neither specify the number of hives allowed per site nor require the licence holder to provide an annual report on the volume of honey removed from each site. Accordingly, it is not presently possible to report on trends in production of the non-wood products removed under licence from the DECC estate. Under the bee-keeping policy existing sites will be allowed to continue but no new/additional bee keeping sites will be permitted. See <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/policyBeekeeping.pdf>.

Table 2-2C: Non-timber products obtained from DECC Southern and Eden regions (2006–2007)

Non-timber product	Southern region	Eden region
<i>Animal-related products</i>		
Apiaries		
No of beekeepers <sup>1</sup>	55	4
No of sites <sup>2</sup>	174	21
No of hives	Unknown	Unknown
<i>Vegetation-related products</i>		
Native tree seed		
kg seed capsules	0	
kg raw seed	0	
Wildflower collection		
No of permits	0	
Native plants		
(e.g. tree ferns)	0	
Leaf for oil production (kg)	0	
Bark (t)	0	
Broombush (t)	0	
Gravel/sand/rock (t)	0	
<i>Non-forest products</i>		
Film/documentary (permits) <sup>3</sup>	24	
Communication sites (permits) <sup>4</sup>	32	2
Other structures (permits) <sup>4</sup>	30	1
Transmission lines/cables/pipelines (km) <sup>5</sup>	589.76	

Source: PWG

- 1 Data review indicates 38 apiary companies have designated set-down sites in part of South.
- 2 Number of consented set-down sites. Approx 85 actual set-down sites in designated ranges are 'yet to be determined or Consented' by PWG and apiarist.
- 3 Data from leases and concessions officer.
- 4 Others present not currently having permit
- 5 Revised estimate from updated regional GIS roads, trails and tracks data, based on where access roads follow infrastructure, for the NPWS Estate 2005 within the Southern CRA area in the South Coast Region (298 142 ha.)

Other non-forest products licensed in the Southern region during 2006–2007 included intangible products such as film documentary permits (24), communication site permits (32), transmission lines, cables and pipelines (590 km), and permits for other structures (30).

In the Eden region there were four beekeepers across 21 sites, with an unknown number of hives (Table 2-2C). Currently there are limited data on other non-timber products, although two permits were issued for communication sites and one permit for other structures.

### State forests

State forests are source of numerous non-timber forest products. For the purpose of measurement against this indicator, non-timber products in State forests have been determined to be those products that are not supplied to sawmills or processing plants. Non-timber forest products include firewood, seed, gravel and bark. In addition to non-timber products, Forests NSW also continues to provide details on commercial activities that occur in State forests (such as beekeeping and grazing).

Specific details on actual products and quantities of products taken from State forests, by region, are provided in Table 2-2D.

Table 2-2D: Non-timber products obtained from State forests – all regions (2006–2007)

Forest product	Unit	Region			
		UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern
Grazing	ha	174 725	80 607	6636	100 496
Apiculture	no. of sites	983	285	164	1 238
Seed	kg	0	0	0	50
Firewood	t	34	970	700	4087
Craft timber	m <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	30
Misc. native timber pieces	number	0	3 494	0	50
Wood blocks	number	0	0	0	3 750
Film/documentary	permits	0	3	0	0
Communication sites	number of permits	26	53	8	36
Other structures	number of permits	19	38	7	22
Powerlines/cables/pipelines	km	8	20	50	762
Gravel/sand/rock	t	0	1 268	47 829	1 895
Research	number of permits	0	0	2	1
Maps sold to public	number	410	179	69	130

Source: Forests NSW

As in the previous annual report (2005–2006) there was a general decline in most forest products taken from State forests in 2006–2007: 5791 t of firewood was supplied in 2006–2007 (31% lower than in 2005–2006), and 50 992 t of material (gravel, sand and rock) was extracted from State forests (mainly in the Eden region) (10% less than in 2005–2006). Supply of craft timber (a minor product) was higher in 2006–2007 than in the previous year: 30 m<sup>3</sup> of craft timber was supplied, compared with 6 m<sup>3</sup> the previous year. Across all regions in 2006–2007, 362 464 ha of State forests was covered by grazing permits, occupation permits or Crown lease. This was slightly lower than in the previous reporting period (374 759 ha). The number of apiary sites (apiculture for honey production) in State forests in the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions was 2670 at the end of June 2007. This is similar to the number of sites in 2005/2006 and 2004/2005.

## Plantations

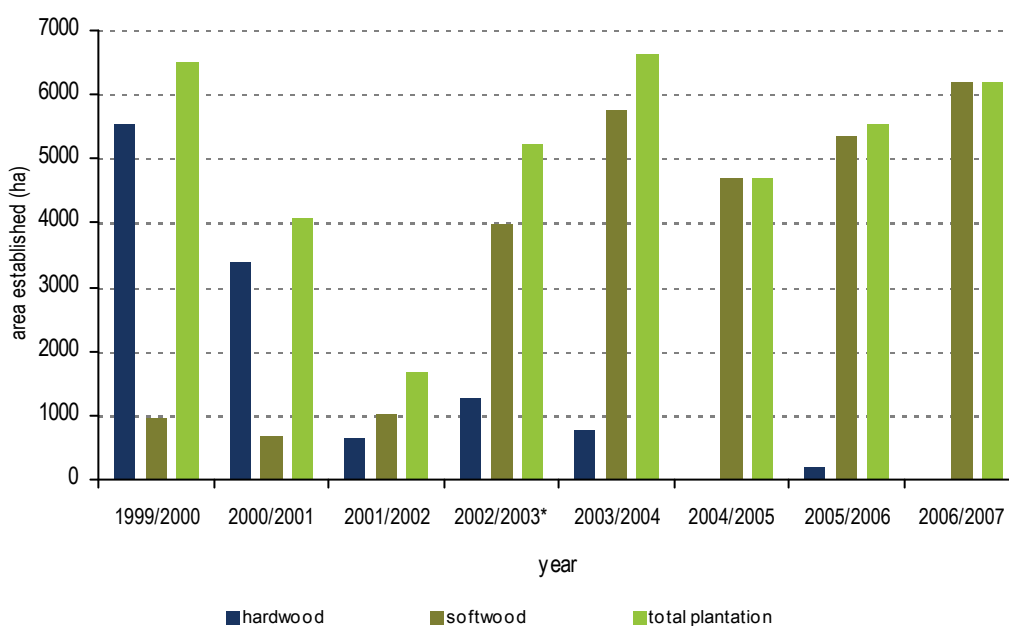
MIG Indicator 2.1.f: Area and percent of plantation established meeting effective stocking 1 year after planting (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

***The area of plantation established on State forests increased this year. The effective regeneration rate in all regions remains high.***

### *Plantations established*

In 2006–2007, 6199 ha (5364 ha in 2005–2006) of softwood plantation was established by Forests NSW (Figure 2-2C). The majority of plantations were established in the Southern region (4954 ha). Softwood plantations were also established in the UNE (505 ha) and Eden (740 ha). No new areas were planted in the LNE region, Note that there was lower than average rainfall—and drought conditions—across all regions in the reporting period.

Figure 2-2C: Area of hardwood and softwood plantations established by Forests NSW – all regions

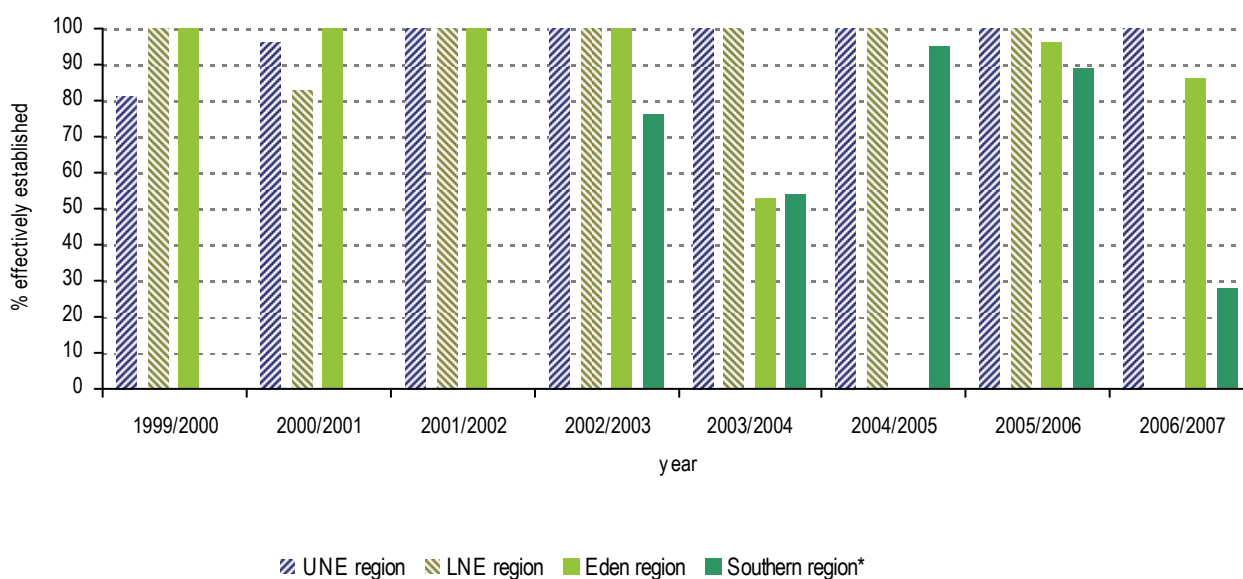


\*Includes area established in the Southern region after ESFM monitoring began. Source: Forests NSW data

### Effective stocking rates

The effective stocking rate is the survival of planted trees 1 year after planting at a level that promotes a cost-effective return upon harvest. Softwood plantation stocking rates have generally been effective over previous reporting years, with the exception of 2003–2004. However, all forestry regions were under drought pressure during the reporting period 2006–2007, and effective stocking rates were lower in the Southern (28%) and Eden (86%) regions than in 2005–2006 (Figure 2-2D). No plantations were established in the LNE during the reporting period, so stocking rates could not be reported. The effective stocking rate in UNE in 2005–2006 was 100%.

Figure 2-2D: Effective stocking rates for Forests NSW softwood plantations – all regions



\* Monitoring for the Southern region began in 2002–2003  
 Note: Where the value is zero (LNE Region) no measurement of effective stocking was performed in that year.  
 Source: Forests NSW data

### Regeneration

MIG Indicator 2.1.g: Area and percent of harvested area of native forest effectively regenerated (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

**Native forest regeneration surveys conducted in the LNE and Southern regions this year indicated high effective regeneration rates.**

#### Data and interpretation

##### PWG – yearly data/information discussion

In previous years, the PWG has recorded the regeneration of previously harvested lands transferred from State forest to the reserve system under the Forest Agreement process. No land is harvested in

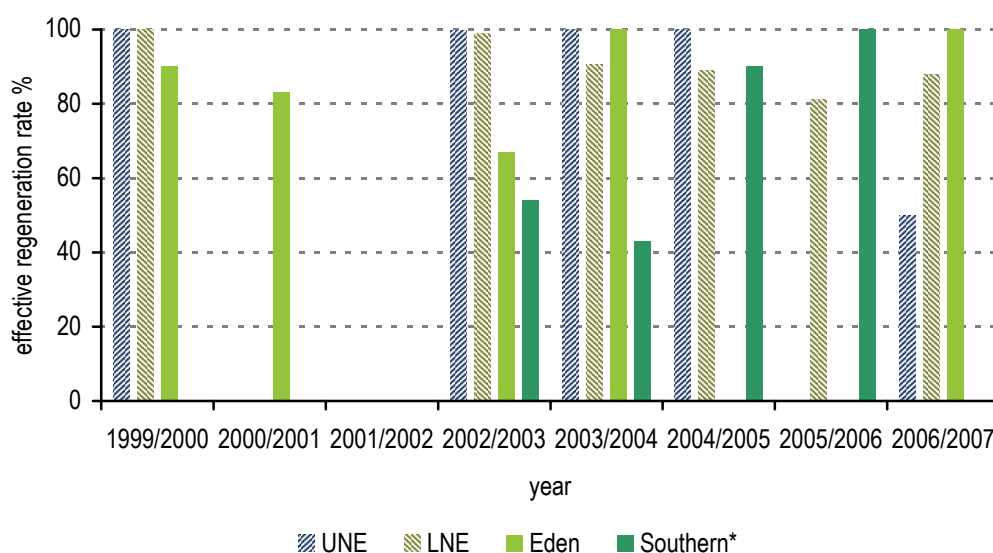


the reserve system. There has been no new information on this indicator since the 2004–2005 reporting period for PWG managed lands.

### State forests

Harvested native forest is regenerated by Forests NSW to re-establish pre-harvest forest structure and species composition, specific to each forest type and locality. Surveys identify effective regeneration rates. There were fewer regeneration surveys than in the previous reporting period. Forests NSW performed 12 regeneration surveys in 2006–2007 over an area of 620 ha of State forest, compared with 45 surveys the previous year over an area of 3429 ha. No regeneration surveys were conducted in the Southern region (which achieved a 100% regeneration rate in the previous reporting period). Data indicate that effective regeneration rates remain high (about 79% regeneration per hectare when survey area was taken into account) (see Figure 2-2E). Results for 2006–2007 showed a regeneration rate of 100% in the Eden region, 88% in the LNE region and 50% in the Upper North East region. As stated, regeneration was not measured in Southern region.

Figure 2-2E: Effective regeneration rates in State forests – all regions



Where value is zero, no regeneration surveys were carried out.

\* Monitoring for the Southern region began in 2002–2003.

Source: Forests NSW data

## Criterion 3 – Ecosystem health and vitality

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### Weeds, feral animals and disease

Indicator 3.1.a:	Area and percent of forest affected by processes or agents that may change ecosystem health and vitality (narrative as interim) (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)
Indicator 3.1:	List of biological factors influencing forest health and vitality, including weeds, feral animals, insects and disease (Eden region)

***Forests NSW spent \$886,831 towards the control of feral animals and noxious or environmental weeds across approximately 504 000 ha of State forest in the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions. This was similar to the effort made the previous year.***

***The PWG of DECC reported that, in the period 2005–2007, 72% of reporting parks identified that they were implementing weed management plans and 14% undertook responsive management to weeds; 50% reported that the impacts of weeds on natural values were either negligible or diminishing; and 13% reported no increases in the impacts of weeds on natural values. Fifty-six per cent of reporting parks were implementing pest animal plans and 25% were undertaking responsible pest animal management. In 32.5% of parks the impact of pest animals on natural heritage values was negligible or diminishing, and in 62% of reporting parks it was not increasing.***

The effect of feral animals, animal pests, and noxious or environmental weeds on ecosystem health on public lands is a continuing concern for land managers. The problem requires sustained, long-term management. Feral animals, animal pests, and noxious or environmental weeds can cause financial losses to agriculture and other industries and can damage areas of environmental and cultural significance.

To maintain and improve biodiversity and productive capacity, DECC and Forests NSW continue to carry out efforts to control noxious weeds, feral animals (including introduced predators), pests and diseases. Control programs often take place in cooperation with other land management agencies and neighbours.

Forests NSW and PWG do not have data on the area and percentage of native forest affected by negative agents. Forests NSW continues to provide information for this indicator by reporting expenditure and area treated for targeted weed and feral animal species across its estate. PWG assesses the scope and extent of planning and the impacts of weeds and pest animals on natural values on a park basis.

#### **PWG**

In the 2006–2007 reporting year, the PWG of DECC produced the publication *Protecting our national parks from pests and weeds*. This publication examined the performance of the PWG in managing pests and weeds within NSW parks, provided case studies of successful approaches, and gave future directions for pest and weed management within NSW parks. The publication is available at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/SoPPestManagement.htm>

## Forests NSW

Pest animal management is integrated into Forests NSW ESFM Plans, which were published in 2005. Supplementary Pest Animal Management Plans have been produced for each Region and cover the period 2006–2011. The Supplementary Plans contain details of objectives, strategies, actions and cooperative arrangements with other government agencies, land managers and neighbouring land owners for the control of priority pest animals. Forests NSW regions produce annual Pest Animal Management Programs, in close cooperation with stakeholders, to maximise program delivery across the landscape. Development of the programs, and their integration with the programs of other parties, takes place through meetings and correspondence. See details on various programs within the regions below.

## Noxious and environmental weeds

PWG has used data from the SoP qualitative assessment to report on this indicator for the first time.

Table 2-3A: Approaches to weed management and effect of management approach in parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
<i>Implementation</i>					
Implementing comprehensive plans	27	16	7	34	84
Implementing plans	74	99	5	69	247
Responsive management	17	29	5	13	64
Minimal management undertaken	21	36		6	63
<b>Total no of parks responding</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>458</b>
<i>Effect of management</i>					
Impacts negligible	10	14	5	29	58
Impacts diminishing	41	65	7	59	172
Impacts not increasing	56	77	4	31	168
Impacts increasing	32	24	1	3	60
<b>Total no of parks responding</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>458</b>

Source: PWG

Table 2-3A summarises the planning approach to weed management and the impacts of weeds on the natural heritage values in those parks where weed management was a factor in park management and where there was sufficient information to assess these issues. Four hundred and fifty-eight of a total 541 parks across all regions reported. Of these 458, 18% reported they were implementing comprehensive plans (i.e. fully implementing plans without constraint); the majority (54%) reported that they were implementing plans targeted at weed management, 14% reported that weed management was responsive, and another 14% reported that minimal weed management was undertaken.

The Eden region had the highest proportion of parks reporting a comprehensive planned approach to weed management (41%, 7 parks).

Four hundred and fifty-eight parks also reported on the negative impacts of weeds. Of these, 38% reported diminishing impacts of weeds on reserve values, 13% reported increasing impacts of weeds on reserve values, and 13% reported that the impacts of weeds on reserve values were not increasing.

Southern region had the highest proportion of parks (97% and 122 parks) reporting that the impacts of weeds on reserve values were negligible, diminishing or not increasing.

#### *State forests*

Eighteen weed species were subject to control works by Forests NSW during the year, including blackberry, nodding thistle and scotch broom. The largest expenditure (about \$216,484) was on blackberry control. Table 2-3B contains further details of Forests NSW's noxious/environmental weed control activities during 2006–2007.

Table 2-3B: Forests NSW control efforts for noxious/environmental weed species – all regions (2006–2007)

Region	Number of species treated*	Area treated (ha) (approx.)	Expenditure (\$) (approx.)
Southern	7	43	174 000
UNE	3	16	8 100
LNE	13	1166	115 800
Eden	6	57	89 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>1282</b>	<b>386 900</b>

\* Total number of individual species treated across all regions  
Source: Forests NSW data

#### **Pests, diseases and physical agents**

Bell-miner-associated dieback (BMAD) of eucalypt forests is an increasing management issue for DECC/PWG and Forests NSW in the UNE, LNE, Central, Southern and Eden regions. DECC provides administrative support to the BMAD Working Group, including one equivalent full-time position funded by the Natural Heritage Trust. DPI (Forests NSW and the Science and Research Division) invested \$70 000 in research and control of BMAD during 2006–2007. Much of this work was undertaken through the BMAD working group. The BMAD Working Group is an interagency group tasked with administration and management of the BMAD Strategy and Action Plan and a Scientific Reference Group that provides scientific advice to the Working Group. The causes of BMAD remain unclear, although associated factors include disturbance, inappropriate fire regime, the presence of lantana (*Lantana camara*), poor vegetative structure and complexity, abundant lerps and soil attributes.

Implementation of the BMAD Strategy continued throughout 2006–2007. Adaptive management trials aimed at controlling landscape-level lantana populations containing abundant bell miners and lerps, in the presence of dieback of varying degrees, have been carried out in UNE and LNE. Trial monitoring will continue for 5 to 15 years and will provide valuable management information about techniques for managing BMAD and Lantana.

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre is currently carrying out research into eucalypt dieback in the Southern and Eden Regions, and these trials may provide valuable insight for managing landscape-level BMAD sites. Bell miner removal trials have been undertaken on private land, and invertebrate diversity and abundance are being monitored. Recent observations of BMAD in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area are of serious concern.

A modelling investigation was commenced in the Jilliby Valley in LNE during 2005–2006. It was aimed at using satellite and LiDAR (light detection and ranging) technologies to produce hazard mapping of BMAD in the Jilliby forest. This project has now been completed, and a report and hazard mapping model have been produced.

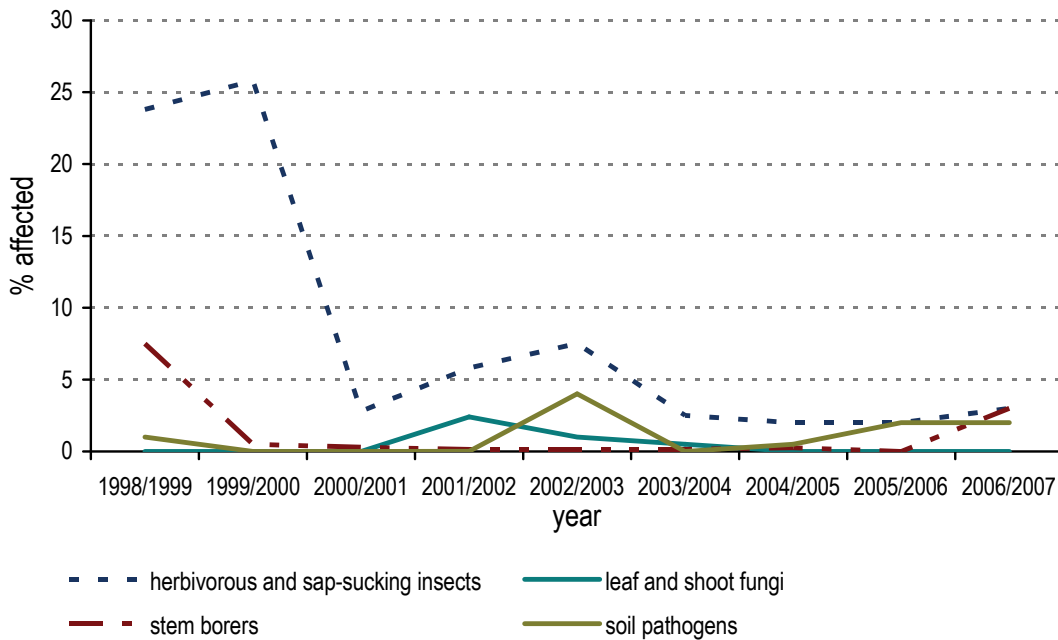
#### *State forests*

The Monterey pine aphid (*Essigella californica*), native to the West Coast of North America, continues to have a significant impact upon Forests NSW softwood plantations. The aphid first appeared in Australia in several years ago and has been spreading in the South East of NSW and also in parts of Victoria and South Australia (CSIRO 2003). The Monterey pine aphid sucks sap from living pine needles, causing yellowing and subsequent defoliation and premature senescence in softwood pine trees. Up to 40% of softwood plantations in the Southern and Eden Regions were affected in 2006–2007 (an increase since the previous year). Forests NSW is involved in a national project to test biological agents for control of the Monterey pine aphid. Significant control of the aphid, and a reduction in associated damage, is a target for 2010–2011.

Fungal diseases, insect pests or other physical agents can severely affect the biodiversity of an area and its future productivity by altering the growth rate and survival of trees. Forests NSW carries out regular surveys to monitor the extent of biological agents and critical nutrient deficiencies in both hardwood and softwood plantations. Surveys are carried out in hardwood plantations for all agents, but only four selected agents are regularly reported in hardwood plantations: herbivorous and sap-sucking insects, leaf and shoot fungi, stem borers and soil pathogens.

As illustrated in Figure 2-3A, whereas herbivorous and sap-sucking insects affected around 25% of the hardwood plantation estate in 1999–2000, the proportion had decreased to around 2% in 2005–2006 and 3% in 2006–2007. Soil pathogens affected 2% of the hardwood plantation estate in 2006–2007 (the same level as in the previous reporting period). Stem borers affected about 3% of the hardwood plantation estate in 2006–2007. Leaf and shoot fungi was not recorded as being present in 2006–2007.

Figure 2-3A: Percentages of new Forests NSW hardwood plantations affected by selected agents – state-wide



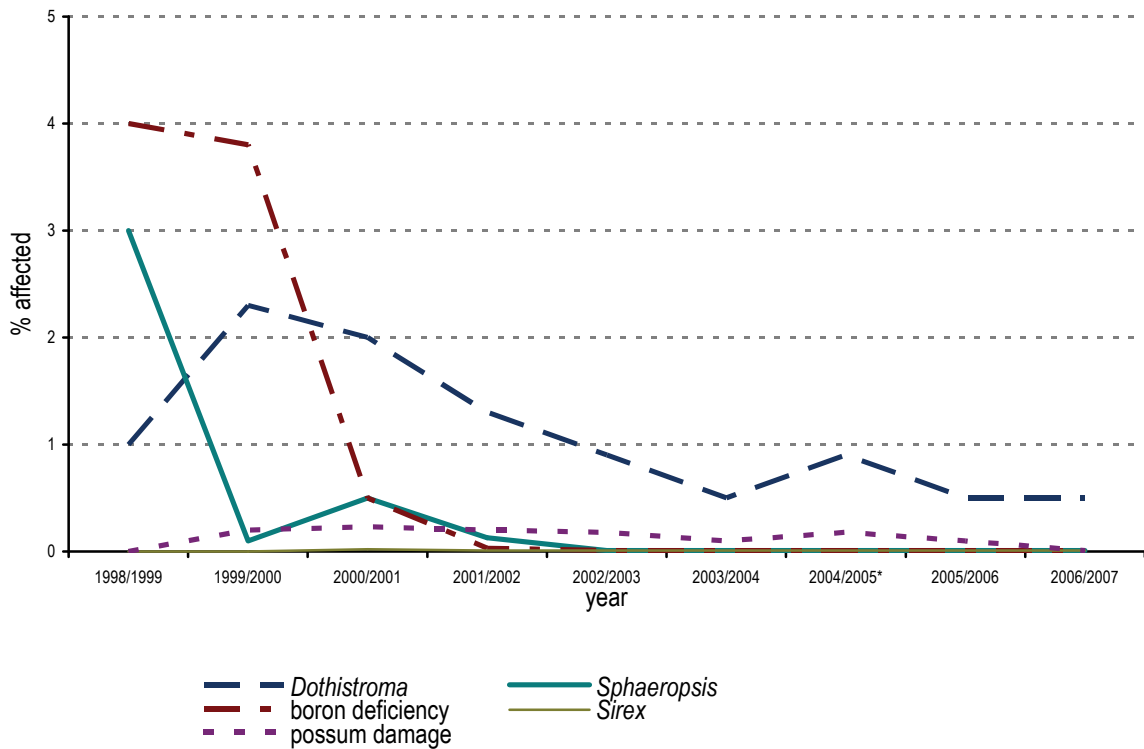
Note: The percentages shown are calculated across the entire planted hardwood forest (post-1995) estate in all Forests NSW regions (not just forest agreement regions). Note that Forests NSW has not established hardwood plantations in Eden.  
Source: Forests NSW data

Forests NSW surveys for six agents and signs in softwood plantations: *Dothistroma* (needle blight), *Sphaeropsis* (fungus), boron deficiency, *Sirex* (wood wasp), possum damage and (since 2004–2005) *Essigella californica* (Monterey pine aphid).

In 2006–2007, the most extensive agent was the Monterey pine aphid, which is now estimated to affect around 40% of the estate (increasing from 25% in 2005–2006 and 15% in 2004–2005). See earlier in this section for background.

The extents of other agents are shown in Figure 2-3B. *Dothistroma* needle blight damage was estimated to affect 0.5% of the softwood estate. *Sphaeropsis* (fungus), *Sirex* wood wasp, boron deficiency and damage by possums were estimated to affect only around 0.01% of the estate.

Figure 2-3B: Percentages of new Forests NSW softwood plantations affected by selected agents – state-wide



\* Figures for 2004–2005 have changed from the previously reported figures for 2004–2005. This is because of a correction of the previous data. Note: *Essigella californica* figures are not shown on this graph for clarity reasons. The percentages shown are calculated across the entire softwood estate in all State forest regions (not in forest agreement regions). Source: Forests NSW data

### Feral and pest animals

The NPWS manages pests within the State’s park system to protect native flora and fauna, maintain natural ecosystems and cultural heritage, and minimise the spread of pest animals and weeds to and from neighbouring land. One of the main purposes of pest management in parks is to conserve threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

Some pest species, including foxes, wild pigs and rabbits, have been listed as causing key threatening processes to wildlife under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. Threat Abatement Plans guide the management of these key threatening processes and set priorities and management actions, including monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of control programs.

#### Feral animals

The PWG is using data from the SoP qualitative assessment to report on this indicator for the first time.

Table 2-3C reports on the approach to planning for pest animal management and the impacts of pest animals on reserve values in parks in each region. These were reported where pest animal management was a factor in park management and where there was sufficient information to assess these issues. Four hundred and ten of a total 541 parks across all regions responded.

Table 2-3C: Approaches to pest animal management and effects of management approaches in parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
<i>Implementation</i>					
Implementing comprehensive plans	11	8	6	26	51
Implementing plans	44	72	8	56	180
Minimal management undertaken	33	29	1	14	77
Responsive management	23	52	3	24	102
<b>Total no of parks responding</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>410</b>
<i>Effect of management</i>					
Impacts are negligible	11	17	6	27	61
Impacts are diminishing	9	20	4	39	72
Impacts are not increasing	84	112	6	51	253
Impacts are increasing	7	11	2	3	23
<b>Total no of parks responding</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>409</b>

Source: PWG

Of these 410 parks, 12% reported that they were implementing comprehensive plans for pest animal management and another 44% were implementing plans targeted at pest animal management. Twenty-five per cent of parks reported responsive pest animal management.

The Eden region had the highest proportion of parks implementing comprehensive plans, with 33% (6 parks) undertaking this level of planning. The proportion of parks implementing plans targeted at pest animal management was similar across all regions: 47% in Southern, 45% LNE, 40% in UNE and 44% in Eden.

Four hundred and nine parks across the regions reported on the impacts of pest animals on reserve values (the park not also reporting on these impacts had reported minimal management of pest animals).

Of these 409 parks, 18% reported diminished impacts of pest animals on reserve values. Sixty-two per cent reported that the impacts of pest animals on reserve values were not increasing and 6% reported increasing impacts of pest animals on reserve values.

The proportion and number of parks reporting negligible, diminishing or not increasing impacts of pest animals on parks was broadly similar across all regions, with Southern reporting this highest proportion at 95%, followed by UNE (94%), LNE (93%) and Eden (89%).

The Eden region reported the greatest proportion of parks reporting that impacts of pest animals on reserve values were increasing, with two parks (11%) reporting this situation.



### Forests NSW

Like DECC, Forests NSW continues to carry out efforts to control noxious weeds, feral animals (including introduced predators), pests and diseases. Both Forests NSW and DECC actively cooperate, and work with other agencies, private landholders and community groups.

In 2006–2007, Forests NSW directed approximately \$890,000 towards the control of a range of negative agents across more than 2.7 million hectares of State forest in the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions. Of the total amount spent, 57% was spent on controlling pest animals, introduced predators and feral animals and 43% on weed control.

Feral animal and introduced predator control efforts in State forests (all regions) were conducted over approximately 292 630 ha at a cost of \$501 195 (Table 2-3D). Six feral or pest animal species were targeted in 2006–2007, including *Sus scrofa* (pig), *Capra hircus* (goat), *Felis catus* (cat) and *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (rabbit). Out of all listed potential pests, wild cattle were the only ones not targeted in the current reporting period. As in the previous year, control efforts were most extensive in the Southern region, where \$292,995 was directed at five species across more than 361 000 ha of State forest. Nearly all of this was spent on *Vulpes vulpes* (fox) and *Canis familiaris* (wild dog) control.

Table 2-3D: Forests NSW control efforts for feral animal species – all regions (2006–2007)

Region	Number of species treated	Area treated (ha) (approx.)	Expenditure (approx.)
UNE	3	3 260	\$35,200
LNE	5	17 865	\$49,000
Eden	5	80 500	\$124,000
Southern	5	191 000	\$292,995
<b>Total</b>	<b>6*</b>	<b>292 625</b>	<b>\$501,195</b>

\* Total number of individual species treated across all regions  
Source: Forests NSW data

### Fire

Indicator 3.2: Impact of fire on forest-related values (Eden region)  
(This is an Eden region indicator. For continuity of reporting all regions are reported here.)

***Bushfires affected an estimated 159 700 ha of DECC estate and State forests this year. Prescribed burns and other planned burns were conducted over an estimated 61 300 ha of DECC estate and State forests this year.***

#### Data and interpretation

The size, intensity and frequency of fire events are monitored across public forest areas to help identify the impact of fire on biodiversity and economic values and improve emergency and land management practices. A fire event may be a bushfire or a prescribed burn. In general, prescribed burns are of lower intensity than bushfires and occur during the cooler months of the year. The exception to this is back-burning to control the spread of bushfires. The PWG of DECC and Forests NSW uses the Bushfire

Risk Information Management System (BRIMS) to track hazard-reduction proposals and activities. This system is the central repository for all bushfire risk management reporting for NSW. The NPWS Incident database is used to record wildfire suppression.

### **Bushfires**

Bushfires are uncontrolled fire events of varying intensity that can cause severe and widespread damage to the environment and infrastructure and threaten human life. However, fire plays a crucial role in the diversity and productivity of the Australian bush.

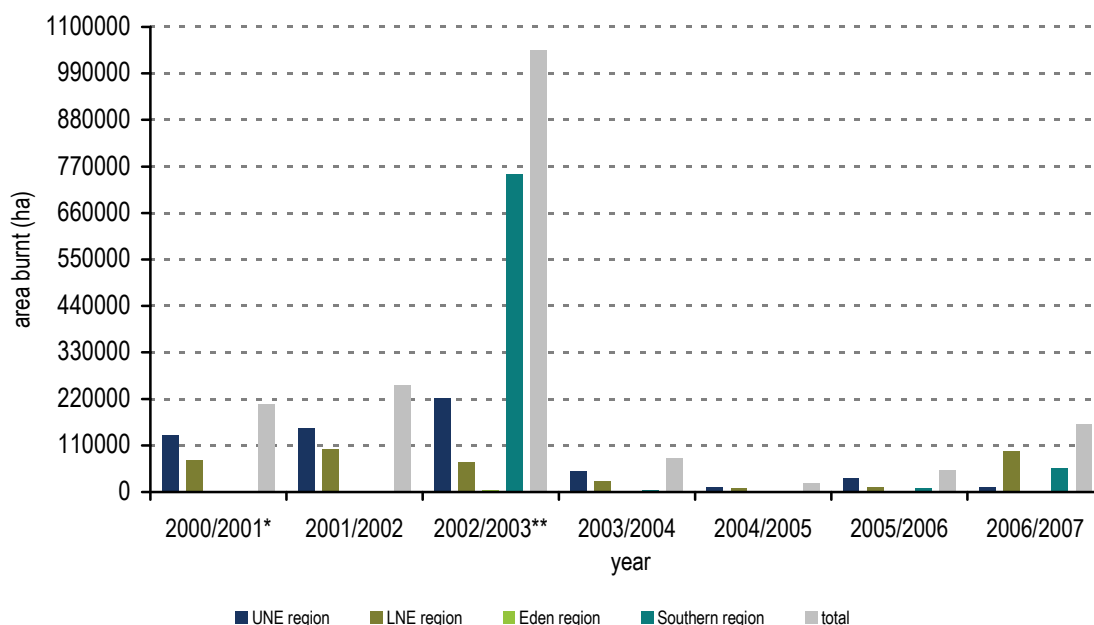
The incidence of bushfire varies greatly from year to year and is closely linked to prevailing weather patterns and, in particular, the occurrence of extreme fire conditions. One indicator is the number of state-wide fire bans declared in a fire season.

Primary factors determining the severity and extent of bushfires include wind speed, temperature and humidity. Contributing factors include the available fuel load, the physical structure of vegetation and the degree of dryness. The effectiveness of fire suppression actions also influences the extent and severity of running fires (DEC 2006).

The total area of native forest within State Forests affected by bushfire rose from 5332 ha in 2005–2006 to 9969 ha in 2006–2007, an 87% increase. The regions most affected by bushfire were UNE, with 6273 ha affected, and LNE, with 3668 ha affected (Figure 2-3C). Twenty-seven hectares was affected in Southern Region, and there were no recorded bushfires in the Eden region this year.

In 2006–2007 the DECC estate in the regions experienced an increase in the total amount of land burned by wildfire (149 727 ha, compared with 46 323 ha in 2005–2006) (Table 2-3E). This increase occurred across the Eden, LNE and Southern regions. Wildfire data are collected on a park basis. One park experiencing wildfire (New England NP) falls within both LNE and UNE, and the 464 ha of this park experiencing wildfire has been counted in both these regions.

Figure 2-3C: Area burnt by bushfire – DECC estate and State forests – all regions



\* Data were incomplete for 1999–2000.

\*\* Monitoring began for the Southern region in 2002–2003.

Source: PWG and Forests NSW data

Table 2-3E: Areas of park system burned in bushfires (excluding prescribed burns by PWG and regardless of origin of ignition) (2006–2007)

Region (2006–2007)	Area of parks system burned in bushfires (ha)
UNE	3 589
LNE	91 174
Southern	54 494
Eden	470
<b>Total</b>	<b>149 727</b>

This is the first time that this indicator has been reported using data from the SoP qualitative assessment.

Table 2-3-F presents two sets of data: the first assesses the approach to planning for the management of bushfire within the parks system, and the second assesses the impacts of fire on reserve values. Ninety per cent of the total of 541 parks reporting on this issue identified that they were implementing either comprehensive plans (i.e. fully implemented plans) (227, 47%) or other plans (209, 43%) for fire management. That is, 90% of parks were implementing fire management plans. Implementation of comprehensive plans for fire management was the dominant approach within parks in three of the four FA regions. Fifty-six percent of parks (10) in Eden, 51% of parks (70) in Southern and 49% of parks (71) in UNE reported that they were implementing comprehensive plans for fire management. In LNE, 45% of reporting parks were implementing other plans for fire management. This approach accounted for a substantial percentage of the management of the remaining parks in the other regions.

Table 2-3-F: Approaches to bushfire management and effects of management approaches in parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
<i>Implementation</i>					
Implementing comprehensive plans	71	76	10	70	227
Implementing plans	64	82	6	57	209
Responsive management	6	18		7	31
Minimal management undertaken	3	5	2	4	14
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>481</b>
<i>Effect of management</i>					
Impacts negligible	44	41	11	73	169
Impacts diminishing	28	22	2	15	67
Impacts not increasing	58	100	5	44	207
Impacts increasing	14	16		6	36
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>479</b>

Source: PWG

Fire management was an issue for 479 of the 541 parks across all regions. The impacts of fire on reserve values were diminishing (14%) or negligible (35%) in 49% of the parks reporting across all regions. The impacts of fire on reserve values were not increasing in 44% of parks across all regions. The highest proportion of parks reporting a diminishing impact of fire on reserve values was in UNE (19%), followed by LNE (12%) and Southern and Eden (both 11%). The highest proportion of parks reporting negligible impacts of fire was in the Eden region (61%), followed by Southern (53%), UNE (31%) and LNE (23%).

### Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning is an important part of fire management that helps reduce the incidence and severity of bushfires and improve bushfire control. Planning involves predicting fire behaviour by using rainfall or drought history, weather (temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction), vegetation and fuel characteristics and topography.

Prescribed burning carried out in State forests includes hazard-reduction burns, post-logging burns, pre-logging burns and area-establishment burns (for plantations). In 2006–2007, Forests NSW had planned for hazard reduction burns and post-logging burns to be carried out on about 60 100 ha of State forest across the four forest agreement regions. Hazard reduction and post-log burns then took place over approximately 27 220 ha (45% of the planned area). A further 3350 ha of plantation land was subject to area-establishment burns. In addition, 1530 ha of land was subject to pre-harvest burns.

Much of the area treated by prescribed burns was in the UNE and Southern regions (approximately 3.5% of the forested area).

In 2006–2007 prescribed burning on the DECC estate was conducted on 29 193 ha across all regions, an increase from the 24 527 ha undergoing prescribed burns in 2005–2006. The largest area undergoing prescribed burns was in the Southern region. Additionally 71.45 ha of the DECC estate was mechanically treated (e.g. slashed), mainly in the Southern region. The total area of parks within LNE undergoing prescribed burns in the 2006–2007 year was approximately 6362 ha; 10.3 ha underwent mechanical treatment. In the UNE region, the total area of parks undergoing prescribed burns was 1727 ha and the area mechanically treated was 8 ha. In the Southern region, 12 281 ha of parks underwent prescribed burns and 53 ha underwent mechanical treatment.

Data on prescribed burns and mechanical treatment are collected on a park basis. One park undergoing mechanical treatment (Wollondilly NR) falls within both the Southern and Eden regions. The area of mechanical treatment (1.2 ha) has been allocated to each of these regions.

#### **Data/information sources, references and further reading**

Information was sourced from the PWG Fire Management Unit.

## **Criterion 4 – Soil and water resources**

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### **Roads and crossings**

Indicator 4.1.a:	Area and percent of forest land covered by Comprehensive Road Management Plans, which include an assessment of the extent of existing road infrastructure, processes for ongoing improvement, targets and milestones (UNE, LNE, Southern regions).
Indicator 4.1:	Road density by category and catchment, and stream-crossing density by catchment, for the total forest agreement area, including forest and non-forest areas. Calculation of an ecologically sustainable road index and ecologically sustainable crossing index (Eden region).

***Approximately 1.29 million hectares of State forests is covered by nine regional road management plans. The total length of the road network within State forests across the forest agreement regions totals approximately 28 841 km.***

No new data are available from PWG on this indicator. Comparison among PWG regions remains difficult because of the different road classification systems.

## Data and interpretation

Forests NSW has nine regional road management plans that cover the four forest agreement areas. The plans are applicable to each Forests NSW softwood and native forests region<sup>17</sup>. Currently, the road management plans are internal Forests NSW documents, but they may be used in the future as a basis for preparing a regional ESFM supplementary plan for road management. The plans cover an estimated 1 297 727 ha of State forests.

The total length of the road network within State forests across the forest agreement regions totals approximately 28 841 km (Table 2-4A). Total road length decreased in the Southern Region (from 5465 km to 4990 km) and LNE region (from 5403 km to 2687 km) and was unchanged in Eden and UNE. Annual variations in road length may be associated with improved assessment methods and the resultant updating of the road network data; changes in agency ownership of road networks; and/or road closure or reopening/new construction of roads.

Table 2-4A: Length of road by classification on State forests – all regions (2006–2007)

Length of road by classification (km)	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern
Primary access	286	60	325	717
Secondary access	0	327	824	1 003
Feeder	0	655	879	5 296
Harvesting, link and boundary	4 101	976	10	5 084
Fire trail and service trail	3 782	669	2 952	895
<b>Total road length</b>	<b>8 169</b>	<b>2 687</b>	<b>4 990</b>	<b>12 995</b>

Source: Forests NSW data

## Soil erosion

MIG Indicator 4.1.a (interim): Area and percentage of forest land systematically assessed for soil erosion hazard, and for which sites varying scientifically-based measures to protect soil erosion and water values are implemented (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

***There were soil erosion hazard assessments on State forests on approximately 82 000 ha (gross) this year. The reporting did not include national parks and other reserves managed outside State forests.***

### Data/information discussion

Forests NSW assesses harvest areas for potential and existing soil erosion issues during the harvest planning process. In 2006–2007, across all regions, Forests NSW carried out soil surveys across an estimated gross area of 94 184 ha (up from the 82 252 ha reported in 2005–2006) and a net harvest area of 34 672 ha (up from the 25 588 ha reported in 2005–2006). Table 2-4B shows the gross area, net harvest area, and percentage of the total net area harvested in each region during the year.

<sup>17</sup> Forests NSW regional boundaries do not correspond to forest agreement area boundaries. As a result, a number of Forests NSW road management plans may be applicable to each forest agreement region (e.g. the UNE region is covered by road management plans for the North East Native Forest Operations Branch, Western Native Forest Operations Branch and Northern Planted Forest Operations Branch).

Table 2-4B: Areas of Forests NSW native forest assessed for soil erosion hazard, and the net area harvested as a percentage of the total forest area – all regions (2006–2007)

Region	Gross area (ha)	Net harvest area (ha)	Percentage (%) of region's production area harvested
UNE	26 059	10 429	2.7
LNE	25 313	10 432	2.3
Eden	16 667	3382	2.1
Southern	26 059	10 429	3.9
<b>Total (2006–2007)</b>	<b>94 184</b>	<b>34 672</b>	

Source: Forests NSW data

Only activities associated with roads, park management infrastructure and visitor facilities are likely to result in soil erosion on DECC estates. As a result, DECC does not make broad area assessments of soil erosion potential. However, when engaging in activities on parks or reserves, the PWG carries out a Review of Environmental Factors under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which will consider the protection of soil and water values.

## Criterion 5 – Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles

### Biomass and carbon

MIG Indicator 5.1.a: Total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool, and if appropriate, by forest type, age class, and successional stages (UNE, LNE, Eden Southern regions)

**Approximately 3 540 433 t of carbon is estimated to be sequestered in Forests NSW hardwood and softwood plantations (refer to Figure 2-5A). This is an increase of 414 439 t from 2005–2006.**

Forests NSW estimates the amount of carbon sequestered in its planted forest estate. This includes both softwood and hardwood plantations. The assumptions for the carbon sequestration calculations are shown in Table 2-5A. Part of the increase over the previous year is attributed to the large proportion of hardwood plantation age classes in UNE between 5 and 18 years, during which high growth rates are recorded. Estimates of the total amount of carbon sequestered across the entire public forest estate are not available.

In 2006–2007, Forests NSW estimated that there were 3 540 433 t of carbon sequestered in its planted forest estate (refer to Figure 2-5A). This is a rise of 414 439 t from the previous reporting period. There was a proportional increase in plantations established (especially in UNE and Southern). The Southern region was again the largest contributor to this total, with an estimated 2 070 334 t of carbon sequestered in 2006–2007 and a net stocked plantation area of 119 019 ha of softwood (about the same as in the previous period).

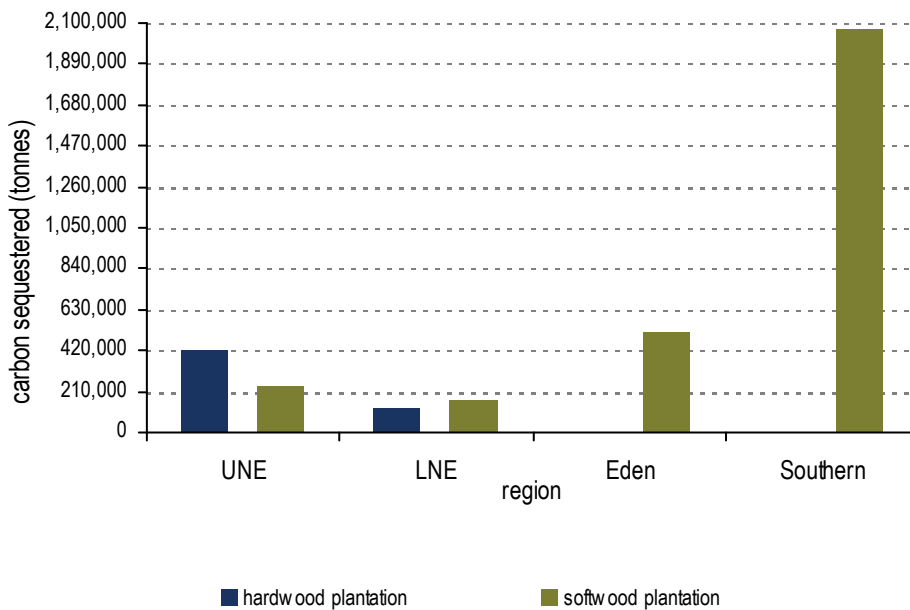
Table 2-5A: Assumptions for carbon sequestration in Forests NSW's planted forest estate

Assumptions	Softwood	Hardwood
CO <sub>2</sub> sequestered (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e) = net plantation area x mean tree biomass increment (MTBI) X carbon proportion (CP) x carbon to carbon dioxide factor (CCF), where:		
MTBI = SBI + CBI + RBI	9.487296	11.64735
SBI (stem biomass Increment) = TSVI x BD	6.72	8.25
TSVI (total stem volume increment)	16 m <sup>3</sup> /ha/year	15 m <sup>3</sup> /ha/year
BD (basic density)	0.42 t/m <sup>3</sup>	0.55 t/m <sup>3</sup>
CBI (canopy biomass increment) = SBI x 0.1765	1.18608	1.456125
RBI (root biomass increment) = (SBI + CBI) x 0.2	1.581216	1.941225
CP = 0.5	0.5	0.5
CCDF = 3.667	3.667	3.667

Source: Forests NSW

Forests NSW estimates that the weight of carbon sequestered in plantation estate in the UNE, LNE and Eden regions was 663 913 t (345 902 t in the previous year), 290 903 t (237 285 t previously) and 515 281 t (514 004 t previously), respectively.

Figure 2-5A: Carbon sequestered in Forests NSW hardwood and softwood plantations – all regions (2006–2007)



Source: Forests NSW data



## Global carbon budget

MIG Indicator 5.1.c: Contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

### Data

During the 2006–2007 reporting period PWG undertook work to scope the complex legal, policy and scientific issues related to carbon sequestration through reforestation of degraded lands in the public reserve system. The intention has been to develop a policy and operations framework that could better support DECC to integrate environmental objectives of biodiversity conservation and greenhouse gas abatement, including contributions to State Plan priority E3 (Cleaner air and progress on greenhouse gas reductions).

Other programs within the PWG are focused on climate change adaptation. For example, the report *Protecting our National Parks from Pests and Weeds* (May 2007) at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/SoPPestManagement.pdf> lists climate change as an emerging challenge (page 34). The PWG is working with Macquarie University and NSW Department of Primary Industries to model the potential effects of climate change on invasive species.

No new data are available from Forests NSW for this indicator.

## Criterion 6 – Socio-economic benefits

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### Visitation

MIG Indicator 6.2.c: Number of visits per annum (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

***The total number of permits issued for activities in State forests decreased slightly this year when compared with previously available (2004–2005) figures. On DECC estate in the regions, two parks received more than 1 000 000 visitors and 26 received in excess of 100 000 visitors.***

### PWG

#### *Data discussion*

This indicator has been reported on for the UNE, LNE and Southern regions annually from the first year of reporting, and for Eden from the 2000–2001 reporting period.

In March 2006, DECC launched *Living Parks*, which was the State's first visitation strategy for all lands reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Since the launch of this report, Branch Visitation Management Plans have been prepared that cover all parks managed by PWG. These plans will help improve the coordination of visitor planning, provide a framework for management decisions on visitation, highlight opportunities and constraints, provide strategies to achieve sustainable visitation, and guide managers in adopting recreational activities that are suitable for their parks and that minimise impacts on natural and cultural heritage.

*Changes between 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 SoP reporting*

In the 2004–2005 ESFM report, PWG reported on visitor numbers through the SoP qualitative assessment. This allowed greater alignment between the two reporting programs. The 2004–2005 SoP assessment required each park manager to estimate the annual visitor numbers by the most accurate means available. Data sources included the visitor data system, estimates, recent counts and a combination of sources.

The 2007 SoP qualitative assessment process refined this reporting system. For those parks where visitor numbers were less than 100 000, reporting is via a visitor bandwidth. The 2005 survey reported on the 'Visitor Data System' as a means for determining visitor numbers. This data source has now been replaced by 'traffic counters', which refers to the source of data collected, rather than the database within which it is held. Greater differentiation of data sources was also provided by the addition or refinement of categories: counts at gates or visitor information centres; previous counts; and the categories of fees, tickets or bookings included in the assessment.

Table 2-6A: Visitation to parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Visitor numbers bandwidth (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
1 million +	1			1	2
100 001–1 million	5	11	2	8	26
10 001–100 000	22	23	4	15	64
1001–10 000	25	39	3	34	101
101–1000	37	58	5	21	121
11–100	42	52	4	35	133
1–10	10	12		7	29
0	17	16	1	18	52
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>528</b>

Source: PWG

Table 2-6A summarises visitation to parks across all regions in 2006–2007. Twenty-six parks each received more than 100 000 visits. As in the 2005 SoP assessment, Kosciuszko NP (within the Southern region) received the greatest visitor numbers, with 1 000 000 visitors estimated for each of the Alpine Area, Alpine Resort and Snowy River Areas (the South West Slopes and Upper Murray areas received fewer than 100 000 visitors). The Blue Mountains NP has visitation in excess of 1 million, although it is only partly within the Southern region.

In the UNE region the most visited parks were Cape Byron SCA (1 200 000; source = estimate), Coffs Coast RP (1 000 000; source = estimate), Muttonbird Island NR (500 000; source = traffic counters) and Yuraygir NP (500 000; source = traffic counters). Seventeen parks reported no visitation.

The most visited parks (above) were also the top four visited in the 2005 SoP survey within this region, but the Cape Byron SCA now attracts more visitors than does the Coffs Coast RP. Visitation to both

parks has increased since the 2005 SoP assessment. There has been no discernable change in visitation to Yuraygir NP and Muttonbird Island NR.

Since 2005 there has been no change in the level of visitation to the three most visited parks in the LNE region: Arakoon SCA (500 000 visits; source = traffic counters), Oxley Wild Rivers NP (275 000 visits; source = traffic counters) and Munmorah SCA (450 000 visits; source = traffic counters). Saltwater NP had the fourth-highest visitation, with an estimated 250 000 visits. Sixteen parks reported no visitation.

The two most visited parks in the Eden region were Ben Boyd NP (200 000 visits; source = estimates) and Mimosa Rocks NP (140 000 visits; combination of sources). Estimated visitation to Ben Boyd NP is unchanged from the 2005 SoP assessment, but visitor numbers to Mimosa Rocks NP are assessed as having increased by 20 000 since the previous assessment. One park reported no visitation.

Outside of Kosciuszko NP and Blue Mountains NP, Morton NP (1 000 000 visits; combination of sources), Murramarang NP (950 000 visits; combination of sources), Jenolan KCR (230 000 visits; combination of sources) and Eurobodalla NP (160 000 visits; combination of sources) received the highest levels of visitation in the Southern region. There was no recorded visitation in 18 parks.

Table 2-6B: Data sources for reporting on number of visits to parks for each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Data sources for visitation (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
Counts at gate or visitor information centre					
Previous count		1			3
Traffic counters	9	5	4	4	22
Fees, tickets or bookings					
Combination of sources	9	19	3	23	54
Estimate	140	185	12	110	447
Other	1	1			2

Source: PWG

Table 2-6B indicates that, as with the 2005 SoP survey, park managers continue to rely heavily on estimates as a data source for assessing the level of visitation to parks within across the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions.

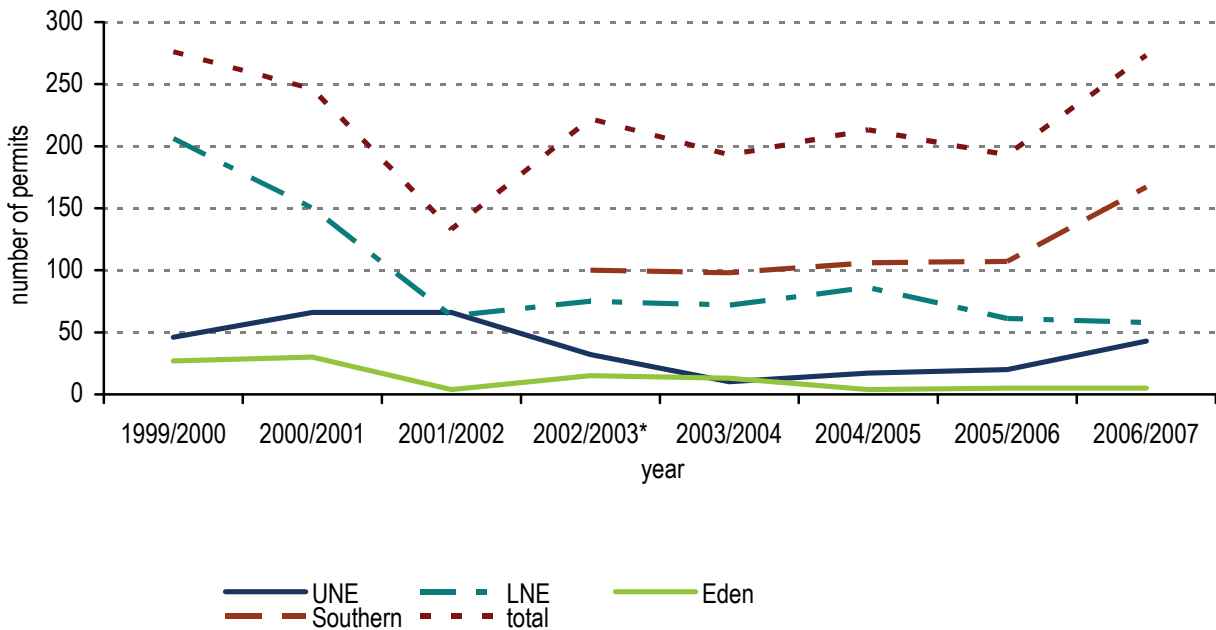
### Forests NSW

A variety of recreational and educational activities occur in State forests. Forests NSW provides some measure of recreational use from the number of permits issued for recreational and educational activities. Recreational and educational activities that may require a permit include horse riding, car rallies, some bushwalking activities, and military training exercises. In 2006–2007, 273 permits were issued for recreational or educational activities in State forests (80 more than the previous year).

Permits were issued in all regions: UNE (43) LNE (58) Southern (167) and Eden (5) (see Figure 2-6A).

Note that permits represent organised events recorded with Forests NSW but are not a measure of passive recreation, bushwalking and camping in State forests, or of other casual visits or drives to forests. No data for the number of visits made to State forests were available for this report.

Figure 2-6A: Permits issued for recreation/educational activities in State forests – all regions



\* Monitoring began in the Southern region in 2002–2003  
Source: Forests NSW data

Indicator 6.3: Availability and usage of recreation/tourism facilities (Eden region)  
(Data have been provided for all regions.)

### Recreation/tourism facilities

**The total number of recreation/tourism facilities in State forests decreased slightly this year when compared with 2004–2005 figures. Eighty-eight per cent of parks reporting on visitor facilities in the regions report that visitor facilities and services are appropriate to the reserve category.**

#### Data discussion

This indicator has been reported on for Eden, UNE and LNE regions annually from the 2000–2001 reporting period onwards and for Southern from the 2002–2003 reporting period onwards.

Data were provided by the PWG on the availability and appropriateness of visitor facilities within Parks in 2004–2005 through the *State of Parks* qualitative assessment. The categories used to assess the suitability for existing users/appropriateness of facilities to maintain reserve values between the 2005 and the 2007 SoP surveys are comparable.

Table 2-6C: Availability and appropriateness of visitor facilities within parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Rregion				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
Visitor facilities and services are appropriate to the reserve category levels of visitation.	42	43	7	23	115
Visitor facilities and services are appropriate to the reserve category.	16	31	4	19	70
Visitor facilities are unsuitable for the reserve category.	4	6		3	13
There are no visitor facilities or services.		3		7	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>208</b>

Source: PWG

Table 2-6C shows the availability and appropriateness of visitor facilities within Parks for each region. Additional detail on this question is provided in the 2004–2005 annual report; however, that report is primarily concerned with the provision of facilities such as picnic tables and camping areas.

Fewer than half (208) of the parks in the regions reported on this issue, a similar level to that reporting in the 2004–2005 reporting period. Included in these numbers are wilderness areas and also nature reserves that are primarily managed to maximise the protection of unique or representative natural and cultural features; as such, these provide only limited visitor services. Also included in this category are parks where access is limited.

Over half of the parks reporting (115) identified that visitor facilities and services were appropriate to the reserve category and adequate for current levels and types of visitation. This is similar to that identified in the 2004–2005 reporting period. Only 10 parks across all regions reported that there were no visitor facilities or services. One of these was a new park and formal planning was still being finalised for the others.

Forests NSW continues to provide data for the actual number of facilities available on its estate. The total number of recreation and tourism facilities in State forests in 2006–2007 totalled 141 (Table 2-6D). The majority of these recreational and tourism facilities were within the LNE (64) and Southern (50) regions. Overall there was a 1% decrease in the number of facilities across all forest agreement regions. The reductions were solely in the Southern region, where there was a slight reduction in the number of facilities, from 53 to 50.

Table 2-6D: Recreation/tourism facilities in State forests – all regions (2006–2007)

Recreational facilities provided	Region				Total
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	
Roadside rest area/picnic area	2	17	8	13	40
Forest drives (marked)	2	1	1	0	4
Forest walks (marked)	3	13	2	9	27
Lookouts	1	7	0	6	14
Camping areas	1	19	3	16	39
Camps/huts/cottages	1	7	2	6	16
Other	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>141</b>

Source: Forests NSW data

In addition, across the forest agreement regions, 3033 ha of State forest was designated of 'special value' of tourism and recreation under the forest management zoning system in 2006–2007. This value is applied to sites that have established recreation facilities or sites that are planned and suitable for development.

## Employment

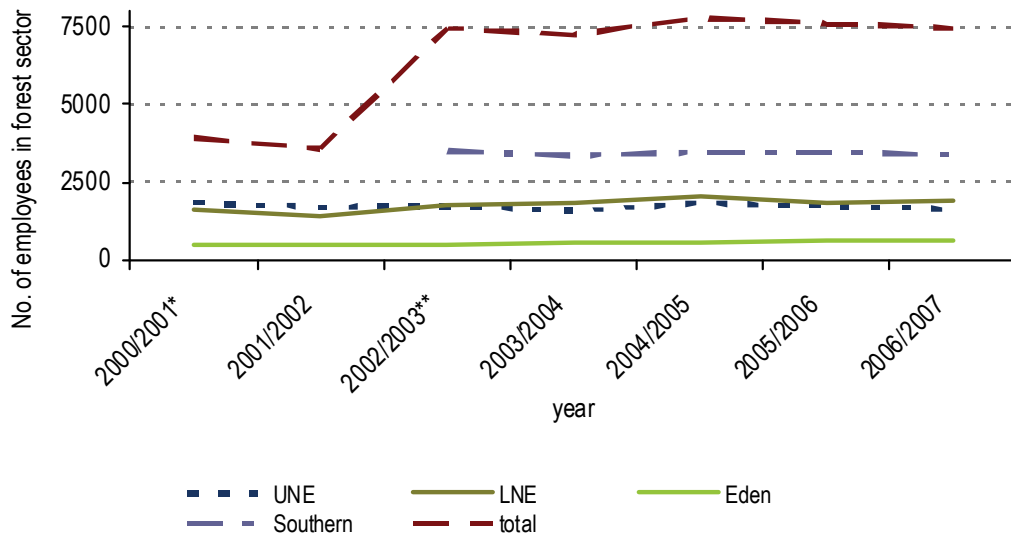
MIG Indicator 6.5.a: Direct and indirect employment in the forest sector and forest sector employment as a proportion/percentage of total employment (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)  
 Indicator 6.4: Employment numbers by type across all forest users in the Eden region

***Employment in the forest sector, including by Forests NSW and by DECC, decreased slightly when compared with 2005–2006 figures.***

Employment in the forest management and conservation sector is important to many regional economies. Data within this indicator have been provided by Forests NSW (direct and indirect employment) and PWG (direct employees only).

In 2006–2007, the estimate for total employment in forest sector decreased very slightly (Figure 2-6B). At the end of 2006–2007, combined employment by Forests NSW and PWG was estimated to be 7460 equivalent full-time (EFT) employees. This is slightly fewer than in the previous year (7615 EFT).

Figure 2-6B: Total PWG (direct) and Forests NSW (direct and indirect) regional employment – all regions (2006–2007)



\* Data for 1999–2000 have not been included, as an accounting error was made in employment figures for Forests NSW and incomplete data were available for employment by the PWG.

\*\* Marked rise in total employment in 2002–2003 due to the inclusion of employment figures for the Southern region.

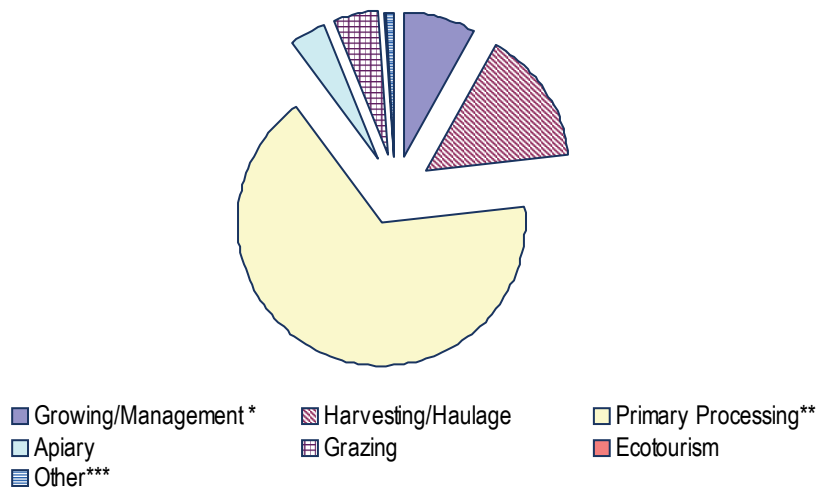
Source: PWG and Forests NSW data

### Forests NSW – direct and indirect employment

The direct and indirect employment figures provided by Forests NSW cover a range of activities, including growing and managing of forests, harvesting and haulage, primary processing, apiary, grazing and other activities (such as gravel extraction and plantation establishment by contractors).

Estimated total direct and indirect employment in the forest sector, by Forests NSW, totalled 6665 EFT positions across all regions for 2006–2007. Similarly to last year, the largest employment sector was primary processing, which made up 67% of total employment across all forest agreement regions (Figure 2-6C). Harvesting and haulage accounted for 15% of employment, growing and managing forests accounted for 8%, and apiary accounted for 3.7%.

Figure 2-6C: Forest sector employment (direct and indirect) – all regions (2006–2007)



\* Includes administration, maintenance activities, consultants and contractors.  
 \*\* Processing occurs at a site where the input is raw material supplied by Forests NSW.  
 \*\*\* Includes gravel extraction, forest product removal and miscellaneous timber harvesting.  
 Source: Forests NSW data

**PWG direct employment**

The PWG provides data on direct employment only. PWG direct employment figures are based on an establishment plan provided from a central human resource database.

Table 2-6E: Employment numbers for each of the regions

Region	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern
Staff employed	182	298	65	250

Source: PWG

Table 2-6E outlines employment figures for PWG in each region. These figures include permanent and temporary EFT; they do not include casual or seasonal positions. Overall there was a drop in employment numbers for all regions in 2006–2007 from the 2005–2006 reporting period, except in the Eden region.

As of 30/6/07, DECC’s Human Resources database listed 191 staff attached to PWG who were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This figure includes full-time, part-time and casual staff and covers all of NSW that is it is not restricted to the regions.

**Reporting issues/opportunities, and recommendations for evaluation of the indicator and caveats**

The methodology used to calculate the PWG employment numbers is outlined below.



The proportion of each PWG field-based Area that fell within a region was calculated and the proportion applied to the employment figures for that Area. The proportion calculated for the 2005–2006 year for employment in other PWG administrative units was adopted for the 2006–2007 year and applied to other relevant PWG Regional, Section or Unit staff. These figures were added to give a total employment figure for each region.

For all regions, total employment figures included all staff located within each PWG Region, although some proportion of staff time would also be spent outside the region. For PWG Sections or Units that do not have a defined boundary it is difficult to determine how many staff should be included when calculating total employment figures, as it is not possible to isolate forest-related tasks from the broader range of work undertaken by PWG. All staff from PWG Northern and Southern Branches, and relevant staff from PWG Central Branch, have been included regardless of whether they do, or do not, undertake forest-related tasks. Staff from the PWG Reserve and Wildlife Conservation Branch have been included only where it can be identified that they undertake forest-related tasks. There may be other staff elsewhere in DECC or within PWG who have minor roles in forest-related tasks in relation to the regions, but these are not easily identifiable and therefore have not been captured.

## Gross income

Indicator 6.5:	Gross income index related to forests (Eden region)
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***No outcomes to report***

No new data are available from PWG or Forests NSW for this indicator. These data are not applicable to the PWG.

## Places of cultural significance

Indicator 6.4.c:	Change in condition and number of recorded places, artefacts, sites, buildings or other structures (UNE, LNE regions)
Indicator 6.6:	Change in condition and number of recorded places, artefacts, sites, buildings or other structures (Eden region)
Indicator 6.4.c(i):	Change in condition and number of Aboriginal cultural heritage features within the forest estate, including recorded places, artefacts, sites, or other structures (Southern region)
Indicator 6.4.c(ii):	Change in condition and number of historic heritage features within the forest estate, including recorded places, artefacts, sites, buildings or other structures (Southern region)

***As at 30 June 2007, a total of 16 547 Aboriginal objects have been recorded on the DECC estate, with a further 6223 Aboriginal objects recorded off-park, across all regions. In 2006–2007, Forests NSW identified 59 new Aboriginal sites in State forests. Most of these were located in the LNE region.***

Cultural, social and aesthetic cultural values of an area are often difficult to quantify because their values are often intangible and subjective. A simple indicative measure of how well forests are being managed for cultural values is the number of places or areas of cultural, social or aesthetic significance identified and/or conserved.

### Aboriginal cultural heritage in the DECC estate

For this set of indicators the number of Aboriginal cultural heritage recorded places, artefacts, sites or other structures has been reported on for all of the regions annually from the first year of reporting. The condition of these elements was first reported on by PWG in 2004–2005 using information from the State of the Parks qualitative assessment.

As in previous reports, the data for these indicators have been split into Aboriginal and Historic cultural heritage recorded places, artefacts, sites or other structures. This is done for consistency and clarity across the regions.

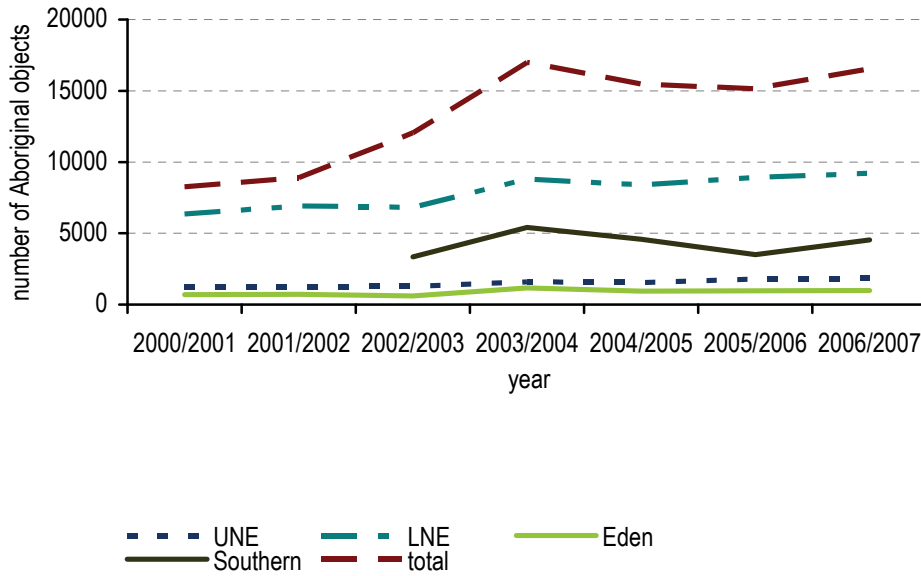
The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) is a database that contains recording cards for all Aboriginal objects, Aboriginal places and other Aboriginal heritage values in NSW that have been reported to DECC. It is essential to note that a report from AHIMS does not represent a comprehensive list of all Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places in a specified area. A report lists recorded sites only. In any given area there may be a number of undiscovered and/or unrecorded Aboriginal objects. As at 30 June 2007, a total of 16 547 Aboriginal objects have been recorded on-park, with a further 6223 Aboriginal objects recorded off-park, across all regions (Table 2-6F). Overall there was an increase in the total number of Aboriginal objects recorded on-park and off-park as at 30 June 2007 compared with 30 June 2006. These trends are charted in Figures 2-6D and 2-6E.

Table 2-6F: Total numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded within the regions (current to 2007)

Region (current to 2007)	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
Aboriginal objects recorded in region off-park	1 832	9 199	984	4 532	16 547
Aboriginal objects recorded in region on-park	476	2 468	517	2 762	6 223

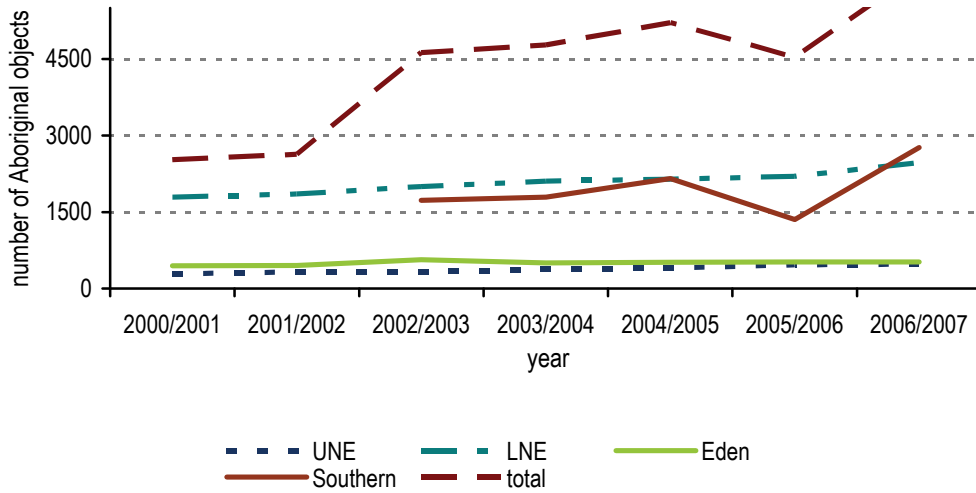
Source: PWG

Figure 2-6D: Numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded off the DECC estate – all regions (2006–2007)



Note: Number of sites off-park includes those on private land and other public tenure.  
Source: PWG data (AHIMS)

Figure 2-6E: Numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded on the DECC estate – all regions (2006–2007)



Source: PWG data (AHIMS). Compiled by the Resource and Conservation Unit (RACU) of DECC

Table 2-6G: Condition of Aboriginal places and sites within Parks in each region (number of Parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
The most important Aboriginal places, sites and objects are not degraded.	31	18	5	24	78
Some important Aboriginal places, sites and objects are degraded but are not at risk.	22	29	5	16	73
Some important Aboriginal places, sites and objects are at risk.	5	5	1	7	16
The most important Aboriginal places, sites and objects are at risk	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>167</b>

Source: PWG

The assessment criteria outlined in Table 2-6G refer to the condition of Aboriginal places and sites protected within parks, as determined in the 2007 SoP assessment, where those parks had identified Aboriginal places, sites or objects amongst the five most significant reserve values. There has been an increase in the number of parks in all regions since the 2005 SoP assessment. In the current assessment, nearly a third of parks across all of the regions identified Aboriginal values amongst the five most significant values in those parks. Of the parks reporting, 91% identified that important Aboriginal values are not at risk. Of these, almost half (47%) identified that there is no degradation of the most important Aboriginal places, sites and objects in those parks. Some Aboriginal places, sites or objects were at risk in 16 parks.

#### Aboriginal cultural heritage in State forests

Forests NSW surveys for Aboriginal sites as part of its pre-harvest survey process. If a site is detected, the local Aboriginal land council or indigenous representatives are contacted to decide on the protection required for the site. Forests NSW also seeks advice about the long-term management of these sites. Forests NSW uses the PWG AHIMS system to check that the Forests NSW system has not missed any detected sites. In addition, previously detected sites are protected from the impact of harvesting operations.

In 2006–2007, Forests NSW identified 59 new Aboriginal sites in State forests. Most new sites were located in the LNE region (43). New sites were also found in the Southern (4) and Eden (12) regions, with no additional sites in UNE region. No sites of Aboriginal significance were reported during 2006–2007 as destroyed<sup>18</sup>.

#### Historic (non-indigenous) cultural heritage

The number of historic heritage features, including recorded places, artefacts, sites, buildings and other structures, has been reported for all of the regions annually from the first year of reporting. Data are sourced from the Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS). The condition of these

<sup>18</sup> Destruction of sites requires licence approval from DECC and consultation with the relevant local Aboriginal land council.

elements was first reported on by PWG in 2004–2005 using information from the *State of Parks* qualitative assessment.

A total of 4813 historic items and places were recorded on-park across all of the regions (Table 2-6H); this was a drop of 262 from the total (5075) recorded as at 30 June 2006. The Eden region was the only region to record an increase in sites between the two periods. These trends are charted in Figure 2-6F.

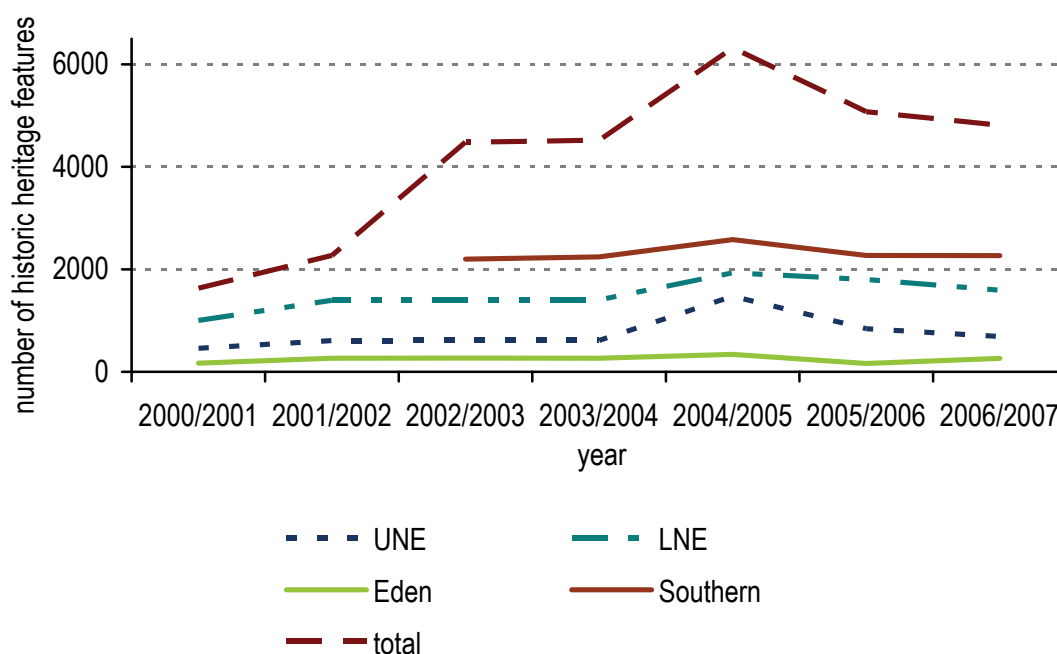
This change may be attributed to differences in the methodology used to calculate the total number of historic places recorded as at 30 June 2006 compared with the total recorded at 30 June 2007, rather than a change in the number of items or places recorded per region. In addition, the fact that the HHIMS database is constantly under review and subject to amalgamation, addition and subtraction of records may have contributed to the decrease in sites within the regions.

Table 2-6H: Total numbers of historic places recorded in national parks and reserves within the regions (current to June 2007)

No of historic places recorded on-park	Region				Total
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	
	690	1 594	262	2 267	4 813

Source: PWG

Figure 2-6F: Numbers of historic cultural heritage objects recorded – all regions (2006–2007)



Source: PWG data (HHIMS). Compiled by RACU

Table 2-6I: Condition of non-indigenous (historic) values within parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria ( 2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
The most important historic heritage (non-indigenous) values are not degraded.	15	6	3	14	38
Some important historic heritage (non-indigenous) values are degraded but not at risk.	14	23	3	18	58
Some important historic heritage (non-indigenous) values are at risk.	7	17		10	34
The most important historic heritage (non-indigenous) values are at risk.		3		1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>134</b>

Source: PWG

As part of the SoP Qualitative Assessment, each park was required to list the five most significant reserve values. The assessment criteria outlined in Table 2-6I refer to the condition of non-indigenous (historic) values protected within a park, where it was determined that these values were amongst the five most significant within the park.

Approximately one-quarter of parks across all of the regions identified non-indigenous (historic values) amongst the most important values.

For parks identifying historic heritage as one of the significant reserve values, 72% indicated that the most important non-indigenous (historic) values were not at risk; of these, 40% identified that the most important values were not degraded. Four parks across all regions (3%) identified that there was a risk of degradation to important historic values.

The increase in the number of Aboriginal objects for the Southern region from the 2005–2006 to 2006–2007 year may be due to database issues: only sites from the South Coast Comprehensive Regional Assessment region were reported for the Southern RFA in 2005–2006.

#### Historic heritage features in State forests

Forests NSW Regions maintain a Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register using the State Heritage Inventory database developed by the NSW Heritage Office. The register identifies sites and objects of heritage significance for internal reference. Site details are also submitted to the NSW Heritage Office for inclusion on the State Heritage Register, when required. All sites of non-indigenous exploration and settlement that are assessed and recognised to be of local or regional historical significance are incorporated within Forests NSW GIS system. Potential buffers around significant sites are incorporated into the FMZ system.

The total area of State forest zoned for heritage value across the regions was 3261 ha, with a further 29 351 ha zoned mainly for aesthetic value.

## Criterion 7 – Legal, institutional and economic frameworks

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### Legal framework

MIG Indicator 7.1 (narrative): Extent to which the legal framework (laws, regulations, guidelines) supports the conservation and sustainable management of forests (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

***The legal framework for sustainable management of forests and forest management is extensive. It includes legislation, amendments to existing legislation, policies, guidelines and codes of practice.***

***Reporting against this indicator is done at a state-wide level, and when any policy or other document is specific to a region, it is indicated. The following discussion includes only information on the legal framework for forests and forest management not previously reported.***

#### Data and discussion

PWG has provided information (narrative) and examples for most of the indicators. As with previous years' reporting, the information provided for Criterion 7 is presented on a state-wide scale and is often not directly attributable to individual regions.

In the 2004–2005 reporting year the *State of the Parks* qualitative survey data (DEC 2005) were introduced as the primary source of PWG reporting data for ESFM and other internal and external reporting processes. The intent was to improve alignment and consistency between reporting systems. Data from the *State of the Parks* qualitative survey have again been used to report on this indicator in the 2006–2007 reporting year. During the 2005–2006 year, the PWG aligned its reporting on this indicator as much as possible with the national *State of the Forests Report 2008* reporting requirements.

#### Additions and changes to legal framework

##### *Legislation*

Table 2-7A lists the extent to which the legal frameworks in PWG provide for aspects of ecologically sustainable forest management. The table in Appendix 5 lists the main legislation relevant to sustainable forest management in NSW. For updates on specific legislation and legal changes relevant to Acts, new and amending Acts and new and amending Regulations that are administered by DECC, refer to DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007* Appendix 7, pages 142–143.

Upon the formation of DECC the following legislation became the responsibility of the new department (though not necessarily the responsibility of PWG): the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*; *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and *Soil Conservation Act 1938*.

Table 2-7A: Extents to which legal frameworks provide for ecologically sustainable forest management

Extent to which the legal framework provides for:	State forests	DECC estate
<i>Forest management planning and review</i>		
Accountable management body	Y	Y
Dispute resolution process	Y	Y
Forest management planning	Y	Y
Management review	Y	Y
Planning for environmental values	Y	Y
Planning review	Y	Y
Policy review	Y	Y
Property rights	Y	Y
Periodic assessment of forest-related resources	Y	Y
<i>Indigenous participation</i>		
Formal indigenous participation in management	Y	P
Indigenous participation in planning	Y	Y
Recognition of cultural values	Y	Y
Recognition of native title rights	Y	Y
Mechanisms to recognise the customary and traditional rights of indigenous peoples	Y	P
Traditional management on relevant public land (e.g. joint management/co-management)	P	Y
Access* to forests for traditional activities	Y	P
Access to indigenous cultural heritage on forest land	Y	Y
Allowance for the performance of traditional practices	Y	P
Allowance for the protection of indigenous intellectual property	Y	P
<i>Public participation</i>		
Legislation requiring broad-based public consultation for forest-related policy	Y	Y
Legislation requiring broad-based public consultation to develop forest-related management plans	Y	Y
Legislation requiring publication of specific forest-related information	Y	P
Freedom of information legislation allowing public access to information related to forests	Y	Y
<i>Other aspects</i>		
Recognition of scientific values	Y	Y
Recognition of voluntary reserves on private land	N	Y
Regulation of forest clearing	Y	Y
Resource assessment	Y	P
Secure land tenure	Y	Y
Sustainable Forest Management explicit objectives	Y	P

\* Access includes an ability to enter and pursue activities such as foraging, hunting, or ceremonies.

Ratings:

Y = Yes. There is a legislative requirement to apply best practice for this activity in this tenure category.

P = Partly. There is a legislative requirement to apply best practice for this activity in this tenure, but this requirement does not cover all aspects or is limited in its application.

N = No. There is no legislative requirement to apply best practice for this activity in this tenure.

Source: PWG and Forests NSW data



New and amending Acts (again not necessarily administered by PWG) were the *National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006* and the *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Act 2006*. Commencing on 1 July 2007, the *National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006* enacted the transfer and reservation of over 17 000 ha of high-conservation-value Government-owned land into conservation reserves, including flora reserves and areas to be managed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. New and amending regulations that are reported on by DECC but not necessarily administered by PWG and that may support the conservation and sustainable management of forests include:

- Native Vegetation Amendment (Assessment Methodology) Regulation 2006
- Native Vegetation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2006
- Native Vegetation Amendment (Private Native Forestry) Regulation (No 2) 2006
- Native Vegetation Amendment (Private Native Forestry Transitional) Regulation 2007
- Native Vegetation Amendment Regulation 2007
- Protection of the Environment Administration Regulation 2007
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment (Bush Fire Hazard Reduction) Regulation 2007
- Protection of the Environment Operations Legislation Amendment (Control of Burning) Regulation 2006
- Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Wollemi Pine) Regulation 2007

The following pieces of legislation are concerned with general matters relating to Crown Land management, assessment, transfer and sale and commenced on 1 September 2006:

- Crown Lands Regulation 2006 (replaced the Crown Lands Regulation 2000), Crown Lands (General Reserves) By-law 2006 (replaced the Crown Lands (General Reserves) By-law 2001) and Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Regulation 2006 (replaced the Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Regulation 2000).

**National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2006.** This reserved certain Crown lands as State conservation area or national park. This included revocation of certain land reserved in the Bargo State Conservation Area and reservation of land under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* as Bargo River State Conservation Area and as part of Yengo National Park, which is in the LNE region.

#### *Management policies, guidelines and codes of practice*

In 2005–2006, as part of data provision for the Commonwealth *State of the Forest 2008* reporting process, Forests NSW and PWG rated the extent to which the existing legal framework, applicable to their tenure, provided for ESFM. The ESFM components considered included forest management planning and review, and public and indigenous participation. This detail is provided in Table 2-7A. Forests NSW and PWG also considered whether the existing legal framework provided for best practice for a number of forest activities (see previous Annual Report 2005–2006). Forests NSW and PWG considered that the existing legal framework overwhelmingly provides for the various ESFM aspects and coverage of forest activities. As in the 2005–2006 reporting year, management policies are reported on under Criterion 7.2. This is to align reporting with the national *State of the Forests 2008* reporting requirements. Table 2-7B lists the extent to which the legislative requirements and legal frameworks of DECC and Forests NSW apply best practice for sustainable forest management activities.

Table 2-7B: Extents to which legislative requirements and legal frameworks apply best practice for sustainable forest management activities, by tenure category (2006-2007)

Forest activity	State forests	DECC estate
<i>Access to the forest</i>		
Planning and sighting roads	Y	Y
Road design and construction	Y	Y
Upgrading existing roads and tracks	Y	Y
Rock quarries and gravel pits	Y	Y
Bridge, causeway and ford construction	Y	Y
Road maintenance	Y	Y
<i>Harvesting</i>		
Design, planning and equipment	Y	-
Wet weather	Y	-
Snig tracks and landings	Y	-
Water quality and stream protection	Y	-
Salvage operations	Y	-
Steep country	Y	-
Timber harvesting plans	Y	-
<i>Conservation of other values</i>		
Flora	Y	Y
Fauna	Y	Y
Rare or endangered species	Y	Y
Landscape	Y	Y
Archaeology (cultural heritage)	Y	Y
Geomorphology	Y	Y
Care of soils	Y	Y
Water quality and flow	Y	Y
<i>Forest establishment</i>		
Reforestation	Y	Y
<i>Maintaining forests</i>		
Fire management	Y	Y
Pest, disease, weed control	Y	Y
Use of chemicals	Y	Y
Thinning	Y	-
Non-wood products/uses	Y	Y
Apiary	Y	Y
Grazing	Y	-
Recreation	Y	Y
<i>Socio-economic</i>		
Occupational health and safety	Y	Y

Ratings:

Y = Yes. There is a legislative requirement to apply best practice for this activity in this tenure category

P = Partly. There is a legislative requirement to apply best practice for this activity in this tenure but this requirement does not cover all aspects or is limited in its application.

N = No. There is no legislative requirement to apply best practice for this activity in this tenure.

Source: PWG and Forests NSW data

## Legal framework and Aboriginal interests

Table 2-7A identifies the extent to which facets of indigenous participation in ecologically sustainable forest management are provided for in the legal frameworks for nature conservation reserves in NSW.

DECC provided input to the Department of Planning (DoP) in developing the Standard Instrument Principal Local Environmental Plan, which was gazetted in March 2006. It ensures that all new local environmental plans (LEPs) reflect state-wide standards for planning. DECC continues to work with DoP to ensure that there are adequate safeguards in LEPs for the protection of water quality, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage (DECC 2007).

In the UNE, 30 782 ha of land was recognised with native title, and Forests NSW entered into three co-management agreements with Aboriginal people over a total of 53 550 ha of land. Under the agreements, State Forests remains land manager while Aboriginal Elders will have input to land management practices and access to cultural teaching, as well as a place where all people can come together to share cultural and historical information.

A number of co-management arrangements that enable Aboriginal people to manage parks or advise the PWG on its management of parks were entered into in the 2006–2007 period.

In December 2006, two new ILUAs were signed by the NSW Government and the Bundjalung People of Byron Bay – Arakwal. The Byron Bay ILUA was an agreement to add land with high environmental values to Arakwal NP, Cumbebin Swamp NR and Broken Head NR. The Ti Tree Lake ILUA will create a new reserve, the Ti Tree Lake Aboriginal Area, which encompasses forests and lakes sacred to Bundjalung women, and will be managed with the women (DECC 2007).

In February 2007, the Government finalised an ILUA with the Githabul native title claimants in northern NSW. The ILUA establishes a co-management arrangement covering 10 parks near Kyogle in north-eastern NSW near the Queensland border, the largest area ever included in an ILUA in NSW. The Government and the Githabul people will seek consent determination orders from the Federal Court that the claimants hold native title rights over those parks and other public lands, to enable the Githabul People to practise their traditional laws and customs, including the right to access and camp in the areas and hunt, fish and gather plants for personal use. This is the first time that such a determination of native title has been sought (DECC 2007).

On 10 February 2007, the Government returned lands at Stockton Bight near Newcastle to the traditional owners, the Worimi people, for three new Aboriginal-owned parks to be known as the Worimi Conservation Lands (Worimi Regional Park, Worimi State Conservation Area and Worimi National Park). This result followed 2 years of formal negotiations and almost a decade of discussion to resolve land claims under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The Aboriginal community has consented to give the land to the general community for recreational enjoyment. The reserves will be jointly managed by the Worimi people and DECC (DECC 2007).

In March 2007, DECC and the Darug people signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) covering 34 parks in southern and south-western Sydney, to enable the Darug people to be involved in managing parks and reserves and to protect Darug objects and places (DECC 2007).

Other negotiations included the creation of a new Aboriginal-owned and jointly managed park at Warrell Creek near Nambucca Heads (DECC 2007).

Table 2-7C: Levels of Aboriginal community consultation and input into decision-making for parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
Consultation occurs via formal management planning and statutory processes for reserve management	40	37	2	14	93
Specific efforts are made to consult with Aboriginal communities, using appropriate consultation processes, as part of broader community consultation exercises.	16	44	7	32	99
There is an established process for consultation with relevant Aboriginal communities concerning management of the reserve using consultation processes that are appropriate for the communities involved.	30	46	4	29	109
There is an established process of Aboriginal community consultation and input into decision-making that covers all major aspects of park management of interest to the communities involved.	35	34	3	8	80
<b>Total reserves responding</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>381</b>

Source: PWG

Table 2-7C describes the scope and formality of programs and processes for consultation with Aboriginal communities for reserve management in each region. Three hundred and eighty-one parks across the regions responded to this question in the 2006–2007 reporting year. Parks that did not report did so either because a Plan of Management had been prepared since the last State of Parks survey and had adequately addressed Aboriginal community consultation needs for the reserve, or because they were unaware of an Aboriginal community interest in the reserve. The responses were relatively evenly divided across all categories, but the majority of parks (28%) responded that there was an established process for appropriate consultation with relevant Aboriginal communities concerning management of the reserve. This category describes a situation whereby community representatives tend to be actively engaged with only those major aspects of park management of relevance to their community.

The UNE reported the highest level of established contact and active engagement on all relevant reserve management decisions of interest to Aboriginal communities by both number (35) and as a proportion of overall responses (28%).

Approximately 29% of LNE parks reported that there is an established consultation process with relevant Aboriginal communities concerning park management.

In the Southern region 38% (32) of the parks reported that specific efforts were made to consult with Aboriginal communities, using appropriate consultation processes, as part of broader community consultation exercises.

Thirty-eight per cent (32) of the parks responding in the Southern region reported that specific efforts were made to consult with Aboriginal communities, using appropriate consultation processes, as part of broader community consultation exercises.

Similarly, the majority of parks (43% or 7) in the Eden region reported that specific efforts were made to consult with Aboriginal communities, using appropriate consultation processes, as part of broader community consultation exercises.

There was an increase in reporting for the same group of parks (i.e. if new additions to the reserve system are not considered) between the 2004–2005 SoP report and the 2007 SoP qualitative assessment, from 362 to 381 parks. The level of reporting for this group of parks remained the same in the Eden region, with no changes in the number of parks responding across each category. The greatest increase in reporting in this group of parks was in the LNE region, where the number of parks reporting increased by 11.

### **Public participation**

Table 2-7A (discussed earlier) includes public participation in the list of the extent to which the legal frameworks provide for aspects of ecologically sustainable forest management (of nature conservation reserves). Additional information in relation to public participation in the management of the reserve system during 2006–2007 can be found by referring to the following sections of DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*:

- Participation in the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees is described in DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*, Chapter 4, Section 4.3.3 'Managing terrestrial and marine reserves for conservation' (pages 84–86) and Appendix 5: 'Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees' (pages 134–138).
- Participation in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee and the Central Coast Hunter Range Regional Aboriginal Co-management Committee is described in Appendix 5: 'Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees' (pages 134–138) of DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*. Increasing Aboriginal participation in reserve management is described in Chapter 4, section 4.3.2 (pages 82–84).
- General information on public participation in reserve management is described in Chapter 5, Section 5.1.1 of DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007* (pages 116–118).

### **Data/information sources, references, further reading**

Information was drawn from sources, including the State of the Parks survey 2007, to align with that reporting process and from DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*.

## Institutional framework

MIG Indicator 7.2 (narrative): Extent to which the institutional framework supports the conservation and sustainable management of forests (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

### Data and discussion

#### *DECC policies*

Table 2-7D and Appendix 2 list the major non-legislative park management policies of DECC relevant to ecologically sustainable forest management. Many of these policies are scheduled for review in 2008.

For more detailed information on apiary activities undertaken on PWG-managed lands refer to the heading 'Volume of non-timber products' under Criterion 2 in this report. Additional policies that affect PWG in the areas of Finance, OH&S and HR have not been included in Table 2-7D.

#### *Forests NSW policies, guidelines and codes of practice*

Forests NSW has a number of policies, codes and guidelines that assist in sustainable forest management. A number of Forests NSW's policies, and the most recent Summary of Affairs, can be found on the Forests NSW website ([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests)).

#### *Suitability of policy frameworks for ESFM*

Forests NSW and PWG rated the extent to which their respective policy frameworks provided for ESFM (Table 2-7E). The ESFM components considered included forest management planning and review, and public and indigenous participation. The table indicates that Forests NSW and PWG believe that the existing non-legislative policy framework overwhelmingly provides for the various aspects of ESFM.

### **Forests NSW ESFM plans**

Forests published ESFM Plans for each of the Forest Agreement areas during 2005–2006. The plans run until 2011. They describe the non-legislative policy framework and contain objectives and targeted outcomes in each of the following strategy areas. The 10 key strategy areas are:

#### *Natural heritage*

The identification, management, and contribution to maintenance of the full suite of natural heritage values in forests across the landscape. Values such as carbon sequestration, vegetation structure for biodiversity, soil and water quality, and other intrinsic values for adaptive management purposes are included.

Table 2-7D: Major non-legislative DECC park management policies relevant to ESFM

<b>Policy name</b>
Access to inholdings (Feb 2003)
Adaptive reuse leases policy (Feb 2003)
Adventure activities policy (July 2002)
Beekeeping policy (July 2002)
Boundary fencing policy (2005)
Cultural heritage conservation policy
Cultural heritage community consultation policy
Commercial recreation policy (July 2002)
Cycling policy (June 2003)
Discovery Program policy and guidelines (Sept 2003)
Filming and photography policy (July 2002) (under review)
Firewood policy (July 2002)
Firearms policy (July 2002)
Fire management manual 2005 (updated yearly)
Hang-gliding and paragliding policy
Koala rehabilitation policy
Leases for permanent residential accommodation policy (Feb 2005)
Memorandum of understanding policy (July 2002)
Military activities policy (July 2002)
Neighbour relations policy (July 2002)
Orienteering, rogaining and geocaching policy (Sept 2002)
Parks name policy (March 2003)
Pets policy (Aug 2002)
Policy on the translocation of threatened fauna in NSW
Policy on management of native birds that show aggression to people (Aug 2003)
Recreational horse riding policy (May 2006)
Rehabilitation of fauna policy (July 2002)
Revocation of land policy (July 2002)
Soil conservation and rehabilitation policy (July 2002) (to be repealed and replaced by the soils policy statement)
Taxidermy and preserved fauna policy (July 2002) (to be repealed and replaced by the taxidermy and preserved fauna policy statement)
Threatened species information disclosure policy (updated Feb 2005)
Trade of fauna policy (July 2002)
Vehicle access policy (July 2002)
Visitor safety policy (July 2002)
Voluntary conservation agreements policy (under review)
Volunteers policy and guidelines (under review)
Walking tracks policy (July 2002)
Wild dog policy
Plan of management manual
Environmental planning and assessment manual
Property and leasing manual

Table 2-7E: Extents to which on-legislative policy frameworks in State forests and on DECC estate provide for ESFM

Extent to which the non-legislative policy framework provides for:	State forests	DECC Estate
<i>Forest management planning and review</i>		
Accountable management body	Y	Y
Dispute resolution process	Y	Y
Forest management planning	Y	Y
Management review	Y	Y
Planning for environmental values	Y	Y
Planning review	Y	Y
Policy review	Y	Y
Property rights	Y	Y
Periodic assessment of forest-related resources	Y	Y
<i>Public participation</i>		
Broad-based public consultation for forest-related policy	Y	Y
Broad-based public consultation to develop forest-related management plans	Y	Y
Publication of specific forest-related information	Y	Y
Public access to information related to forests	Y	Y
<i>Indigenous participation</i>		
Indigenous participation in management	Y	Y
Indigenous participation in planning	Y	Y
Recognition of cultural values	Y	Y
Recognition of native title rights	Y	Y
Recognition of the customary and traditional rights of indigenous peoples	Y	Y
Traditional management on relevant public land (e.g. joint management/co-management)	Y	Y
Access for traditional activities	Y	Y
Access to indigenous cultural heritage	Y	Y
Performance of traditional practices	Y	Y
Protection of indigenous intellectual property	Y	Y
<i>Other aspects</i>		
Recognition of scientific values	Y	Y
Recognition of voluntary reserves on private land	Y	Y
Regulation of forest clearing	Y	Y
Resource assessment	Y	Y
Secure land tenure	Y	Y
Sustainable Forest Management explicit objectives	Y	Y

Ratings:

Y = Yes. This aspect of SFM is covered fairly comprehensively by policies in our jurisdiction.

P = Partly. This aspect of SFM is only partly covered (or has limited application) by policies in our jurisdiction.

N = No. This aspect of SFM is not covered by policies in our jurisdiction.

Access includes an ability to enter and undertake activities such as foraging, hunting, or ceremonies.



#### *Aboriginal cultural heritage*

State forests are important to the maintenance and use of natural resources and to the preservation of artefacts and sites integral to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Forests NSW identifies, protects and manages Aboriginal cultural heritage values on State forests in cooperation with Aboriginal communities.

#### *Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage*

There are items or places with heritage significance to the community that they wish to keep for future generations. Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values on State forests are protected and managed in cooperation with local communities.

#### *Nature conservation*

Nature conservation in State forests is managed through the protection and active management of dedicated and informal reserves and protection of other values and areas by prescription and adaptive management.

#### *Forest health*

The health and productivity of State forests will be maintained or enhanced to support nature conservation, timber production and other ecologically sustainable uses. Appropriate silvicultural strategies; monitoring of, and responses to, insect and disease outbreaks; implementation of regional management plans (including annual operational programs for pest animal and weed control); and fire management are covered.

#### *Sustainable timber supply*

The supply of timber products from native forests and planted forests will be maintained within ecological and market constraints in a long-term framework. Strategic inventory and growth monitoring programs will be undertaken where necessary to support modelling of current volumes and future yields of forest products.

#### *Economic development*

The economic returns from planted forests and native forests will be maximised, along with their contribution to the economic wellbeing of NSW. This means meeting existing timber supply commitments and contracts and optimising returns on plantation and other investments, as well as participating in carbon trading through the production of NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Certificates. Grazing, apiculture and tourism within State forests will continue, with other ecologically and economically sound new business development opportunities encouraged and facilitated.

### *Social development*

The contribution of Forests NSW to the social wellbeing of the communities in which it operates in NSW will be maximised where possible. Part of this will be continuing to provide local and regional employment, both directly and through strong forest-based industries. Regional road management to service timber harvesting, forest protection and management and community/non-timber uses will be implemented. The use of State forests for natural resource education is encouraged, and hunting is supported under the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*.

### *Forestry operations*

Adaptive management processes are implemented to ensure forestry operations are safe for workers, meet legislative, regulatory and non-legislative requirements, and are ecologically sustainable.

### *Consultation, monitoring and reporting*

Consultation, monitoring and reporting will be undertaken to achieve transparent and accountable professional forest management. Forests NSW consults with relevant stakeholders on strategic and operational issues. The public has been included in decision-making processes through representation on peak groups or by submission to publicly displayed plans and agreements. Forests NSW has a policy on 'Access to Planning Information', which provides access to Plans of Operation, Harvesting Plans and Reports to Regulatory Agencies. Individuals, customers and special interest and community groups may make representations on policy and other issues at any time. Comment is specifically invited on the provisions of forest management plans and may be invited from time to time on specific issues – particularly policy development. For example, in 2005–2006 industry comment was sought on the arrangements for determining the prices charged for hardwood timber. All stakeholder comments are sought and taken into account in formulation and revision of policy and associated determinations.

The maintenance of key forest values will be monitored and made available in the SEEing Report, and also in the pending annual ESFM reports that will monitor progress towards meeting the Montréal criteria contained in each plan and help improve strategies.

### **DECC public education and awareness**

Table 2-7F describes the approach to programs that enhance community awareness, interpretational or educational information, facilities and activities in parks in each region. It also assesses the level at which the current needs of park management and legitimate visitor expectations are being met. The activities assessed by this question included interpretive activities within and beyond parks.

Across the regions, 233 parks responded to these elements of public education and awareness. The response of the majority (124 parks or 53%) of parks was that plans were being implemented. However, 45% of the parks responding to this question also reported that the current needs of park management and legitimate visitor expectations were being met or substantially met.

Table 2-7F: DECC approach to, and sufficiency of, programs that enhance awareness, educational information and facilities for park planning, and assessment of legitimate visitor expectations (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
<i>Implementation</i>					
Implementing comprehensive plans	10	21	2	4	37
Implementing plans	34	42	7	41	124
Responsive management	12	23	1	13	49
Minimal management undertaken	10	8		5	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>233</b>
<i>Effect of management</i>					
Current needs are substantially met	27	39	7	31	104
Current needs are met	16	22	2	7	47
Current need are not met	6	7		2	15
Current needs partially met	17	26	1	23	67
<b>Total reserves responding</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>233</b>

Source: PWG

There was an increase in reporting for the same group of parks (i.e. if new additions to the reserve system are not considered) between the 2004–2005 SoP report and the 2007 SoP qualitative assessment, from 221 to 233 parks. Reporting on this indicator was unchanged for the Eden region between both reporting periods. The greatest increase in reporting for this group of parks was in the LNE region, where five additional parks reported. Reporting increased across all categories.

#### **Forests NSW public education and awareness**

Forests NSW have a range of public education programs and activities relating to forest management. The majority of activities are developed through the Corporate Public Affairs Branch, but all regional staff are involved in communication and public consultation through attendance at meetings and forums.

Although Forests NSW does not have access to significant qualitative information on public education and awareness for 2006–2007, considerable consultation with stakeholders occurs through various forums (Table 2-7G) and for specific purposes. A number of programs were undertaken during the year to address issues associated with the control of recreational use of the forests for different purposes while continuing to provide opportunities for such uses (e.g. responsible off-road riding). For example, rider safety, social responsibility and environmental awareness were the focus of a joint project between the Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association, Motorcycle Council of NSW and Forests NSW.

Table 2-7G: Forests NSW records of the number of forums attended by Forests NSW staff as an indicator of public participation in Forests NSW ESFM (2006–2007).

Community forum category	UNE	LNE	STH	Eden
Catchment management	12	2	5	3
Community bushfire management	24	35	40	25
Community/school/education	5	24	18	6
Conservation/environmental	5	18	2	0
Cultural management	69	91	5	5
Feral animals/noxious weed control	1	2	0	2
Flora and fauna management	16	3	1	2
Forestry/forest practices	13	15	29	11
Industry/stakeholders	6	10	22	11
Local emergency management	4	1	9	2
Local government	5	7	5	3
Other	0	7	3	6
Recreation/tourism	4	17	13	4
Regional planning/RFAs	0	2	12	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>83</b>

Forests NSW has developed two forest studies centres that provide educational opportunities for schools in Sydney and Newcastle (in the LNE region). The programs provided an enjoyable day out for teachers and students, as well as an overview of forest management and forest ecology. All programs are related to NSW Department of Education syllabus documents and designed and run by qualified teachers and rangers. Forests NSW education programs attract over 6000 students and teachers annually. The forest studies centres provide programs for all classes (K to 12), with guest lecturers and field trips for TAFE and tertiary groups. Each centre has facilities for up to 60 students a day, with programs run in the forest or at the school. The centres provide worksheets tailored to field activities, distribute free teacher resource packs, and offer education publications for sale. Forests NSW hosts a kids' and schools' web site with interactive wild forest adventures, information and notes for teachers.

Cumberland State Forest at West Pennant Hills, Sydney, continues to be to focal point of the Forests NSW education program, providing hands-on experience for a range of school and community groups in and around Sydney and information for the general public about NSW forestry.

The forest-based education program for Years 3 to 6 has focused on key curriculum areas through modules such as 'Rainforests' and 'Discovering the State's forests'. The public can access specialised Forests NSW information through its Library and Information Services, based at its Research and Development Division, West Pennant Hills, which includes a special library collection and resources. The collection includes information about the core business of forestry science and research, including carbon sequestration, ecological and environmental issues, forest management, new forests, nursery management, silviculture and soil salinity and management.

### **Discovery program**

This program delivers on legislative responsibilities for interpretation and education under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, *Wilderness Act 1987*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, *Marine Parks Act 1997* and *Two Ways Together*, the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan. It also contributes to the State Plan objective of providing increased opportunities for the community to enjoy a diverse range of recreational opportunities in reserves.

Information on achievements within the Discovery Program in 2006–2007 can be found by referring to DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*, specifically: Chapter 4, Section 4.3.6 (pages 94–95), 'Providing opportunities for education in national parks and reserves' and Chapter 4, Section 4.6.2 (page 114), 'Supporting Aboriginal people in the practice and promotion of their culture: Aboriginal Discovery program'.

### **Volunteers**

For information on volunteers and the results achieved in the projects that were undertaken during 2006–2007 refer to Chapter 4, Section 4.3.1 (page 82), 'Increasing volunteer participation in, and community support for, conservation' in DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*.

Forests NSW reports on voluntary work as part of the suite of indicators in the *SEEing Report 2006–07*, Indicator 1, page 32. Details on selected voluntary work can be found in the quarterly-published *Bush Telegraph*.

### **Electronic services delivery**

Information in relation to electronic services delivery by DECC, including visits and improvements to the DECC website within the 2006–2007 reporting period, can be found in Chapter 5, Section 5.1.1 (pages 116–118), 'Building internal and external connections', in DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*.

For additional information relevant to this indicator refer to Appendix 10 (pages 156–158), 'Statement of affairs' in DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*. This information is specifically in relation to DECC's statement of affairs, which is a requirement under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

During 2006–2007 DECC published a number of documents in a number of formats, including print and online. For example, an updated *Best Bush Map*, which is a comprehensive guide to recreation in NSW public bushland, was published during the year. The map lists hundreds of accessible camping sites, as well as tips on the use of different areas. This information will help the reader to camp, fish, trek, picnic and drive around the bush of NSW easily. The *Best Bush Map* was published jointly by Forests NSW, Tourism NSW, NSW NPWS, and the Department of Land and Water Conservation. For a comprehensive list of DECC publications refer to DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*, Appendix 14, 'DECC Publications', and Appendix 15 (pages 176–181), 'Papers published'.

Forests NSW publications are available from [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting Forests NSW. They include the following:

- Forests NSW Annual Report
- SEEing Report

- Facts and figures
- Science & Research & Forests NSW Research & Development Annual Report
- Bush Telegraph
- State Forests Map Series (These provide information on the location and extent of Forests NSW, as well as road work networks and land tenure information.)
- Forest Resources series
- Books, manuals, brochures, research notes, papers and various technical publications, as listed in the most recent Forestry Publications Booklet
- DPI Corporate Plan and Forests NSW Corporate Business Strategy
- Forest Codes of Practice
- Current Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines for Logging
- Policy Statements
- Section 10 Employees Guide to the Forestry Commission of New South Wales
- Compartment maps
- Prime Fact Sheets
- Environmentally Sustainable Forest Management Plans.

#### **DECC park management framework and planning, assessment and policy review**

The concept of an EMS for park management is being delivered through the Park Management Program (PMP). The PMP is intended to cover all areas of PWG operations on park and to provide the tools to make better decisions and improve coordination across DECC, thus making it easier for staff to access information to guide park management decisions and allow adaptive management. The program is helping to improve the way DECC goes about its park management by:

- providing clear, consistent management objectives and operational procedures
- introducing an integrated system to achieve consistent standards in our park management and improve our ability to demonstrate and report on performance
- providing a mechanism that improves the coordination of information across DECC to make it easier for staff to access information and thus guide park management.

Many of the components of the Park Management Framework are already in place, and efforts have been made to ensure that the underlying International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) management framework is tailored to the needs of the NSW park system. These components include, for example, a Plan of Management Manual and Fire Management Manuals, which are regularly updated.

In 2006 a Steering Committee was established to develop and implement the Park Management Program Framework, a strategy for integrating the various components. This group has overseen the finalisation and rollout of a number of components since their formation. Work on the PMP and its components is ongoing.

Achievements in the 2006–2007 year included:

- The *Fire Management Manual*, which brings together the policy and procedural information necessary for DECC to achieve its fire management objectives across NSW, underwent its annual update. The Manual was first published in 1990.
- The *Park Management Policy Manual* was in final draft form in 2006 before final consultation with staff and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. This regularly updated single electronic document provides summaries and linkages to all relevant documents (DECC and others) related to park management.
- The *Park Operating Procedures Manual* commenced development in 2007. This document is a companion document to the *Park Management Policy Manual*. Its purpose is to provide consistent and high-quality procedural guidance to staff.
- The Asset Maintenance System provides a comprehensive inventory of all assets owned and/or maintained within parks and is a tool for consistent and efficient scheduling and implementation of asset maintenance. In 2006 this system underwent a review.
- Levels of Service is a project that aims to identify the outcomes or standards planned for each DECC park for natural and cultural heritage values and recreational opportunities. This project will categorise parks to derive relative priorities according to park characteristics, basic management needs and standards of service. In 2006 a contractor was appointed to develop this project under the guidance of a technical working group.
- Branch Visitation Management Plans (BVMPs) are a key action under the 2006 Living Parks – Sustainable Visitation Strategy. BVMPs identify initiatives that will enhance visitor opportunities and regional tourism in the short to medium term, building on recent achievements that provide the model for similar future projects in appropriate localities. They will be used to determine where DECC invests future dollars and direct opportunities for engagement with the private sector.
- A Park Planning Guide is planned for development under the PMP in order to structure the planning that occurs within parks (at various scales) under an agreed planning hierarchy to ensure consistency and accuracy. A consultant was engaged during 2006 to review planning across the parks system. The outcomes of the planning review will be considered in the development of the Park Planning Guide.

#### **State forests management framework and planning, assessment and policy review**

During 2006–2007, Forests NSW implemented an EMS certified to ISO 14001:2004 standard to ensure a systematic and continually improving approach to managing, measuring and monitoring performance related to elements of Forests NSW activities that interact with the environment.

In addition to meeting ISO 14001:2004, Forests NSW became certified to the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708 (Int) – 2003), which is made up of nine criteria. Criterion 1 requires that an EMS be in place. Forests NSW meets this first criterion through compliance with ISO 14001. Details on how Forests NSW meets the remaining criteria can be found by navigating to the Forest Management Certification pages of our website: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au).

The Forests NSW Environmental Policy was reviewed during 2006–2007 and commits Forests NSW to achieving ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM) by:

- managing forests for the benefit of current and future generations
- ensuring that our management complements forest management on other tenures
- working with others to develop a sustainable forest industry.

Forests NSW commits to the:

- conservation of biodiversity
- protection of soil and water quality
- protection of cultural heritage
- provision of social and economic benefits.

Forests NSW will:

- measure and publicly report corporate performance
- continually improve its EMS
- meet or exceed regulatory requirements and government policy
- implement the outcomes of the NSW forest agreements by working with other land managers and stakeholders
- be open and transparent to the community about all operations
- adapt forest management practices and systems in the light of auditing, monitoring and research information, changing expectations, regulatory requirements and government policy
- implement world's best practice in forest management by staff and contractors, including the provision of training, professional development and accreditation processes
- provide adequate resources to support policies and programs
- develop and implement efficient energy use, waste management and prevention of pollution measures in all activities.

Forests NSW will seek global business opportunities relating to environmental services and environmental enhancement.

#### **DECC park management planning**

Information on achievements within the PMP program in 2006–2007 can be found by referring to the DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*, specifically:

- Section 4.3.3 (pages 84–86), 'Managing terrestrial and marine reserves for conservation'
- Section 4.3.4 (pages 86–88), 'Managing cultural heritage in reserves'
- Section 4.3.5 (pages 88–94), 'Managing key pressures on reserves'.

#### **State Forests management planning**

Indicators and further information on the implementation of Forests NSW ESFM plans at a corporate level are provided in the 2006–2007 SEEing Report.



### DECC conservation compliance audit

The following conservation compliance audits (relevant to the regions) were undertaken as part of the 2006–2007 Plan of Management Self Audit Program. Years in parentheses are the years of adoption:

- Cudgen NR (1998) (UNE)
- Popran NP (2000) (LNE)
- Ben Halls Gap NP (2002) (LNE)
- Limeburners Creek NR (1998) (LNE)
- Bellinger River NP (2000) (LNE)
- Bournda NP and NR (2000) (Eden)
- Morton NP and Budawang NP (2000) (Southern)
- Nattai Reserves (2001) (Southern).

### Forests NSW program of environmental audits

During 2007–2008, Forests NSW was audited on two occasions against the Australian Forestry Standard [AS 4708 (Int) – 2003] and twice against the EMS standard ISO 14001. Regions audited against the Australian Forestry Standard were within UNE and Southern/Eden planted forest branch regions, as were native forest regions within LNE and Southern/Eden. In addition, the auditors visited the Corporate Offices in Cumberland State forest during each audit. Summary reports for AFS audits are available on request from Forests NSW.

In addition to external compliance audits, Forests NSW carries out internal audits at four tiers.

The initial step in developing the audit process involved the process being included in the draft NFMS overview, which was displayed for public comment in September 2000. However, the NFMS has now evolved into an EMS to cover all forest operations, i.e. it includes planted forests and areas west of the divide that are not part of any RFAs. One of the cornerstones of the Forests NSW EMS is its four-tiered audit system.

All forestry operations are audited consistent by the Forests NSW four-tier system, which is defined in Circular 2003/01, 'Monitoring and Measuring Compliance of Operations'. The four tiers comprise the following:

- **Tier 1.** (T1) Regular inspection, supervision, control and fortnightly reporting by field supervisors, recording those facets of the operation where compliance with specifications is achieved and those facets where compliance is not achieved. In cases where compliance is not achieved, any remedial action required is to be recorded and followed up.
- **Tier 2.** (T2) Regular checks and documentation by Foresters and Forest Assistants, first to confirm the field supervisors are implementing T1, and second to assess the supervisor's application of specifications. There is follow-up of non-compliances and remedial action as required.
- **Tier 3.** (T3) Audits by appropriately qualified Regional and Divisional (including Head Office branches such as the Forest Practices Directorate) staff to confirm that T2 supervision, monitoring and non-compliance follow-up is in place and that planning and operational systems are working consistently and effectively. This includes checks on the application of Forests NSW systems, specifications and standards.

- **Tier 4.** (T4) Random audits of operations, performed by the Management Audit and Review Branch. These audits assess both the implementation of systems and application of specifications or prescriptions. Other matters assessed include standards of planning and compliance with regulatory approvals, Codes of Practice, Australian Standards, and with statutory requirements such as the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*, *Pesticides Act 1999* and *OHS Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Act 2003*.

The EMS monitors and assesses trends in non-conformances through the Non-Conformance Improvement Request (NCIR) system. The incidents are recorded throughout all tiers. NCIRs are monitored at both the regional and corporate level to ensure each issue is resolved and is built into a continuous improvement cycle and that any emerging trends are addressed through appropriate means, such as inclusion in the relevant environmental management program (EMP).

In addition to internal audits, external EMS/AFS requirements are audited every 9 months. Regulating authorities also carry out regular audits to check on compliance associated with the IFOA, as discussed in Chapter 3 'Compliance with integrated forestry operations approvals' of this report.

Non-compliance issues that are identified in audit processes are rectified as appropriate and management systems improved to minimise future occurrences. Forests NSW is guided by auditors as to whether non-compliances are at acceptable levels.

Depending on the type of breaches, and their frequency, contractors are disciplined. The penalty is based on the severity of the breach, ranging from warning letters to Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs), suspension or termination. Contractors and operators are trained in all aspects of the operations to minimise compliance issues.

Results of both internal and external regulators' auditing are summarised in Chapter 3. AFS audit outcomes are available on request.

#### *Reporting*

Forests NSW continues to publicly report, at a state-wide level, compliance and monitoring results in its SEEing report. The compliance summary lists infringements notices issued by external regulators. It also lists the compliance checks made by Forests NSW as part of the internal monitoring and auditing strategy and associated compliance, expressed as a percentage.

#### *Review*

As part of the implementation of Forests NSW EMS, all operational control documents are regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the time frames specified within the documents, or within the Document Control Procedures, which describe the process for reviewing documents (including internal Forest Practices Circulars) for consistency with current standards.

For example, in mid 2005, Forests NSW completed its review of the Forest Practices Code 1 (Plantations Code 1995) *Timber Harvesting in Forests NSW Plantations*.

### **Staff training and development**

Reporting on the number of staff directly employed within the reporting area or on categories of training and numbers trained in each category was not possible in detail for DECC in the 2006–2007 reporting year.

Updated figures to June 2007 on employees by classification of DECC staff and the location of staff (Regional or Metropolitan) is provided in Appendix 6 (pages 140–141) of DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*. Information on the DECC Learning and Development Framework, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training, Fire Fighter Health and Fitness and other staff training programs is provided in Section 5.1.4 (pages 120–122), 'Valuing staff and encouraging innovation', and Section 4.3.5 (pages 92–93), 'Managing key pressures on reserves', of DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*.

Forests NSW has published information of staff training and development, as well as on the numbers of staff directly employed by Forests NSW, in the Forests NSW SEEing Report 2006–2007. However, reporting on the categories of training and numbers trained in each category for each of the Forest Agreement areas was not possible in detail for Forests NSW in the 2006–2007 reporting year.

### **Forestry regulation**

For information on the compliance of Forests NSW with the IFOA Threatened Species and Environment Protection Licenses for the 2006–2007 reporting period see Chapter 3 of this report.

### **Enforcement of laws, regulations and guidelines**

During the 2004–2005 reporting period, DECC reported on this aspect of this indicator by using data from the State of the Parks qualitative assessment. This was done in an effort to align reporting between SoP and the present implementation reporting as much as possible. A State of the Parks survey was conducted during 2007; as a consequence it is possible to update information on the level of management and impacts of illegal activities within the reserve system for each region in the 2006–2007 reporting period.

Table 2-7H comprises two sets of assessment criteria that separately assess whether there is a planned approach to managing and implementing law enforcement and whether the impacts of illegal activities are being reduced.

Over all regions, law enforcement was a factor in management, and there was sufficient information to assess the impacts of illegal activities in 347 of the 541 parks. Of the 347 parks reporting on the impacts of illegal activities, approximately 84% reported that the impacts were negligible, diminishing or not increasing compared with the 2004–2005 SoP reporting period.

There was an increase in reporting on the impacts of illegal activities on park values, from 333 parks in the 2004–2005 SoP reporting period to 347. The greatest increase in reporting was in the UNE region, although the number of parks reporting increased impacts of illegal activities on park values in this region dropped between the two periods.

Table 2-7H: Levels of management and impacts of illegal activities within parks in each region (number of parks) (2006–2007)

Assessment criteria (2006–2007)	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
<i>Implementation</i>					
Implementing comprehensive plans		6			6
Implementing plans	26	38	5	27	96
Minimal management	14	18	1	5	38
Responsive management	69	74	8	56	207
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>347</b>
<i>Effect of management</i>					
Impacts negligible	13	12	1	10	36
Impacts diminishing	30	30	4	17	81
Impacts not increasing	53	72	5	46	175
Impacts increasing	13	22	5	15	55
<b>Total parks responding</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>347</b>

Source: PWG

Of the 347 parks reporting on the impacts of illegal activities, 2% (6 parks) reported a comprehensive approach to law enforcement; 28% were implementing plans targeted at law enforcement; almost 60% undertook responsive management of law enforcement issues, and 11% reported that minimal management was necessary.

The number of parks implementing plans for law enforcement was highest in the LNE region (38 parks), but as a proportion of parks managed it was highest in the Eden region (35% of the 14 parks responding).

### Prosecutions and infringements

The details of prosecutions completed under conservation legislation (for threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage), the proportion that were successful, and the resulting value of fines awarded in the 2006–2007 reporting period are provided in Section 4.2.7 (page 81), 'Threatened species, parks and wildlife prosecutions' of DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*. Appendix 8 (pages 146–147), 'Infringements and prosecutions' in the same annual report lists infringements and prosecutions in relation to threatened species, parks and wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation. Infringements under the provisions of native vegetation legislation are provided on page 147 of the same appendix.

## Capacity to measure and monitor change

MIG indicator 7.4 (narrative): Capacity to measure and monitor changes in the conservation and sustainable management of forests (UNE, LNE, Eden, Southern regions)

### Data and discussion

The State of the Parks program seeks to monitor and evaluate the condition of, and pressures on, NSW parks, and to ascertain how effectively these areas are being managed. The NSW State of the Parks program is the largest and most comprehensive of its type in the world, with the information being used to help in operational planning within our parks and in a variety of reporting needs. State of the Parks was implemented in early 2004, with the first public report released in 2005. Further review, refinement and system development have been undertaken since then. A subsequent assessment was undertaken in 2005 and another is scheduled for September 2007.

Forests NSW uses a number of tools and systems to monitor conservation and sustainable management of forests. FRAMES is a state-wide (except in the Eden Region) tool kit of applications developed by Forests NSW to calculate long-term wood-supply volumes from areas of native forest where timber harvesting is permitted. The Forests NSW FRAMES project has been managed under a program of continuous improvement. All of these improvements are designed to refine and monitor estimates of timber sustainability over the RFA and longer-term planning horizons.

Tracking the performance of FRAMES is a notoriously difficult task. Early comparisons of actual and predicted yield were completed for the North Coast, culminating in a report incorporated in the extensive independent review of FRAMES, entitled *Review of Projected Timber Yields for the NSW North Coast* (2002) ([http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/268064/vanclay-report-review-projected-timber-yields-nsw-north-coast.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/268064/vanclay-report-review-projected-timber-yields-nsw-north-coast.pdf)), completed by Professor J.K. Vanclay from Southern Cross University. During the review, Professor Vanclay found a range of technical issues (e.g. sampling intensity) that hindered meaningful analysis of the predicted yield below the 'whole-of-forest-estate' level, which defines the RFA outcomes. Fundamentally, these relate to FRAMES being a strategic planning tool that is designed to predict the potential wood supply at a regional level. It is not appropriate to compare actual yields versus predicted yields at a level lower than the prediction level (i.e. the regional level). Plans are in place, subject to cost benefit analysis, to predict wood supply at a sub-regional level. On the North Coast this would potentially cover about five to 10 sub-regional planning units.

Until the sub-regional planning project is successfully completed, the only information that is available is Allowable Cut (which is based on whole-of-region predicted yield from FRAMES) versus Actual Yield. Although the performance monitoring described above may be able to identify that yields are close to, or different from, the predicted cut, they do not identify whether detected variations are significant with respect to sustainability or timber supply agreements. For instance, if actual yield is less than predicted cut, it is not known whether this is because the volume available for harvest was overestimated or because harvestable volume was retained for some reason. Similarly, it is not known whether the difference has occurred because one part of the region was cut instead of another. To address this limitation, Forests NSW has undertaken more comprehensive studies and reviews that can inform both FRAMES models and management of variation in predictions or assumptions and enable these to inform future estimates.

This monitoring strategy led to Professor Vanclay's abovementioned extensive independent review of FRAMES in 2002. The Timber Availability Study (TAS) commissioned in 2002 by the then RACD was incorporated into Professor Vanclay's review. The TAS study focused on the 'buffer-on-buffer' effect, i.e. the volume of timber potentially foregone on the North Coast if harvesting is not performed close to exclusion boundaries within net harvestable areas.

The RFA requirement to monitor timber offtake and compare it against FRAMES predictions was addressed in the Vanclay review.

### **Additional monitoring tools and databases**

To improve monitoring performance, Forests NSW is integrating FRAMES into its Forest Management Information processes.

The SEEDS database system was developed by Forests NSW as a central repository of information for monitoring and reporting on sustainability indicators and ESFM values. It includes the monitoring of timber products by various log categories and volumes. Information from other Forests NSW information systems is automatically and/or manually entered into SEEDS. The following sustainability reports are produced from these data sources:

- reports on ESFM Plans
- ESFM criteria and indicators reported in NSW forest agreement implementation reports
- the Forests NSW SEEing report.

The same data sources are used to provide sustainability monitoring for other State (*State of the Environment*, e.g. DEC 2006), national (*State of the Forests*) and international reporting (Montreal Reporting).

## **Research and development**

MIG indicator 7.5 (narrative): Capacity to conduct and apply research and development aimed at improving forest management and delivery of forest goods and services (UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions)

### **Data and discussion**

As in previous years, PWG continues to take part in specific local project-based research and to support the work of other divisions, agencies and institutions in this area, although it does not have a primary responsibility for research within DECC. It is therefore not possible to identify forest-related research that may be undertaken. Details of research and papers published by DECC staff for the 2006–2007 reporting period that may be relevant to the ESFM criteria and indicators can be found by referring to: Section 4.1.3, 'Monitoring soils and native vegetation'; Section 4.2.4, 'Researching and monitoring biodiversity'; Section 4.3.5, 'Managing key pressures on reserves'; Appendix 13, 'DECC Publications'; and Appendix 14, 'Papers published' in DECC's *Annual Report 2006–2007*.

Progress in Forests NSW research and development aimed at improving forest management and delivery of forest goods and services can be found in the *Science & Research & Forests NSW Research & Development Annual Report 2006–07*.

*DNR Code of Practice for Private Native Forestry*

A draft Code of Practice for Private Native Forestry has been developed by DNR (now DECC) following discussions with various stakeholders. It is proposed that the draft code will be enacted under an amendment to the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and will receive biodiversity certification under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The draft code includes provisions for the protection of cultural heritage. The draft code is expected to be on public display in July and August 2006.

# 3 Compliance with integrated forestry operations approvals

## Introduction

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Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) provide the operational framework for the conduct of forestry operations in State forests and on Crown timber land. The approvals, made under the *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*, contain non-licence terms and terms of licences under the *Protection of the Environment Operation Act 1997* [Environment Protection Licences (EPLs)], *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* [Threatened Species Licences (TSLs)] and the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (Fisheries Licences). Threatened Species Licences and Environment Protection Licences are administered by EPRG (part of DECC), and Fisheries Licences are administered by DPI–Fisheries. An IFOA enables authoritative, unambiguous and consistent environmental regulation of native forest harvesting operations. There are four IFOAs currently in place; they cover each forest agreement region.

## IFOA amendments

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There were no amendments to the IFOAs in the 2006–2007 reporting period.

## Environment Protection Licence and Threatened Species Licence

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### Introduction

DECC's role in the management of Forests NSW forestry operations is to protect the aquatic environment from water pollution and protect threatened species and their habitats. Compliance with the conditions set out in the EPLs and TSLs, which are issued to Forests NSW, are the key means by which this is achieved. These licences are contained within the IFOAs for the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions.

TSL coverage is mandatory in all active native forestry operations. Forests NSW may exercise their right not to seek EPL coverage for certain operations, but these operations are still subject to section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, which prohibits the pollution of waters.



## Summary of auditing program

To determine Forests NSW's compliance with licence conditions and other relevant legislative requirements DECC has developed an active audit program of Forests NSW's forestry operations. The audit program ensures that Forests NSW is taking the required measures to protect the environment through planning and operational activities.

Non-compliance with conditions of the licences is dealt with through meetings with senior Forests NSW officers, the issuing of feedback or Warning Letters, Clean-up Notices, or Penalty Notices, or prosecution action, as appropriate to the circumstances.

During the period 2006–2007, DECC conducted 12 audits of Forests NSW pre-operational planning and operations in forest regions covered by IFOAs. As a result of these audits Forests NSW was issued with three penalty notices, one clean-up notice and nine warning letters and was required to undertake remedial work at 57 sites and seek expert soil conservation advice for three sites.

Below are details of the outcomes of DECC's audit program in each forestry region.

### Upper North East (UNE) region

There were 221 forestry operations in the UNE region. The EPL applied to 23 of these, leaving 198 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage. TSLs applied to all 221 forestry operations. DECC conducted three proactive audits; it conducted two reactive audits as a result of community complaints.

The audit identified a total of 157 non-compliances with licence conditions; 146 non-compliances were related to the EPL requirements and included:

- failure to mark roads on maps
- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures
- administration errors, for example incorrect or incomplete planning documents.

DECC identified 11 non-compliances with TSL conditions, including:

- insufficient or incomplete surveys for bats and birds
- harvesting of trees in protection zones
- post logging burning that damaged retained habitat trees.

As a result of the audit, DECC provided verbal feedback and sent three Warning Letters to Forests NSW outlining the issues of non-compliance identified. DECC also required that expert soil conservation advice be sought for one site and that remedial work be carried out at 12 locations.

## Lower North East (LNE) region

There were 216 forestry operations in the LNE region. EPLs applied to seven forestry operations, leaving 209 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage. TSLs applied to all 216 forestry operations.

DECC conducted six reactive audits of forestry operations in the region. These audits identified 51 non-compliances of EPL best practice conditions, including:

- water flow issues with drainage at crossings
- a culvert pipe blockage
- administration errors (e.g. incorrect or incomplete planning documents)
- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures.

DECC identified seven non-compliances against TSLs. They included:

- a harvest site with no habitat trees marked for retention
- damage to recruitment trees
- damage to habitat trees.

DECC received no community complaints for this region.

As a result of the EPL and TSL auditing activities in the LNE forest region, DECC provided feedback and sent three warning letters to Forests NSW regarding non-compliance with licence conditions. Forests NSW was required to undertake remedial work at 36 sites and to seek expert soil conservation advice on one occasion. DECC issued Forests NSW with one Clean-up Notice and two Penalty Notices for audits conducted in the previous reporting period (1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006).

## Southern region

There were 151 forestry operations in the Southern region. EPL coverage applied to 29 Forests NSW operations in the Southern region, leaving 122 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage. TSLs applied to 151 forestry operations.

DECC conducted one proactive audit of operational and planning activities undertaken by Forests NSW, and three reactive audits as a result of community complaints. The proactive audit is still in progress, and non-compliance documentation has not been finalised.

The reactive audits identified no non-compliances with EPLs.

DECC identified one non-compliance with TSL, which was an incident in which debris had accumulated around a tree.

As a result of this audit, DECC provided feedback and sent one warning letter to Forests NSW regarding non-compliance with licence conditions. Forests NSW was required to undertake remedial work at one site and to seek expert soil conservation advice on one occasion. A Penalty Notice was also issued.

## **Tumut sub-region**

In the Tumut subregion EPLs applied to 48 forestry operations and TSLs applied to 50 forestry operations. There were two operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage. DECC conducted no audits and received no community complaints.

## **Eden region**

In the Eden region EPLs applied to 153 forestry operations and TSLs applied to 329 forestry operations. There were 176 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage.

DECC conducted two proactive audits within the region and identified a total of 104 non-compliances with licence conditions. Twenty-eight were non-compliances with EPLs and included:

- waste left amongst logging
- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures
- administration errors (e.g. incorrect or incomplete planning documents).

DECC identified 76 non-compliances with TSLs. They included:

- insufficient surveys for birds, frogs and scat
- incorrect or incomplete documentation of survey locations, or failure to identify locations
- failure to conduct ultrasonic bat surveys
- failure to mark habitat trees for retention.

DECC received no community complaints.

As a result of these audits, DECC provided feedback to Forests NSW and issued two Warning Letters regarding non-compliance with EPLs and TSLs. Forests NSW was required by DECC to undertake remedial work at eight sites.

## **Fisheries Licences**

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DPI–Fisheries did not report any breaches of Fisheries Licences in any region during 2006–2007.

## **Non-licence terms**

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DECC oversees the implementation of, and investigates complaints in relation to, non-licence terms<sup>19</sup> in the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern IFOAs. DECC also coordinates discussions about various IFOA implementation issues with DPI as they arise. Complaints about non-licence terms were received from the public during 2006–2007 and covered issues such as principal purpose, publicly available documents, the compliance register, regeneration and annual logging reports.

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<sup>19</sup> Non-licence terms are additional requirements, beyond those addressed by IFOAs.

In 2006–2007, Forests NSW continued to draft a number of plans required under the non-licence terms, such as regional weed and feral animal management plans. Forests NSW also provided a number of programs in accordance with non-licence requirements.

Appendix 6 gives details of compliance by Forests NSW with these matters. They included:

- running of a training program for officers, employees and other persons, referred to in section 10 of the *Forestry Act 1916*, in relation to the management of heritage in connection with forestry operations. Forests NSW developed Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training with Aboriginal staff input for delivery to all staff and employees. This started in September 2002 and continues, with 88 staff and contractors trained in 2006–2007.
- submission of an Annual Plan of Logging Operations for 2006–2007 covering UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden to the regulators. The details provided are those required under the IFOA.
- Submission of a monthly report/notice by Forests NSW outlining all current and proposed harvesting and thinning operations and other information such as completion of harvesting operations
- submission of annual reports on logging operations, required each calendar year by 31 January in the UNE, LNE and Eden regions and for a financial year in the Southern Region. The 2006 report on past logging has been provided for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions and the 2006–2007 report has been provided for the Southern Region.
- provision of a Plan of Forest Products Operation covering UNE, LNE and Eden for the period 2006–2007 DECC. New arrangements to help in reporting may be negotiated as part of the 5-year review. A report on Forest Products of the Southern Region was also provided.
- continued preparation of Forests NSW's annual plan for proposed burning for the purposes of bushfire hazard reduction or regeneration. Annual Plans were prepared by the regions and then submitted through the Rural Fire Service's Bushfire Risk Information Management System (BRIMS) to each Bushfire Management Committee. Details of each proposed burn indicate the area and season in which it is intended to burn.
- preparation by Forests NSW of a site-specific plan before burning operations are conducted on a tract of land. The plan must provide specified information. Site-specific information may be collected for operational plans as part of the harvest plan preparation process or specifically for broad area burns. These plans are developed as part of the ESFM process and are regularly reviewed as part of the EMS (ISO 14001) continuous improvement process.
- development and submission of a draft model grazing plan to RACU. Forests NSW is currently revising this draft to make it more practical for operational implementation.
- preparation of a plan or plans that specify strategies to control weeds and provide specified information (weed management plan or plans) within 6 months after a 'model document' has been approved, and consultation with local control authorities and NSW DPI. All regional plans have been drafted to be consistent with the approved model document and are undergoing review before approval. It is anticipated that the plans will be approved by the end of June 2007.
- preparation of a plan or plans by Forests NSW that specify strategies to control feral or introduced animals, where the presence of these animals may have an adverse impact on the environment. All regional plans have been drafted to be consistent with the approved model plan and are undergoing review before approval. The pest animal management plans for North East Region, Central, Eden and Southern are prepared and are due to be approved in July 2007.

- preparation of a road and fire trail management plan or plans by Forests NSW that contain specified matters in relation to ancillary road construction. A draft road management plan for the Southern (including the Eden forest agreement) and North East (UNE) regions were done in December 2006. A draft road management plan for the Central Region (LNE) is expected to be done in September 2007.

## Forests NSW internal compliance program

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### Summary of the Forests NSW internal compliance program

Forestry operations carried out in State forests and on other Crown timber lands are governed by the terms and conditions of IFOAs and Forests NSW's internal requirements (such as codes of practice) and occupational health and safety requirements. To ensure compliance, Forests NSW regularly monitors internal compliance. Any non-compliance requires corrective action to minimise any future re-occurrence. The Forests NSW internal audit system consists of a four-tiered approach:

- **Tier 1 monitoring:** on-site monitoring by the supervising forest officer, to ensure compliance with operational conditions.
- **Tier 2 monitoring:** on-site checking of Tier 1 by the supervising forest officer's supervisor to ensure correct application of standards.
- **Tier 3 audits:** independent audits of Tiers 1 and Tier 2 by regional staff not directly involved in the operation, and/or independent audits by the EMS Audit team from Forests NSW.
- **Tier 4 audits:** independent audits by the Management Audit and Review Branch of Forests NSW.

All operations are covered by the audit procedure, with risk assessments determining the focus of Tier 1 and Tier 2 monitoring and of the Tier 3 and Tier 4 audits.

### Outcomes of the Forests NSW internal compliance program

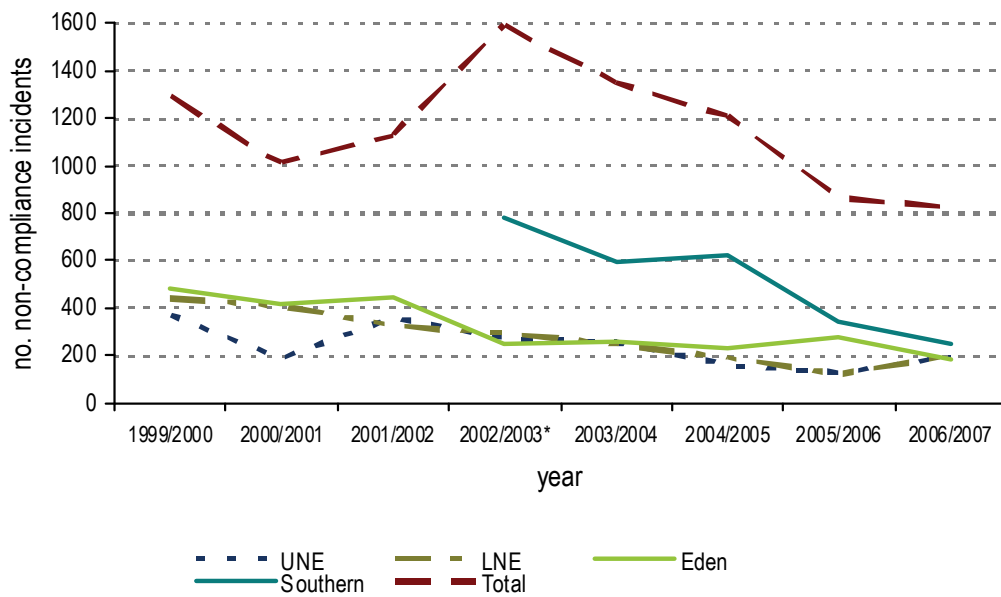
During 2006–2007, Forests NSW staff filled out 3063 compliance sheets under the four-tier audit system across all regions (2861 checks were performed in 2005–2006). Among the 233 943 potential compliance areas identified and assessed under Tier one audits, 826 incidents of non-compliance were identified. This represents a compliance rate of over 99.6% (the same rate as in the previous year).

The incidents across all regions represent a 4.3% decrease in non-compliance incidents when compared with the 2005–2006 figures (see Figure 3-1A). The number of incidents fell in the Eden and Southern Regions during the reporting period, whereas UNE and LNE recorded slight increases.

Compliance checks were carried out for soil and water quality, flora and fauna, fish habitat and passage, and other issues such as safety. Non-compliance was relatively evenly spread across soil and water quality (47%), flora and fauna (23%) and other issues such as safety (30%).

No issues were submitted by DPI in relation to fish habitat and passage in any region.

Figure 3-1A: Non-compliance incidents recorded through Forests NSW's internal monitoring – all regions



\* Monitoring for the Southern region began in 2002–2003.  
Source: Forests NSW data

In addition to the four-tier audits there was one external audit of Forests NSW's EMS by an external EMS certification company. As discussed in Chapter 1, Forests NSW has achieved accreditation of its EMS under the ISO 14001 standard.

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# Appendix 1 Individual milestone progress

Discussion of milestones is also contained in Chapter 1.

## Definitions of milestones status

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Completed	Indicates that the milestone required the production of a document or plan, and that this document or plan has been produced
Implemented	Indicates that the milestone required a process or system to be put in place, and that this process or system has been put in place
Continuing	Indicates that a product or process is ongoing or annually required
In progress	Indicates that a product or process is still being developed or is in the draft stage
Deferred	Indicates that the action required by the milestone has been postponed
No reporting required	Indicates that an action is no longer required to be reported on or is reported in another way (e.g. in the 5-year review or on an 'as needed' basis)

## Guidelines to completing table

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- See guidelines for Chapter 1.
- Divide milestones into UNE, LNE or Eden if the information is different for each region.
- If the status has changed, then please provide an update that explains the change.
- If 'no reporting required' is now applicable, then please provide an update.



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
<b>MANAGING THE FORESTS</b>				
Environmental Management System				
2001	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.1.1 Att. 3 Att. 4	Preparation of SFNSW [State Forests of NSW, now Forests NSW] EMS – Native Forest Management System.	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>Forests NSW's EMS assists in continuous improvement of environmental management in native and planted forests. The EMS is a comprehensive planning, assessment, implementation, monitoring, auditing and reporting system.</p> <p>Initially Forests NSW placed a draft Native Forest Management System on public display in September 2000 with draft Regional ESFM Plans. Forests NSW's Native Forest Management System (NFMS) was renamed the Native Forest Environmental Management System (NFEMS) to better highlight the intent of the system. Following the public display of the Native Forest Strategic Framework in September 2000 and a gap analysis by an external ISO 14001 certification company, the NFEMS was rolled out to all Native Forests regions. Simulated (training) EMS audits followed; audit outcomes were used to focus further development work on continuous improvement of the NFEMS.</p> <p>Although the intention was to develop the EMS for Native Forest only, Forests NSW included the planted estate. During 2003–2004 a draft procedures EMS manual was developed, specifically addressing native forest issues and considered options for its appropriateness for planted forests.</p> <p>In 2004–2005 senior management of Forests NSW approved an audit program for native forest regions to assess the workings of its EMSs. The program did not include operational health and safety audits. Auditing in plantation areas was confined to compliance with the EPL and Codes of Practice during this period.</p> <p>During 2005–2006, Forest NSW completed its review and implemented recommendations of the internal audits undertaken in 2004–2005. The findings of these reports formed a basis for the external verifiers to assess Forests NSW EMS systems.</p> <p>Forest NSW finalised a number of corporate systems and management reviews to obtain its external accreditation in ISO 14001 (EMS) in June 2006 for both planted and native forests. The ISO 14001 accreditation covers both native and plantation operations.</p> <p>Completion of the EMS has taken longer than expected because of the size of the task. A typical EMS addresses potential environmental impacts caused by corporate business activities, usually at a limited number of sites, with few variables between sites. Simply creating a typical EMS framework within the Forests NSW business would not achieve ISO14001 nor forest agreement objectives owing to the large and diverse nature of Forests NSW as an organisation and its activities. Forests NSW has had to implement an EMS across three operational divisions, including nine management regions and 12 offices, to address activities relevant to forest management planning, harvesting, monitoring and reporting for over 2 million hectares of native forest and half a million hectares of planted forest estate throughout NSW.</p> <p>In December 2006, Forests NSW was certified as compliant with the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) (AS 4708 (Int) – 2003) by NCS International (NCSI). The AFS complements the pre-existing regulatory structure and EMS through provision of an independent perspective. Regular external audits carried out by NCSI assess not only Forests NSW management systems and compliance with applicable licenses, but also our commitment to sustainable timber supply, efficient resource use, stakeholder involvement, staff training, carbon sequestration, and other ESFM aspects. Regular assessment and guidance by the AFS have helped Forests NSW to continually improve its practices and has allowed the organisation to demonstrate itself as a responsible forest custodian.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2003	Sthn	2.1.1 Att. 2 & 3 Att. 6(2c)	Complete and implement SFNSW EMS.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.
2003	Sthn	2.1.1	A further part of the EMS will be prepared to cover the planted forest component.	<b>Complete</b> Refer to milestone above.
2004	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.1.2 Att. 3	Preparation of NPWS Environmental Management Systems.	<b>In progress</b> DECC is developing a Park Management Program that will be an important component of an EMS. The program will define DECC's objectives for park management, and will integrate park policy, planning, operations, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and feedback. It provides the tools to make better decisions and will also improve coordination across DECC to make it easier for staff to access information to guide park management. Components of the program currently being developed include a park management guide, asset maintenance system, visitation management plans and a planning review. Completed projects include a park management policy manual and a park facilities manual. The State of the Parks program will form an important part of the monitoring framework that will be part of an EMS. The first NSW State of the Parks report was released in November 2001 and provided an overview of the conservation values of NSW and their management within the park system. The second NSW State of the Parks survey was run in late 2004, with a public report released in June 2005. This report examined key issues for management within NSW parks and included data on the effectiveness of park management. A third survey was undertaken in September 2005, and a fourth survey is planned for September 2007.
2004	Sthn	2.1.2 Att. 6(2b)	Development and implementation of EMS by NPWS.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.1.2	To facilitate implementation of the EMS, NPWS staff and contractors must continue to receive appropriate competency-based training.	<b>Continuing</b> DECC continues to provide staff training programs. These cover natural and cultural (including Aboriginal) heritage management and operational, technical and safety matters. Programs range from technical training-related to occupational health and safety requirements to state-wide capacity-building initiatives targeted at particular staff classifications.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
<b>PLANS OF MANAGEMENT</b>				
Plans of management for the NPWS estate				
2005	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.3.2 Att. 8	Preparation of plans of management for dedicated reserves under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<b>Continuing</b> Of the 377 reserves in the UNE and LNE regions, plans of management have been adopted for 147 by the NSW Minister for the Environment. A further 55 draft plans have been publicly exhibited and another 64 are in preparation, with 11 of these being in draft form. The increase in the total number of reserves since the last reporting period reflects the addition of new reserves in 2006-2007. Additions include the Worimi Conservation Lands.  Of the 18 reserves in the Eden region, 12 have had plans of management adopted by the NSW Minister for the Environment. A further 3 draft plans have been publicly exhibited and another 1 is in preparation.
2006	Sthn	2.3.2	Preparation of plans of management for dedicated reserves under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<b>Continuing</b> Of the 125 reserves in the Southern region, 41 have had plans of management adopted by the NSW Minister for the Environment. A further 38 draft plans have been publicly exhibited and another 30 are in preparation.
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.1 Att. 8	Release and adoption of NSW Biodiversity Strategy.	<b>Completed</b>
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.1 Att. 6(2d)	Implementation of NSW Biodiversity Strategy.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone reported above.
Regional ESFM plans				
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.1	Preparation of Regional ESFM plans and subject to public exhibition and consultation.	<b>Completed</b> Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions were finalised in August 2005 and are available at: <a href="http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au/esfm/esfm.asp">www.forest.nsw.gov.au/esfm/esfm.asp</a> . Regional ESFM Plans were placed on public display in early to mid-2005.
2002	Sthn	2.2.1, 4.3 Att. 6(1) & 2(a)	Preparation of Regional ESFM plans.	<b>Completed</b> Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans for the South Coast and Tumut sub-regions of the Southern region were finalised in August 2005 and are available at: <a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm">http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm</a> . Regional ESFM Plans were placed on public display in early to mid-2005.
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.6	Report on progress on meeting targets in Regional ESFM plans.	<b>Continuing</b> No progress to report.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Annually	Sthn	2.2.6	Progress in meeting the targets in the Regional ESFM plans must be reported annually through Regional ESFM reports.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone reporting above.
2002	Sthn	6.16	Formation of a working group to make recommendations on the management and tenure of areas of State forests that are isolated from the productive State forests.	<b>In progress</b> No working group has been formed.
Flora reserves				
2001	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.2.2	Preparation of working plans for flora reserves to be incorporated into the Regional ESFM Plans.	<b>In progress</b> Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans for the UNE, LINE and Eden regions provide details of the flora reserves in each region. ESFM plans also provide information on the status of each flora reserve working plan (i.e. draft or current) at the time of publication.  Current working plans for flora reserves, approved by the Minister for Primary Industries, are publicly available. Remaining working plans, such as those for new flora reserves, are progressively being completed.
2002	Sthn	2.2.2 2.3.2	Complete and make public working plans for land dedicated or set apart as flora reserves (attached to the Regional ESFM Plans).	<b>In progress</b> Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans for the South Coast and Tumut sub-regions of the Southern region provide details of the flora reserves in each region. ESFM Plans also provide information on the status of each flora reserve working plan (i.e. draft or current) at the time of publication.  Current working plans for flora reserves, approved by the Minister for Primary Industries, are publicly available. Remaining working plans, such as those for new flora reserves, are progressively being completed.
Informal reserves				
2001	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.3	Preparation of working plans for informal reserves and areas managed by prescription in State forests to be included in the Regional ESFM Plans.	<b>In progress</b> A model plan for informal reserves is under development as an ESFM supplementary plan.
2002	Sthn	2.3.3	Preparation of working plans for informal reserves (FMZ 2 and 3a) and guidelines for areas managed by prescription (FMZ 3b and 4) in consultation with DoP, NPWS and DMR.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Larger, more significant exclusion areas of rainforest, high-conservation-value old-growth forest, and other prescriptive exclusions				
2001	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.5	Directors-General of NPWS, PlanningNSW and CEO SFNSW to agree on the larger, more significant exclusion areas of rainforest, high-conservation-value old growth and other prescriptive exclusions.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Changes to Special Management Zones in Forests NSW Central region are planned under the Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan (<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/newparks/hunterdraft.htm">www.environment.nsw.gov.au/newparks/hunterdraft.htm</a>) to come into effect from 1 July 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition to Bar Flora Reserve – increase of 13 ha of Olney SF and 0.5 ha of Watagan SF</li> <li>• Olney Flora Reserve – 802 ha</li> <li>• Hunter Lakes Flora Reserve – 211 ha of Awaba SF, 536 ha of Heaton SF, and 187 ha of Olney SF</li> <li>• Additions to Wallaroo Flora Reserve – increase of 436 ha of Wallaroo SF</li> <li>• Additions to Warrawolong Flora Reserve – increase of 52 ha of Olney SF and 261 ha of Watagan SF.</li> </ul>
2002	Sthn	2.4.5.6	The larger, more significant exclusion areas will be those as agreed between the Director-General of NPWS, Chief Executive Officer of SFNSW and the Director-General of DoP.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>No further progress made.</p>
2002	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.5	Preparation of management plans for large areas of rainforest, high-conservation-value old growth and other areas excluded by prescription (attach to Regional ESFM Plans and in consultation with NPWS).	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>No further progress to report.</p>
2002	Sthn	2.4.5.6	Preparation of guidelines for the management of large areas of rainforest, high-conservation-value old growth and other areas excluded by prescription and attached to the Regional ESFM Plan.	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Creation of special management zones				
1999	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.1	Minister for Forestry to create informal reserves pursuant to the amended <i>Forestry Act 1916</i> and called 'special management zones'.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>No additional special management zones (SMZs) were declared during 2006–2007 in UNE regions. The following changes to SMZ in LNE have resulted from the Lower Hunter Conservation Plan, effective as at 1 July 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition to Bar Flora Reserve – increase of 13 ha in Olney SF and 0.5 ha in Watagan SF</li> <li>• Olney Flora Reserve – 802 ha</li> <li>• Hunter Lakes Flora Reserve – 211 ha in Awaba SF, 536 ha in Heaton SF, and 187 ha in Olney SF</li> <li>• Additions to Wallaroo Flora Reserve – increase of 436 ha in Wallaroo SF</li> <li>• Additions to Warrawolong Flora Reserve – increase of 52 ha in Olney SF and 261 ha in Watagan SF.</li> </ul> <p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>In the Eden region, the <i>National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2005</i> provided for approximately 2 620 ha to be dedicated as SMZ under section 21A of the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i>. These SMZs were approved by the Forests NSW CEO during 2006–2007.</p> <p>In the Southern region, the <i>National Park Estate (Reservation) Act 2005</i> provided for around 7550 ha in the Turnut sub-region and 13 670 ha in the South Coast sub-region to be dedicated as SMZ under section 21A of the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i>.</p>
2002	Sthn	2.3.1	Creation of special management zones in State forests.	
Forest Management Zoning				
1999	Eden	2.2.2 Att. 5	Mapping of FMZs (as defined in attachment 5 of agreement) and attached to Regional ESFM Plans. Zones delineate areas of State forest to be managed as conservation reserves and those managed for timber production.	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>An FMZ map has been attached to the Regional ESFM plan for Eden. Regional ESFM Plans and FMZ maps can be found at: <a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm">http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm</a>.</p>
2000	UNE, LINE	2.2.2 Att. 5	Provision of maps of FMZs (as defined in attachment 5 of the agreement) and attached to Regional ESFM Plans.	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>FMZ maps have been attached to Regional ESFM plans for UNE and LNE.</p>
2002	Sthn	2.2.2	Provision of mapped FMZ in all State forests attached to the Regional ESFM Plans.	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>FMZ maps have been attached to Regional ESFM plans for the South Coast and Turnut sub-regions of Southern region.</p>
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	Att. 8	Implement the Forest Management Zoning System.	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>The FMZ system for State forests was publicly announced in March 1999 with the release of <i>Managing Our Forests Sustainably: Forest Management Zoning in NSW State Forests</i>. Implementation of this FMZ system continues in accordance with this document.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
CAR RESERVE SYSTEM				
Additions to the NPWS estate				
Ongoing	UNE, LINE	6.16.2	The NSW Government may attempt to voluntarily acquire leases using approaches coordinated with the NPWS purchase strategy. Funding to be sought for the purchase of leasehold lands.	<b>Completed</b> Acquisitions are ongoing. DECC received a Treasury commitment of \$1.5 million/year for 5 years (2001–2002 to 2005–2006) to purchase leasehold and freehold lands as required by the UNE and LNE forest agreements. In 2006–2007, DECC purchased two leasehold properties (1880 ha) in UNE. No leases were purchased in LNE during 2006–2007
Ongoing	As soon as practical	6.16.2	Any areas for which leases are purchased must be incorporated by gazettal into the NPWS estate as soon as practical.	<b>Continuing</b> UNE/LNE – During 2006–2007, two leases (1683 ha) in UNE and five leases (2762 ha) in LNE were incorporated into the DECC estate.
1999	UNE, LINE, Eden	6.16.2	Preparation of procedures for purchasing leases on land.	<b>No reporting required</b> Standard DECC acquisition procedures have been utilised for the voluntary acquisition of leases as they have been offered and as funds have become available.
2001	Eden	6.16.1	Pursue the voluntary purchase of any leases on State forest tenure that has been revoked.	<b>Continuing</b> No Crown leases purchased by DECC in 2006–2007.
Aquatic reserves				
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.4	Minister for Fisheries may declare aquatic reserves under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> within State forests, national parks, native reserves and other Crown lands and develop management arrangements for these reserves.	<b>Continuing</b> No aquatic reserves were declared under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Ongoing	Sthn	2.3.4	Minister for Fisheries may declare aquatic reserves.	<b>Continuing</b> No aquatic reserves were declared under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Upgrading of FMZ areas/mineral and petroleum interests/additional conservation areas				
1999	UNE, LINE	6.16.2	Identification of areas 'available for formal reservation' refined from the 'areas for further consideration'. Process for identifying these lands was outlined in the PlanningNSW memo dated 4 February 1999, entitled 'Procedure for dealing with lands for further consideration for reservation'.	<b>In progress</b> No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
1999	UNE, LINE	6.16.2	SFNSW must pursue upgrading to FMZ 2, and any FMZ 3 areas that would be classed as 'available for formal reservation' but for unresolved mineral issues.	<b>In progress</b> No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year.
2000	UNE, LINE	6.16.2	NPWS and SFNSW, in consultation with the Department of Mineral Resources, to complete negotiations on the FMZ category of State forests with mineral and lease interests.	<b>Continuing</b> An FMZ assessment (undertaken as part of the Government's Action for the Environment Statement 2001) was completed in 2002, with the agreement of the Department of Mineral Resources it resulted in the transfer of up to 121 000 ha of FMZ 2 and 3 lands to the formal reserve system through the <i>National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002</i> (gazetted in January 2003). The review process is continuing as required and is concentrating on those FMZ2 and FMZ3 lands that Forests NSW previously agreed to transfer. Additional areas affected by the Government's 2002 decision to expand protection of old-growth forest in State forests shall also be assessed in future reviews.
2000	UNE, LINE	6.16.2 2.3.1	Lands must be zoned by SFNSW as FMZ 2, or FMZ 3 where they are encumbered by leases or have major mineral value precluding FMZ 2, and must be managed accordingly. Any activities on these lands that may diminish the values of the area must only be carried out with the agreement of NPWS and following consultation with leaseholders.	<b>In progress</b> No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE	2.3.3	Review of mineral and petroleum objections over FMZ 2 and FMZ 3 lands every 5 years or as required; land may be added to the dedicated reserve system.	<b>Continuing</b> See item 6.16.2 above
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.1 6.16.2 6.16.1 (E)	Consult with DMR when upgrading FMZ 3 to FMZ 2 and purchase of leases.	<b>Continuing</b> No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year.
2007	Sthn	2.3.3	Review of mineral and petroleum objections over FMZ 2 and FMZ 3 lands.	<b>Continuing</b> No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year, with the exception of the transfer of part of Currumbene State Forest FMZ, now vested in the Minister for the Environment. (Note: This is an ongoing action. In 2003 the NSW Government agreed to consider further reservations under the National Parks and Wildlife Act of State forest in the Eden and Southern Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) regions, beyond the substantial reservations of 2000 and earlier. Additional areas of non-harvestable State forest in FMZs 2 and 3a was vested in the Minister for the Environment, with the possibility of eventual transfer to the reserve system.
Crown reserves				
1999	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.3	MoU regarding the management of Crown reserves.	<b>Completed</b>



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
1999	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.3	Formation of a management committee regarding the management of Crown reserves.	<b>No reporting required</b> Refer to milestone above.
2002	Sthn	2.3.3	Formation of a committee to advise the Manager of the Reserve Trust on the matters specified in the MoU concerning Crown Reserves.	<b>No reporting required</b> An MoU between DEC and DPI–Minerals provides for the formation of a Crown Reserves Minerals Advisory Board. No issues requiring the board's consideration have yet arisen.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.3.3	NPWS and DMR to review Crown reserves every 5 years. Any areas no longer required for mineral interests must be dedicated under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> with concurrence of DMR.	<b>In progress</b> NA
2007	Sthn	2.3.3	Engaging in a review of Crown reserves every 5 years.	<b>In progress</b> NA
2002	Eden	2.3.3	Preparation of plans of management for Crown reserves that are adjacent to land dedicated or reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<b>No reporting required</b> All Crown Reserves in Eden adjacent to land dedicated or reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> have been re-categorised as State Conservation Areas (SCAs). Plans of management for SCAs are included in the figures reported under DECC plans of management.
2005	UNE, LINE	2.3.3	Preparation of plans of management for Crown reserves that are adjacent to land dedicated or reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<b>No reporting required</b> In late 2002 all but six Crown reserves in the Southern region were reclassified as SCAs. Four were subsequently reclassified as SCAs on 1/4/05. Recategorisation of the remaining two Crown reserves (Mullengandra and Woomargama; both in the Tumut sub-region) as SCAs will be occurring but is pending resolution of issues regarding the inclusion/exclusion of roads in the reserves. In the interim, draft plans of management have been prepared and are awaiting adoption, also pending this resolution.
2006	Sthn	2.3.3	Preparation of plans of management for Crown reserves.	<b>In progress</b> In late 2002 all but six Crown reserves in the Southern region were reclassified as SCAs. Four were subsequently reclassified as SCAs in 2004–2005. The remaining two Crown reserves (Mullengandra and Woomargama; both in the Tumut sub-region) are still subject to DMR objections to conversion to SCA. The reclassification to SCAs avoids duplication of land-use categories and solves some of the management anomalies that exist with Crown Reserves and that affect the preparation of plans of management. The principal anomaly is that the legislation under which Crown Reserves are established does not allow for responsibility for the reserves (and therefore the Plans of Management) to rest with the NSW Minister for the Environment. Plans of management for SCAs are included in the figures reported under DECC plans of management.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Crown land				
2003	UNE, LNE	6.16.2	NPWS to assess forest conservation values on remaining vacant Crown land in consultation with DLWC, DMR and other relevant stakeholders.	<b>In progress</b> Subsequent to the 9000 ha being reserved in 2005, an additional 1500 ha was reserved in 2007, including Yarrahapinni Wetlands. A further 5300 ha of Crown land identified through the forest agreements was identified in the <i>National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006</i> for reservation; this reservation comes into force from 1/7/07. Negotiations between DECC and the Department of Lands over the remaining areas proposed for reservation have not been concluded.
COOPERATIVE APPROACHES FOR THREATENED SPECIES MANAGEMENT				
Assessment of species				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.3	Implementation of a process to assess conservation requirements in relation to important new information concerning the biology and ecology of a species and/or effectiveness of licence conditions.	<b>Implemented</b> DECC has implemented a process that mirrors the one adopted for species newly listed in schedules of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (stipulated in condition 1.3 of Appendix B in the IFOAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions). A process is also in place for the review of certain fauna conditions of the TSL. This process includes the exchange and assessment of new information by DECC Forests NSW and (where appropriate) independent experts. Recommendations arising from such reviews are provided to the relevant Ministers for approval. The process covers both flora and fauna.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.3	Review of particular Threatened Species Licence conditions in light of new information on the distribution, population size or ecology of a threatened flora species.	<b>Implemented</b> Where the application of TSL conditions results in 20% or more of the net logging area of a compartment being made unavailable because of exclusion zones, Forests NSW may request that PWG review the conditions.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.4	New information is to be assessed and, where required Threatened Species Licence is reviewed and IFOA amended.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.4	Where new information on the distribution, population size or ecology of threatened flora and fauna suggests that the species allocation to a particular condition of the Threatened Species Licence needs to be reviewed, NPWS and SFNSW will undertake such a review.	<b>Implemented</b> A process was implemented in 1999-2000 that mirrors the one adopted for species newly listed in schedules of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (stipulated in condition 1.3 of Appendix B and Appendix C in the IFOA for the Southern region). A process is also in place for the review of certain fauna conditions of the TSLs. This process includes the exchange and assessment of new information by DEC, Forests NSW and, where appropriate, independent experts. Recommendations from such reviews are provided to the relevant Ministers for approval as they arise.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.2	Details the process to be followed when an important new record of a species in the area is found.	<b>Implemented</b> Process has been established and has been included in the IFOAs.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.3 2.4.4.1	Agencies to notify each other of any proposal to nominate for listing or delisting of any species, populations, ecological communities or key threatening processes. The IFOA provides a review process to deal with changes to threatened species schedules.	<b>Implemented</b> This Forests NSW process is included in provisions of the IFOAs. DECC notification occurs as required. DECC routinely notifies Forests NSW of preliminary and final determinations made by the Scientific Committee for the listing of species in schedules of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> . DECC is not permitted to provide information on non-DECC proposals for listings or de-listings until the Scientific Committee has made at least a preliminary determination.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.4	Notify NPWS/SFNSW of listing and delisting of threatened species, populations, etc. and review IFOA for changes to schedules on Threatened Species Licence.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.1	Review IFOA for changes to schedules on Threatened Species Licence.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone above.
1999 1 October	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.2	Development of a process for the assessment of new records of threatened species, populations and ecological communities not already covered by licences, whereby the conservation requirements of the species are assessed.	<b>Implemented</b> A process was implemented in 1999–2000. It mirrors that adopted for species newly listed in schedules of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (stipulated in condition 1.3 of Appendix B in the Eden, UNE, LNE and Southern IFOAs and also Appendix C in the Southern IFOA). Whenever the Scientific Committee makes a final determination to list threatened species, populations and ecological communities not already covered by licences and considered likely to occur in State forests and be affected by logging activities, DECC advises Forests NSW of the determination and the need to apply condition 1.2 of the TSL.  Regular updates of the Wildlife Atlas are provided to Forests NSW of all threatened species under its data licence with DECC. The provision of this information helps Forests NSW to plan its logging operations. If a newly listed species is present in a compartment planned for logging, the Forest Policy and Regulation Section of DECC is contacted; the section then assess the conservation requirements of the species and advises Forests NSW of an appropriate condition. The TSL does not cover 'Endangered Ecological Communities'; therefore, Forests NSW is not authorised to engage in activities that may affect Endangered Ecological Communities.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.3	Implement stated process where important new record was discovered in an area.	<b>Implemented</b> This process was not implemented during 2006–2007
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.3	Conservation requirements must be developed and implemented for new records of threatened species, populations and ecological populations and IFOA must be reviewed.	<b>Ongoing</b> This is an ongoing requirement.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.1	A process must be developed and implemented whereby the conservation requirements of a species new to science are assessed. The IFOA provides a review mechanism.	<b>Implemented</b> The process mirrors that adopted for species newly listed in schedules of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (stipulated in condition 1.3 of Appendix B in the Eden, UNE, LNE and Southern IFOAs and also Appendix C in the Southern IFOA).

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.4.4.1	Details the process to be followed when a species new to science is found.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone reported also in 2.4.4.1 above.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.2	Implement stated process when species new to science are found.	<b>Implemented</b> This process was not implemented during 2006–2007
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.2	Conservation requirements must be developed and implemented for species new to science and IFOA must be reviewed.	<b>Implemented</b> The process mirrors that adopted for species newly listed in schedules of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (stipulated in condition 1.3 of Appendix B in the Eden, UNE, LINE and Southern IFOAs and also Appendix C in the Southern IFOA).
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.4.3	Cooperation over non-licence components of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> , such as nomination of species, populations, ecological communities and key threatening processes, recovery plans, threat abatement plans and critical habitat.	<b>Implemented</b> Cooperation continues as necessary. For instance, various recovery plans and threat abatement plans being prepared by DECC involve Forests NSW through provision of Forests NSW expertise; representation on recovery teams; implementation of specific actions by Forests NSW; and consultation during the drafting and public exhibition of plans.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.4	Preparation of cooperative approaches for non-licence components of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> and <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> , such as nomination of species, populations, ecological communities and key threatening processes, recovery plans, threat abatement plans and critical habitat.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone above.
Management and recovery planning				
1999	UNE, LINE	2.4.3	Refinement of models to identify Hastings River mouse habitat.	<b>Completed</b> A NSW and National Recovery Plan for the Hastings River mouse was finalised and published in April 2005 (see <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/recoveryPlanHastingsrnmouseDec04.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/recoveryPlanHastingsrnmouseDec04.pdf</a> ). Actions within the plan, including refinement of habitat models, are subject to budgetary constraints, as noted in the plan.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.4.3	Continued implementation of joint management plans, such as Pine Creek Koala Management Plan.	<b>Implemented</b> Pine Creek was largely converted to a nature reserve in 2004, and high priority koala habitat was specifically included in the reserve. Forests NSW continues to implement the Pine Creek Koala Management Plan in the remaining sections of Pine Creek State Forest. Amendments to the Pine Creek Koala Management Plan for the Pine Creek State Forest in the UNE region may be considered in the future. This is because a large portion of the former Pine Creek State Forest has now been added to the Bongil Bongil National Park.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Pest, weed and feral animal control				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.16.3	Wild dog control using 1080 baiting on lands managed by the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> where SFNSW has given approval.	<b>Completed</b> Baiting continues in accordance with PWG regional pest management strategies.
2005	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.2	Preparation of grazing management plans, predator and feral control plans and threatened flora species management plans.	<b>In progress</b> A model plan for pest animal management is approved. The pest animal management plan for North East Region, Central and Southern are prepared and are due to be approved in July 2007. Preparation of a model grazing management plan has progressed during this reporting period; and regional plans will be prepared based on this model plan. There was one flora species management plan approved by PWG in North East region for <i>Macrozamia johnsonii</i> , which was approved in Sept 2005. (This is the second flora species plan approved the other was <i>Boronia umbellata</i> in 2000.)
2006	Sthn	2.4.3	Preparation of grazing management plans and feral and introduced predator control plans.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.12 2.11 (E)	Cooperative programs in addressing noxious weed control, feral animal control and other matters relating to forest health.	<p><b>Continuing – for DECC</b></p> <p>DECC has long-running co-operative programs with a variety of landholders, land management agencies and interest groups for the management of pest animals (e.g. foxes, wild dogs, feral horses, pigs, deer), weeds (e.g. bitou bush, lantana, scotch broom) and forest health (e.g. bell miner associated dieback). Pest animal and weed control programs are identified and prioritised in Regional Pest Management Strategies, and integrated into DECC Plans of Management, Recovery Plans, Threat Abatement Plans and Priority Action Statements. New Regional Pest Management Strategies have been drafted for the period 2008–2011. They will be on public display in October 2007 and are expected to be published in December 2007/January 2008. DECC's website presents a range of information on agency pest, weed and forest health programs. Some examples follow.</p> <p>Weed management is integrated into Forests NSW Regional ESFM Plans, which were published in 2005. A model plan for weed management is approved, and the development of regional plans based on the model is being finalised for Central and Southern. The weed management plan for North Eastern Region was finalised in May 2006. These Supplementary Weed Management Plans have been produced for each region and cover the period 2006–2011. The Supplementary Plans contain the details of the objectives, strategies, actions and cooperative arrangements with other government agencies, land managers and neighbouring land owners for the control of priority weeds. Forests NSW regions produces annual weed management programs, in close cooperation with stakeholders, to maximise program delivery across the landscape. Development of the programs, and their integration with the programs of other parties, takes place through meetings and correspondence.</p> <p>Forests NSW annually participates in regular meetings held by the local Rural Lands Protection Boards regarding the control of noxious animals and weeds. As a result of attending these meetings, Forests NSW annually contributes to cooperative control programs. Forests NSW has also been a major contributor to Forests Health research regarding bell miner associated dieback (BMAD) within native hardwood forests in the UNE region. This work has included forest research, literature reviews and collaboration with universities on PhD studies to reduce the level of forest affected.</p> <p>In addition, under the <i>Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002</i>, Forests NSW has facilitated access by qualified and licensed hunters into 97 State forests declared around the State under the Act for feral animal control. Hunting occurs in these forests under a special licensing system administered by the Game Council NSW. This system replaces the hunting permits previously issued under section 32B of the <i>Forestry Act 1976</i>. Other measures to control feral animals include active tracking, baiting and trapping programs in State forests to manage wild dogs and foxes.</p> <p>A model pest animal management plan was finalised in December 2005 and regional pest animal management plans are due to be finalised in August 2007.</p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>The BMAD strategy is in the process of implementation, in a partnership between DECC, Forests NSW, other government agencies and stakeholders. Two large-scale adaptive management trials using fire as a management tool are under way this year, and a major research investigation aimed at unravelling factors that may contribute to BMAD will be completed.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Cooperative wild dog/fox management plans (the Bombala and Far South Coast Community Wild Dog Control Plan and the Wadbilliga Wild Dog Control Plan) have been developed between DECC, Forests NSW, the Rural Lands Protection Board and the community.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Sthn	2.12	NPWS and SFNSW must participate in cooperative programs where a broader landscape approach is most effective in addressing noxious weed control, feral animal control or other matters relating to forest health.	<p><b>Continuing – for DECC</b></p> <p>DECC has long-running co-operative programs with a variety of landholders, land management agencies and interest groups for the management of pest animals (e.g. foxes, wild dogs, feral horses, pigs, deer), weeds (e.g. bitou bush, lantana, scotch broom) and forest health (e.g. BMAD). Pest animal and weed control programs are identified and prioritised in Regional Pest Management Strategies and are integrated into DECC Plans of Management, Recovery Plans, Threat Abatement Plans and Priority Action Statements. New Regional Pest Management Strategies have been drafted for the period 2008–2011. They will be on public display in October 2007 and are expected to be published in December 2007/January 2008. DECC's website presents a range of information on agency pest, weed and forest health programs. Some examples follow.</p> <p>Cooperative wild dog/fox management plans have been developed between DECC, Forests NSW, the Rural Lands and Protection Board and the community in the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes, Snowy Mountains, South Coast and Far South Coast Regions. Effectiveness of actions under the plans is being assessed by the Far South Coast and South Coast Regions and Forests NSW's Southern Region (Batemans Bay) using the FeralBASE database tool developed by DECC's Far South Coast Region. In the South West Slopes Region the plans being implemented are: a 5-year plan in the Brindabella and Wee Jasper Valleys; a 3-year plan in the Burrinjuck area; a 2-year plan in the Adamaminby/Yaouk area; a 2-year plan in the Goobragandra/Blowering locality of Kosciuszko National Park; a 2-year plan in the East Gilmore Valley; and a 3-year plan in the Hume area.</p> <p>Specific feral pig control programs were implemented with the help of neighbouring landholders on various reserves in DECC's South West Slopes Region. Weed control programs in the same region were undertaken in targeted catchments, along roads, in high visitation/recreation areas and in areas where certain threatened species are vulnerable because of weed invasion. Volunteer groups (e.g. Tabbingo and District Bushwalking Group and the Oldfields Caretaker Group) are encouraged to help in weed control. Snowy Hydro Limited and the South West Slopes Region are working collaboratively to regenerate former Snowy Hydro Scheme sites, of which weed control is a major component. The Roads and Traffic Authority and the South West Slopes Region are also working in conjunction to reduce roadside weed infestation in Kosciuszko National Park. The South West Slopes Region is also represented and participates in the Australian Alps Natural Heritage Working Group, Deer Workshop Coordinating Committee, Wild Dog Working Group, Riverina Highlands Weeds Working Group, Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group, and Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committees. There is also a cooperative program covering bitou bush management, shorebird protection and conservation initiatives on private land in the Southern region.</p> <p>Weed management is integrated into Forests NSW Regional ESFM Plans, which were published in 2005. A model plan for weed management is approved and development of a regional plan based on the model is being finalised for Southern and is expected to be finalised in August 2007. This plan will cover the period 2006–2011. The Supplementary Plans contain details of the objectives, strategies, actions and cooperative arrangements with other government agencies, land managers and neighbouring land owners, for the control of priority weeds. Forests NSW regions produce annual weed management programs, in close cooperation with stakeholders, to maximise program delivery across the landscape. Development of the programs, and their integration with the programs of other parties, takes place through meetings and correspondence.</p> <p>Forests NSW annually participates in regular meetings held by the local Rural Lands Protection Boards regarding the control of noxious animals and weeds. As a result of attending these meetings, Forests NSW annually contributes to cooperative control programs</p> <p>In addition, under the <i>Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002</i>, Forests NSW has facilitated access by suitably qualified and licensed hunters into 97 State forests declared around the State under the Act for feral animal control. Hunting occurs in these forests under a special licensing system administered by the Game Council NSW. This system replaces the hunting permits previously issued under section 32B of the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i>. Other measures to control feral animals include active tracking, baiting and trapping programs in State forests to manage wild dogs and foxes.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(2m)	Incorporate into Regional ESFM plans and plans of management under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> integrated feral animal and weed control programs.	<b>Implemented – for DECC</b> DECC reserve plans of management identify priority pest and weed problems and the need for actions, which are in turn addressed by state-wide threat abatement plans or regional pest management strategies. As discussed in the revised regional ESFM plans, Forests NSW regions have developed weed management plans and pest animal management plans. These regional plans are based on the approved model plans to ensure consistency. The plans include details of the objectives, strategies and co-operative arrangements to manage priority pest animals and weeds within each Forests NSW region.
PRIVATE LAND				
Regional Native Vegetation Committee				
1999	Eden	2.8.1	Establishment of a Regional Native Vegetation Committee under the forest agreement, to promote conservation of rare or non-existent ecosystems on private land.	<b>Completed</b> The Regional Native Vegetation committee has been established. It held its first meeting in October 2000.
2000	UNE, LNE	2.9.1	Establishment of a committee under the forest agreement to look at conservation values on private land that are a conservation priority for inclusion in the CAR reserve system, and seek funding.	<b>Completed</b> Refer to milestone above.
2002	Sthn	2.9	Establishment of a committee to look at conservation issues on private land.	<b>Completed</b> Refer to milestone above.
Regional vegetation management plans				
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(2e) Att. 6(3) point 4	Establishment of regional vegetation management plans under the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> to cover private lands and form a basis for strategic regional planning of private native forestry.	<b>Continuing</b> The two regional vegetation management plans (RVMPs) finalised under the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> (the Mid Lachlan RVMP and the Riverina Highlands RVMP) lapsed when the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> came into force on 1 December 2005. The focus of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> is on catchment action plans prepared by CMAs that identify priorities for investment in natural resource assets, including native vegetation. Eight catchment action plans (Border Rivers – Gwydir, Central West, Hunter – Central Rivers, Namoi, Lachlan, Northern Rivers, Southern Rivers and Western) were approved by the Minister for Natural Resources in 2006–2007. Another three were being finalised. In relation to Private Native Forestry, a code of practice is being developed and is expected to be on public display in July and August 2006. The code of practice will contain appropriate and effective management provisions for private forests.



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Identification of lands of conservation priority				
2000	UNE, LNE	2.9.1	Identification of forest ecosystems on private land that are a conservation priority for inclusion in the CAR reserve system.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>The forest agreements require identification of forest ecosystems on private land for inclusion in the CAR reserve system (list contained in attachment 2 North East RFA). As stated in the UNE/LNE forest agreements, this will require completion and incorporation of the CRAFT1 data into regional databases. This project was completed in an amended form for UNE in 2005 in conjunction with the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. The project for LNE is in progress but has been delayed and is now anticipated to be completed in 2008.</p>
2002	Sthn	2.9	Identification of forest ecosystems on private land that are of conservation priority for inclusion in the CAR reserve system.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Priority forest ecosystems for voluntary protection on private land are identified in attachment 2 of the Southern RFA.</p>
Voluntary conservation mechanisms				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.9.1 2.8.1 (E) Att. 7	Principles applying to land and voluntary mechanisms that may be applied to achieve conservation on private land (e.g. VCAs, property agreements, management contracts).	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>DECC</p> <p>Voluntary mechanisms (such as VCAs) and principles that may help in conservation on private land continue to be applied.</p> <p>DNR</p> <p>Under the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>, the purpose of Registered Property Agreements and Management Contracts was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide a mechanism for landholders to adopt an integrated approach and appropriate strategies for the management of native vegetation on their land</li> <li>protect native vegetation of high conservation value, to improve the condition of existing native vegetation and to encourage the revegetation of land with appropriate native vegetation</li> <li>provide incentives for landholders to appropriately manage native vegetation on their land.</li> </ul> <p>Property Agreements were registered on the title of the land for periods up to, and including, in perpetuity. Management contracts were civil contracts for the designated period (typically 10 to 15 years). All existing property agreements and management contracts have been continued under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>; however, no new ones can be signed. Over the life of the program, 842 agreements (property agreements and management contracts) were signed to protect over 81 000 ha of native vegetation. A proposed 'BioBanking' scheme will establish a market-based framework for offsetting ecosystem damage that may be caused by development. BioBanking will provide incentives for landowners to protect and secure areas of high biodiversity. The scheme will provide a transparent, consistent and robust framework for assessing biodiversity values and for the long-term management of biodiversity offsets. The <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> came into operation on 1 December 2005. Under this Act, property vegetation plans can be agreed on between landholders and CMAs for conservation works on private land. However, CMAs are also delivering incentive funding by using other, non-statutory, forms of agreement.</p> <p>The new native vegetation framework has a strong emphasis on conservation, and \$436 million has been allocated by the State and Federal governments to the CMAs over 4 years to fund conservation activities.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Sthn	2.9 Att. 5	Voluntary conservation of private land, where conservation values either do not occur on public land or are not adequately reserved on public land. According to principles in Attachment 5.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
Private native forestry and plantations				
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(3) point 3	Codes of practice for private plantations and private native forests will be in place within 5 years. The State will also provide advice regarding marketing and pricing.	<p><b>In progress – native forest</b></p> <p>DNR (now DECC) has developed a draft code of practice for private native forestry following discussions with various stakeholders. It is proposed that the draft code will be enacted under an amendment to the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> and will receive biodiversity certification under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>. The draft code was on public display in July and August 2006.</p> <p>Limited advice regarding marketing of private native forestry products is provided through the NSW Private Forestry Development Committees. The PFDCs have also attempted to help form private forestry marketing cooperatives, which will help to secure markets for private forestry products. NSW, in cooperation with Australian Forest Growers (through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry –DAFF) has also supported the development of a group certification mechanism for private forest growers (both native forest and plantation products), which again will help provide access to markets for certified timber.</p> <p><b>Completed – plantations</b></p> <p>This milestone was achieved with the implementation of the Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001 in December 2001. The <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> and the code provide certainty for harvesting, which was previously provided under the <i>Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995</i>. Plantations certified under the <i>Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995</i> are deemed to be authorised under the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>A statutory review of the Act and code began in January 2005. As required, a report to Parliament on the outcomes of the review was filed in December 2005. Inter-agency working groups are meeting to develop amendments to the Act and code on the basis of the recommendations in the report. An industry reference group will be convened to consider the proposals put forward by the working groups. The proposed amendments will go on public exhibition in due course, thereby providing an opportunity for comment by the broader community. The review is scheduled to conclude in 2007.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(3) point 2	As a means of encouraging private forestry development, the State will develop a regulatory framework that enables a more efficient integrated approval process to allow for effective private forestry development.	<b>Continuing</b> The development of the regulatory framework highlighted in the milestone above will ensure a more efficient integrated approval process.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2001 Code started 14 December	Sthn	Att. 6(3) point 5	NSW will ensure that an integrated code of practice is developed for plantation activities across all tenures under the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> . Existing plantations can also continue to obtain certainty for the purposes of harvesting as per the <i>Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995</i> and similar provisions included in the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act</i> .	<b>Implemented</b>  This milestone was achieved with the implementation of the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</i> in December 2001. The <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> and the code provide certainty for harvesting, which was previously provided under the <i>Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995</i> . Plantations certified under the <i>Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995</i> are deemed to be authorised under the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> .  A statutory review of the Act and code began in January 2005. As required, a report to Parliament on the outcomes of the review was filed in December 2005. Inter-agency working groups are meeting to develop amendments to the Act and code, based on the recommendations in the report. An industry reference group will be convened to consider the proposals put forward by the working groups. The proposed amendments will go on public exhibition in due course, providing an opportunity for comment by the broader community. The review is scheduled to end in 2007.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.2.3	For activities regulated under the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> , plans must be prepared as required in the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</i> .	<b>Implemented</b>  The <i>Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</i> requires applicants for plantation authorisation to submit a plantation plan as part of their applications. Refer to clause 14 of the code. Operational plans are also required for specified plantation operations, i.e. site preparation involving ripping and ploughing, construction crossing rivers, and harvesting exceeding a certain volume. Refer to clauses 26 and 27 of the code. The requirements for plantation plans and operational plans will not be affected by the Act and code review, although it is proposed that some additional items will be required to be shown on plantation plans.
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(3) point 4	With appropriate public involvement, and consistent with the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> , the regional vegetation management committees will pursue planning policies that provide for appropriate long-term, secure, management provisions for private native forests, including harvesting for commercial wood production.	<b>Continuing</b>  The <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> establishes a different regime that does not include regional vegetation management committees. CMAs have subsumed their role.
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(3)	Improve administrative arrangements and cooperation and coordination by State agencies to facilitate the timber industry using private forest resources.	<b>Continuing</b>  No further progress to report.
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(3) point 1	Arrangements to ensure ESFM on private forests, involving the provision of technical advice, extension services, research and assistance in the estimation of sustainable yield.	<b>Continuing</b>  No further progress to report.
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(4)	A private forest inventory of southern NSW to determine the basis of yield of wood products from private land is required, with the agreement of forest owner groups.	<b>Continuing</b>  No further progress to report.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
World Heritage and wilderness				
2000	UNE, LINE	2.5	Public exhibition of wilderness assessment report for the UNE and LINE regions.	<b>Completed</b> The Northern Wilderness Assessment Report was publicly exhibited in mid-2001.
2002	Sthn	2.5	NPWS must provide advice to the Minister administering the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> on the submissions received during public consultation and the areas recommended for wilderness declaration.	<b>Completed</b> Advice was provided to the Minister for the Environment about the 27 500 submissions received during the public exhibition of the Southern Wilderness Assessment Report.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE	Att. 8	Make subsequent decisions on the declaration and management as wilderness of areas of the CAR reserve system provisionally identified as wilderness during the regional forest assessment.	<b>Completed</b> The State's declared wilderness within national parks and reserves has increased to more than 1.9 million hectares, or just over 2% of NSW, up from 664 000 in 1995. Wilderness makes up almost 30% of DECC reserves and occurs mostly in eastern NSW. The most recent wilderness additions, declared in 2007, are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mummel Gulf (11 700 ha), 80 km west of Wauchope</li> <li>• North Ettrema (8900 ha), 16 km south of Moss Vale.</li> </ul>
2001	UNE, LINE	2.7	Review of CERRA World Heritage Areas to identify any additional rainforest to be included.	<b>In progress</b> In 2005 the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (CERRA) Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) provided a ranked list of potential sites to the CERRA Ministerial Council as the recommended starting point for the expansion of CERRA on its current rainforest theme. These areas include those that form part of existing parks in CERRA, those that have been previously recommended by the IUCN, and those that scored highly when assessed against criteria linked to CERRA's world heritage values. DECC provided help in refining and applying these criteria to potential reserves. The Commonwealth Minister has declined to coordinate a process to develop a nomination to extend CERRA until he receives a formal approach from the relevant NSW and Queensland State Ministers. DECC is reviewing the TSAC list (to ensure that regional issues and management implications are considered) and will work with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet in determining state-wide priorities consistent with Government priorities and election commitments. (Note that CERRA is now referred to as the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.)
2002	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.7 2.6 (E)	Further studies of the dedicated reserve system to identify World Heritage values, including eucalypt-dominant vegetation and religious beliefs embedded in the landscape.	<b>In progress</b> UNE/LINE: A consultant's report, commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) and completed in mid 2005, identified potential sites of national significance in the broader CERRA region based on the following themes: Aboriginal earthen ceremonial initiation sites ('bora rings'), stone arrangements, dreaming/creation places, working together and resistance. The report was reviewed by DEH and finalised. Work is continuing on seeking National Heritage Listing for some or all of the sites and, potentially, a World Heritage nomination based on indigenous cultural values. There was no progress in investigating World Heritage values of eucalypt-dominant vegetation. (Note CERRA is now referred to as the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.) <b>Deferred</b> Eden: No further studies are currently planned.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2004	Sthn	2.7	Studies of the dedicated reserve system to identify World Heritage values.	<b>In progress</b> An assessment of the Australian Alps (including Kosciuszko National Park) has been completed and NSW Cabinet is to consider a joint nomination of the Australian Alps for National Heritage Listing. This consideration has not yet occurred. National Heritage Listing is a prerequisite before consideration can be given to World Heritage nomination. World Heritage values are under assessment for South Coast wetland areas both on- and off-park.
Cultural heritage				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8 2.7 (E)	Cultural heritage management guidelines for SFNSW to be attached to the IFOA.	<b>Completed</b> Cultural heritage guidelines have been attached to the LNE, UNE and Eden IFOAs.
2002	Sthn	2.8	SFNSW cultural heritage management guidelines should be attached to the IFOA.	<b>Completed</b> Cultural heritage guidelines have been attached to the Southern IFOA.
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8 2.7 (E)	NPWS to review its cultural heritage guidelines and ensure consistency with the principles contained in CRA project reports prepared by the Cultural Heritage Working Group (2000a and b).	<b>Completed</b> Cultural heritage policies endorsed by the NPWS Executive include its Cultural Heritage Strategic Policy, Consultation Policy, Cultural Heritage Information Policy and Guidelines for the Assessment of Impact on Heritage Places. These policies are consistent with the principles contained in the CRA/RFA project reports: Protective Mechanisms for Cultural Heritage – Generic Version (Cultural Heritage Working Group 2000a) and Protective Mechanisms for Cultural Heritage – Lower North East Region (Cultural Heritage Working Group, 2000b). Ongoing review of PWG state-wide guidelines is also consistent with the principles contained in the above-mentioned reports.
2001	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8 2.7 (E)	Finalisation of SFNSW policy on indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage.	<b>Completed</b> Regional indigenous and non-indigenous policies have been incorporated in the final Regional ESFM plans. Forests NSW's state-wide Aboriginal Cultural Heritage management policy has been incorporated into Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management. These guidelines were finalised in May 2006.
2002	Sthn	2.8	Finalisation of policy on Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage (SFNSW).	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	2.8 2.7 (E)	Report on cultural heritage performance through annual report, State of the Environment reports that publish against performance indicators and provide access to the outcomes of performance reviews.	<b>Implemented – for DECC</b> Cultural heritage performance and achievements are outlined in DECC's annual report. More detailed performance indicators for cultural heritage are included in State of the Parks reporting. Forests NSW reports on cultural heritage performance and indicators within its SEEing report for 2006–2007. Forests NSW and DECC also contribute significant information to this report each year, which includes cultural heritage indicators.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing 1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	Att. 8	Manage cultural values, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, according to guidelines.	<b>Implemented</b> Cultural values are managed according to DECC's legislative responsibilities and existing state-wide policies and guidelines. These include a Cultural Heritage Strategic Policy, Consultation Policy, Cultural Heritage Information Policy and Guidelines for the Assessment of Impact on Heritage Places. These DECC policies are consistent with the aforementioned principles and are periodically reviewed. Forests NSW has completed its Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management to help it develop and maintain a systematic approach to consultation with Aboriginal communities on forest management and to manage Aboriginal values in State forests. This document was finalised in May 2006.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.8	Apply cultural heritage management guidelines when managing cultural heritage.	<b>Implemented – for DECC</b> See above.
2005 31 December	Sthn	5.1.4.5	All NPWS staff located in the Southern Directorate to be provided with adequate cultural awareness training to improve customer relations with Aboriginal communities.	<b>Implemented</b> Most staff in the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch have attended Aboriginal cultural awareness training. A new cultural awareness training package is being developed by DECC and will be implemented in 2007, with all DECC staff required to attend this training (as available).
Places of cultural significance				
Ongoing Sthn	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	2.8 2.7 (E)	Updating of Section 170 register; sites of State significance will also be listed.	<b>Implemented – for DECC</b> DECC started using a new Historic Heritage Information Management System in August 2002. The system was updated as necessary during the reporting year. <b>Forests NSW</b> Forests NSW Regions maintain a Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register, using the State Heritage Inventory database developed by the NSW Heritage Office, that identifies sites and objects of heritage significance for internal reference. Site details are also submitted to the NSW Heritage Office for inclusion on the State Heritage Register when required. All sites of non-indigenous exploration and settlement that are assessed and recognised to be of local or regional historical significance are also incorporated within the Forests NSW GIS system. Potential buffers around significant sites are incorporated into the FMZ system.
Places of Aboriginal cultural significance				
2001 1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8 2.7 (E)	NPWS to review indigenous cultural heritage management processes to provide a landscape-based system.	<b>Completed</b> DECC has produced a document ( <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regional Studies: An Illustrative Approach</i> ; <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/AboriginalCulturalHeritageRegionStudies.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/AboriginalCulturalHeritageRegionStudies.htm</a> ) under the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Policy (Two Ways Together) and chairs an interagency Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and Mapping Group to achieve government integration of data and a uniform approach to regional assessment and mapping of Aboriginal heritage values.
2005 31 August	Sthn	2.8	NPWS to review processes for Aboriginal cultural heritage management.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	UNE, LNE	5.1.1	NPWS to conduct a preliminary assessment of all new parks to identify priority areas that could be added to Schedule 14 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<b>Continuing</b> No preliminary assessments have been undertaken to date, but DECC continues to make progress in the return to Aboriginal ownership of those reserves already listed in Schedule 14 and to respond to further nominations as they occur. One such nomination has been received for Tooloom, Toonabar and Yabbra National Parks in the UNE. A cultural significance assessment report on the lands, commissioned by DECC, was completed in May 2006. A Government decision on the nomination is pending.
2006	Sthn	5.1.1	Assessment of all parks to determine if any could be added to Schedule 14 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<b>In progress</b> Guidelines have been developed for the assessment of all parks to determine whether they should be included in Schedule 14 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . No preliminary assessments have been undertaken to date, but DECC continues to make progress in the return to Aboriginal ownership of those reserves already listed in Schedule 14 (e.g. Biamanga, Gulaga and Jervis Bay National Parks) and to respond to further nominations as they occur. Lease negotiations for the return of Biamanga (in the Eden region) and Gulaga (in the Southern region) National Parks to their Aboriginal owners were completed during the year and the lease was signed in May 2006. These lands have now been returned to the Aboriginal owners and are leased back to the Government for joint management by the Aboriginal owners and DECC as national parks. Similar joint management of Jervis Bay National Park is being sought, but negotiations are still on hold while land claims are being processed. In the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes Region a number of systematic surveys for Aboriginal cultural heritage features have been undertaken. Numerous artefacts, sites and other structures were recorded as a consequence of these studies; all of them have been logged in the DECC Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System. This information will help in any future Schedule 14 assessments.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8	NPWS must continue to develop its information management system for indigenous heritage in consultation with Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders (information submitted to the Aboriginal Sites Register).	<b>Completed</b> DECC started using a new Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System in June 2001 after two rounds of state-wide consultation were conducted in December 2000 and June 2001.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.8	Preparation of an information management system for Aboriginal heritage, including maintenance of Aboriginal Sites Register.	<b>Completed</b> DECC started using a new Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System in June 2001 after two rounds of state-wide consultation were conducted in December 2000 and June 2001.
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.3	Creation of a zone to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, with adequate measures (including buffers) to protect against adverse impacts by forest activities, soil erosion and visitation to sensitive cultural areas.	<b>In progress</b> Forests NSW protects Aboriginal cultural heritage in accordance with legislative requirements, ESFM plans, and triggers within the Forests NSW GIS system (based on records obtained from the AHIMS database and Forests NSW site database) and the Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
ABORIGINAL INTERESTS				
Aboriginal involvement in forest management				
2000	UNE, LINE, Eden	5.1.3	SFNSW and NPWS each to prepare a strategy to ensure Aboriginal communities and stakeholders are given a greater participatory role in forest management.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>DECC is developing an Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework and a policy for Aboriginal partnerships in park management to help the agency to more effectively engage with Aboriginal communities. The framework is expected to be completed in 2007, and the partnerships policy in 2008. Draft reserve plans of management are generally referred to relevant Aboriginal organisations and DECC Regional Advisory Committees, which include Aboriginal representatives, for comment. DECC also continues to engage Aboriginal traditional knowledge holders in the management of threatened species. In some instances major development proposals are referred to Aboriginal organisations for comment. Other local arrangements occur and some examples follow.</p> <p><b>UNE/LNE:</b> DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Northern Branch has employed temporary Cultural Heritage Project Officers who can work with staff and the local Aboriginal communities to foster better partnerships in the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage and is leading a DECC process to facilitate preparation of culturally relevant park plans of management across the State. <b>Eden:</b> A draft joint strategy has been prepared by DECC and Forests NSW, but because of competing priorities it is yet to be finalised. On the Far South Coast of NSW, DECC continues to publish and circulate a free newsletter called <i>Coastal Custodians</i>. It is a specialist Aboriginal newsletter designed to increase awareness and participation of Aboriginal people in the DECC estate. The Bega and Eurobodalla Aboriginal heritage studies are continuing. These studies are overseen by two steering committees, comprised mostly of Aboriginal people. The UNE and LNE regional ESFM plans highlight Forests NSW's commitment to ensuring the involvement of Aboriginal communities in the management of State forests.</p>
2003	Sthn	5.1.3	Preparation of a strategy to ensure that Aboriginal communities and stakeholders are given a greater participatory role in forest management.	<p><b>In progress – for DECC</b></p> <p>DECC is developing an Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework and a policy for Aboriginal partnerships in park management to help the agency to more effectively engage with Aboriginal communities. The framework is expected to be completed in 2007, and the partnerships policy in 2008. Existing joint management arrangements that provide for a participatory role for Aboriginal communities are noted elsewhere in this document. Also, draft reserve plans of management are generally referred to relevant Aboriginal organisations and DECC Regional Advisory Committees, which include Aboriginal representatives, for comment. DECC also continues to engage Aboriginal traditional knowledge holders in the management of threatened species. In some instances major development proposals are referred to Aboriginal organisations for comment. The DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South Coast Region has established an Aboriginal Working Committee that is continuing to work well and is starting to involve the local Aboriginal community in park management issues. DECC has completed a major project that involved consulting with Aboriginal elders and traditional owners regarding strategies and actions for monitoring of Aboriginal sites on-park in seven reserves around Nowra township.</p> <p><b>Forests NSW</b></p> <p>The South Coast and Tumut regional ESFM plans highlight Forests NSW's commitment to ensuring the involvement of Aboriginal communities in the management of State forests.</p>



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2001	UNE, LINE, Eden	5.1.3	SFNSW to involve Aboriginal communities in the development and finalisation of its policy in relation to Aboriginal involvement in forest management that will form part of the NFMS.	<b>Complete</b> The Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management were developed in consultation with Aboriginal communities. These guidelines were finalised in May 2006.
2003	Sthn	5.1.3	SFNSW must involve Aboriginal communities in the development and finalisation of its policy in relation to Aboriginal involvement in forest management, which will form part of the EMS–NFMS.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.
Co-management and joint venture arrangements				
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	5.1.1	SFNSW and NPWS must progressively negotiate joint management arrangements and joint ventures with local Aboriginal communities.	<b>Continuing</b> DECC has various joint management, access, or hunting and gathering arrangements in place, including involvement in the first ILUA in the State in 2001, with the Arakwal people. <b>UNE/LNE:</b> Stage 2 Arakwal ILUAs (Byron Bay ILUA and Ti Tree Lake ILUA) and the Githabul ILUA (UNE) were finalised in December 2006 and February 2007 respectively. In February 2007 lands at Stockton Bight near Newcastle (LNE) were returned to the traditional owners, the Worimi people, and three new parks were created, to be known as the Worimi Conservation Lands. These lands will be jointly managed between the Worimi people and DECC. Negotiations are ongoing for joint management of new reserves at Warrell Creek near Nambucca Heads (LNE). <b>Eden:</b> Lease negotiations for the return of Blamanga and Gulaga National Parks (in the Eden and Southern regions respectively) to their Aboriginal owners were completed during the year and the leases signed in May 2006. These lands have now been returned to the Aboriginal owners and are leased back to the Government for joint management by the Aboriginal owners and DECC as national parks. Joint management boards have been established for both parks and are currently undertaking governance training before the drafting of park plans of management. DECC has established two permanent culture camps with basic infrastructure on park under joint management arrangements with local Aboriginal communities. In addition, DECC has negotiated a Statement of Joint Intent with the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council to facilitate support for informal culture camping and cultural activities in other areas. Relevant amendments are being drafted to plans of management for Wadbilliga, Mimosas Rocks and Ben Boyd National Parks to accommodate these culture camps and cultural activities. Forests NSW Two Co-management agreements for Eden were in place during 2006–2007 within Wallagarough (3081 ha) and Letts Mountain (906h a) forests. In LNE an MoU, signed between Forests NSW and the Anaiwan Aboriginal Corporation in 2004, continues to be implemented for certain areas within Nowendoc and Riamukka State forests. Under the MoU, Forests NSW gains cooperation with pest and weed control, fire detection, fire control and building maintenance, while the Anaiwan elders will use the area for camping, caretaker accommodation and cultural heritage teaching. In addition, two co-management agreements are in place in LNE, for Keepa Keepa Cultural Place Heaton SF, and Warre Warren Aboriginal Place. In UNE the Githabul Native title claim negotiated between Forests NSW, DECC and other land management agencies has progressed well, and the Federal Court is expected to formally recognise this claim in late 2007.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2000	UNE, LNE	5.1.1	Examination of any State forest that could be considered for co-management and joint venture arrangements.	<b>In Progress</b> The NSW Government and the Githabul people entered into an ILUA, which includes 13 State forests in the UNE Region, in February 2007
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.1	Where further analysis indicates the feasibility of other ventures, a project plan must be developed for implementation.	<b>Continuing – for DECC</b> No new ventures requiring project plans were initiated during 2006–2007.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.1	Ventures likely to generate mutual benefits to the Aboriginal, as well as the wider, community must also be considered.	<b>Continuing</b> Forests NSW No new venture arrangements were considered in 2006–2007. DECC During 2006–2007 DECC continued to run its Aboriginal Discovery Ranger Program and associated Aboriginal Discovery activities and to undertake NAIDOC week events. UNE/LNE An Arakwal cultural centre for Byron Bay has been supported and will be developed as external budgetary requirements allow. There have also been cultural heritage surveys conducted in both the UNE and LNE areas. These initiatives have developed increased community awareness and understanding of the cultural heritage on DECC estate. From these initiatives the Aboriginal community has been able to make recommendations and provide valuable input into planning and development of facilities, interpretation/education, and the development of increased awareness in the broader community of the cultural context of park areas. Eden Nine projects involving Aboriginal communities are in progress or have been completed: (i) Mapping of Aboriginal Pathways on the Far South Coast; (ii) Bega Oral History Stage 3, combining historical and oral history into one document; (iii) Bega Oral History Stage 4, presentation of information gathered in Stage 3 (commenced); (iv) Eurobodalla Stage 1 Aboriginal History, an annotated bibliography of cultural heritage research; (v) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 2 Aboriginal History of Eurobodalla (completed); (vi) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 3 Understanding and Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (completed); (vii) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 4 Mapping and Access Protocols for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information (commenced); (viii) Southern Region Catchment Management Authority project, 'Indigenous links to the Potoroo' (completed); and (ix) a new project, 'Indigenous links to the Koala in the Far South Coast region', by DECC in conjunction with Forests NSW and the Southern Region Catchment Management Authority (commenced).

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2006	Sthn	5.1.1	SFNSW and NPWS must progressively negotiate joint management arrangements and joint ventures with local Aboriginal communities.	<p><b>Continuing – for DECC</b></p> <p>Lease negotiations for the return of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks (in the Eden and Southern regions, respectively) to their Aboriginal owners were completed during the year and the leases signed in May 2006. These lands have now been returned to the Aboriginal owners and are leased back to the Government for joint management by the Aboriginal owners and DECC as national parks. Similar joint management of Jervis Bay National Park is being sought. However, negotiations are still on hold while land claims are being processed. DECC is also involved in negotiations with Gundungurra Tribal Council for an ILUA over parts of DECC estate, including Bangadilly National Park. The Department of Lands is the lead government agency for the latter negotiations.</p> <p>DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Snowy Mountains Region has engaged a consultant to meet with traditional Aboriginal owners and provide recommendations on options for co-management of Kosciuszko National Park. DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes Region has organised, participated in, and helped with funding for a Boys' Camp at Camp Hudson and a Women's Camp and Family Camp.</p> <p>Forests NSW</p> <p>No new co-management or joint venture arrangements were considered for 2006–2007.</p>
Annually	Sthn	5.1.1	Annual reporting to RACD on the progress by NPWS and SFNSW on negotiating co-management and joint management arrangements with Aboriginal communities.	<p><b>Continuing – for DECC</b></p> <p>See above milestone.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	5.1.1	Ventures likely to generate mutual benefits for the Aboriginal, as well as the wider, community must also be considered.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>Forests NSW</p> <p>No new venture arrangements were considered in 2006–2007.</p> <p>DECC</p> <p>During 2006–2007 DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch continued to participate in the Aboriginal Discovery Ranger Program; it continued to run associated Aboriginal Discovery activities and to undertake NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week events.</p> <p>For example, DECC South West Slopes Region conducted various Discovery and NAIDOC events in Kosciuszko NP during the Easter and Christmas periods and NAIDOC week, and conducted numerous Discovery events with schools, community groups and local festivals and fairs over the year. Over 840 adults and 2550 children participated in or attended these events.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	5.1.1	Where further analysis indicates the feasibility of other ventures, a project plan must be developed for implementation.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>No new ventures requiring project plans were initiated during 2006–2007.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.1	Where consideration has identified venture, project plans must be developed for their implementation.	<b>Continuing</b> No new ventures requiring project plans were initiated during 2006–2007.
2004	Sthn	5.1.1	SFNSW will examine any State forest that could be considered for co-management or joint venture arrangements.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
Cooperative management arrangements				
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.1	SFNSW and NPWS must progressively negotiate separate cooperative management agreements with local Aboriginal communities that enable Aboriginal people to be involved in the management of State forests and national parks.	<b>In progress</b> In 2006–2007 the Aboriginal Management Committee continued to work toward cooperative involvement of the Aboriginal community in park management issues. A part-time Aboriginal liaison officer was recruited to facilitate community participation in committee matters. Forests NSW regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW's commitment to co-management and joint management arrangements with Aboriginal communities. No new co-management or joint venture arrangements were considered in 2006–2007.
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.1	Explore opportunities for joint ventures with SFNSW and NPWS that promote recognition, awareness and respect for Aboriginal cultural heritage. Other ventures likely to generate mutual benefits to the Aboriginal community must also be considered.	<b>Continuing</b> For DECC, see milestone 'Ventures likely to generate mutual benefits to the Aboriginal, as well as the wider, community must also be considered'. Forests NSW: There are no new joint ventures to report for 2006–2007.
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.5	NPWS should enter into a cooperative management agreement with the relevant Aboriginal communities to develop cooperative management and funding strategies to ensure the effective protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage on the NPWS estate, subject to funding.	<b>In progress</b> See milestone 'SFNSW and NPWS must progressively negotiate separate cooperative management agreements with local Aboriginal communities to enable Aboriginal people to be involved in the management of State forests and national parks'.
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.5	Aboriginal communities consider it an NPWS responsibility to develop and implement a policy in relation to access to parks, nature reserves and other appropriate service estate for traditional purposes. The Aboriginal Management Committee will develop this framework.	<b>In progress</b> A Plan of Management for Kosciuszko National Park was completed in June 2006 in consultation with the Aboriginal Management Committee. The plan includes management objectives, policies and actions that address cultural heritage issues and foster connection to Country. As required by the plan, an MoU is being developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community. The details of the MoU are still to be determined but will consider access to the park for traditional purposes.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Access for traditional and cultural purposes				
2006	Sthn	5.1.4.3	Areas of State forest to be identified and set aside for Aboriginal education and specific community activities in accordance with Aboriginal traditional practices. Such areas to be determined and agreed upon by the Aboriginal Management Committees.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>No further progress to report this year. However, in 2004–2005, Forests NSW in cooperation with the Tumut/Brunle Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local Tumut Community Development Project organised the construction of an outdoor natural amphitheatre in the Tumut sub-region. This venue can now be used by Aboriginal communities and the general Tumut community to promote cultural events in a natural setting.</p> <p><b>In progress – for DECC</b></p> <p>To contribute to the key objectives of the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Policy (Two Ways Together) to develop committed partnerships between Aboriginal people and the Government, and to improve the social, economic, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people, DECC led the development of a Cultural Resource Use Framework, which was signed off by CEOs in November 2006. The framework applies to all NSW Government lands and requires agencies (including DECC and DPI) to develop operational guidelines. This work will also inform the development of a DECC policy and is linked to the development of an access policy under Two Ways Together (being led by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs). In the meantime, Aboriginal access to forest resources for traditional purposes is being facilitated by DECC on an 'as needs' basis at the regional level and includes informal arrangements for Aboriginal people to participate in cultural activities.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Additionally, DECC is involved in a regional heritage study that will identify areas and their scope for access for cultural resources, and that will include the scoping of planning mechanisms required to enable Aboriginal people to achieve their aspirations both on- and off-park.</p> <p>Forests NSW</p> <p>Regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW's commitment to a strategy to allow local Aboriginal communities access to forest resources for traditional/cultural purposes. Forests NSW responds to specific requests from Aboriginal communities for access to forest resources.</p> <p>In the LNE region a hunting permit was issued to the Anaiwan Aboriginal Corporation for a 5-year period to allow for traditional hunting rights in Walcha State forests. In addition, Guwan Elders have also been issued with a permit for 5 years for traditional hunting in Walcha State forests. The Bhatoo Corporation has been issued with a letter of authority that provides for the gathering of plants and materials in the Taree area for traditional use. Discussions are occurring in relation to the potential to gather commercial quantities of protected plants from harvesting operations, as a commercial venture within the Aboriginal community.</p>
2000	UNE, LINE, Eden	5.1.1	Preparation of a joint strategy that will include how Aboriginal communities can gain access to materials for traditional/cultural purposes (such as art and craft purposes, food sources and medicine, access to firewood).	

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2003	Sthn	5.1.1	Joint strategy on how Aboriginal communities can gain access to materials for art and craft purposes, food sources and medicine, access to firewood and opportunities for traditional use and cultural activity.	<p><b>In progress – for DECC</b></p> <p>The strategy for the provision of access to Aboriginal people for traditional cultural purposes in the Southern region will be based on the strategy that is being developed for the Eden region. Hence development is awaiting completion of the Eden strategy. Also, to contribute to the key objectives of the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Policy (Two Ways Together) to develop committed partnerships between Aboriginal people and the Government, and to improve the social, economic, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people, DECC led the development of a Cultural Resource Use Framework, which was signed off by CEOs in November 2006. The framework applies to all NSW Government lands and requires agencies (including DECC and DPI) to develop operational guidelines. This work will also inform the development of a DECC policy and is linked to the development of an access policy under Two Ways Together (being led by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs). In the meantime, Aboriginal access to forest resources for traditional purposes is being facilitated by DECC on an 'as needs' basis at the regional level and includes informal arrangements for Aboriginal people to participate in cultural activities.</p> <p>Regional ESFM Plans identify Forests NSW's commitment to allow local Aboriginal communities access to forest resources for traditional/cultural purposes. Forests NSW responds to specific requests from Aboriginal communities for access to forest resources. During 2006–2007, one Aboriginal group was issued with a commercial firewood collection licence.</p>
<b>Employment and training opportunities</b>				
2000	UNE, LNE	5.1.2	Preparation of a joint strategy to facilitate an employment and development program for Aboriginal people.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>A joint DECC and Forests NSW strategy has not been developed. DECC continued to make progress in its own initiatives, which include an Aboriginal Employment and Training Strategy that seeks to facilitate employment and development opportunities for Aboriginal people. As part of this strategy, cross-agency approaches to training are being examined. The strategy could be used as the basis of future negotiations on a joint strategy.</p> <p>During 2006–2007 Forests NSW contributed to the development of a NSW DPI Aboriginal Employment Strategy, which was finalised in March 2007. This strategy seeks to increase the employment of Aboriginal people within NSW DPI and to provide training and support for Aboriginal employees to enhance their capacity to contribute effectively to departmental programs and outcomes. The strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the representation of Aboriginal people to 2% or more of the NSW DPI workforce by 31 December 2008</li> <li>• increase career opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW DPI</li> <li>• increase Aboriginal representation in departmental decision-making processes</li> <li>• implement a support network for NSW DPI Aboriginal employees</li> <li>• ensure there is strong commitment throughout NSW DPI to implement the strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Forests NSW's commitment to Aboriginal employment opportunities is also demonstrated in the ESFM plans.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2003	Sthn	5.1.2	Preparation of an employment and economic opportunities program with Aboriginal people.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Although there has not been progress in establishing an economic opportunities program, DECC continued implementing its Aboriginal Employment and Training Strategy, which seeks to facilitate employment and development opportunities for Aboriginal people. Aboriginal employment in DECC's (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch includes: a permanent full-time Aboriginal Education and Liaison Officer and one year's employment of an Aboriginal Trainee Interpretive Assistant (Snowy Mountains Region); Cadet Rangers (Nowra and Snowy Mountains Areas); a full-time Ranger (Ulladulla Area) (following completion of a Bachelor's Degree as a Cadet Ranger); and casual Aboriginal Discovery Rangers and full-time field staff. Further Aboriginal employment is outlined elsewhere in this document.</p> <p>Although there has not been progress in establishing an economic opportunities program during 2006–2007, Forests NSW contributed to the development of a NSW DPI Aboriginal Employment Strategy, which was finalised in March 2007. This strategy seeks to increase the employment of Aboriginal people within NSW DPI and to provide training and support for Aboriginal employees to enhance their capacity to contribute effectively to departmental programs and outcomes. The strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the representation of Aboriginal people to 2% or more of the NSW DPI workforce by 31 December 2008</li> <li>• increase career opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW DPI</li> <li>• increase Aboriginal representation in departmental decision-making processes</li> <li>• implement a support network for NSW DPI Aboriginal employees</li> <li>• ensure there is strong commitment throughout NSW DPI to implement the strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Forests NSW's commitment to Aboriginal employment opportunities is also demonstrated in the ESFM plans. Forests NSW currently has two Aboriginal staff members, who are employed in the Southern region. One staff member is employed in the Aboriginal Affairs coordination role and the other is employed as a field worker in the silviculture field crew gangs.</p>
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.2	NPWS to offer permanent employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in operational management as part of the funding package for the management of additions to the reserve system.	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>Employment as part of the original funding package has been implemented.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Five Aboriginal staff were appointed by DECC as a result of funding provided for management of additions to the reserve system. These were: a Trainee Field Officer, two Aboriginal Sites Officers (one male and one female), one Project Officer to manage the return of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks to Aboriginal ownership and a cadet Trainee Field Officer (subsequently appointed as a Ranger). Additional employment areas include the Discovery Ranger Program.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2005	Sthn	5.1.4.2	Enterprise development with SFNSW has been identified as a major interest for Aboriginal communities. Some examples are provided in the forest agreement.	<b>In progress</b> The business plan for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre was completed and agreement was reached with Turnut Shire Council on a suitable site for the development. Although the project is increasingly moving beyond Forests NSW's core activities, the Forests NSW Aboriginal Co-ordinator based in Turnut has been encouraged to make advances in the project. Obtaining external funding and cohesive support from the Aboriginal community for the development is emerging as a major stumbling block.
2005	Sthn	5.1.4.4	SFNSW should initiate the specified employment opportunities to enable active Aboriginal participation in the management of forests, subject to funding.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to the 'Preparation of an employment and economic opportunities program with Aboriginal people' milestone.
2005	Sthn	5.1.4.6	Specified employment opportunities in NPWS were identified as a major priority for Aboriginal communities in the Southern region, subject to external funding.	<b>In progress</b> During 2006-2007 an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger position and an Aboriginal liaison officer (admin. grade) position were created and recruited in the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes Region. The liaison officer facilitates Aboriginal working group meetings and community involvement. A full-time Aboriginal Ranger is employed in the Highlands Area.
Aboriginal Management Committee for the Southern region				
2003	Sthn	5.1.4.1	An Aboriginal Management Committee will be established for both State forests and national parks to represent and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage in State forests and national parks, respectively.	<b>Completed – for DECC</b> DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes Region established an Aboriginal Management Committee in 2004-2005. <b>In progress – Forests NSW</b> An Aboriginal Management Committee for State forests is yet to be established.
2003	Sthn	5.1.4.1	Terms of reference for the committees will be determined and developed by the committee members upon establishment. Terms of reference must include specified aspects.	<b>Completed – for DECC</b> <b>In progress – Forests NSW</b>
2003	Sthn	5.1.4.1	Development of a plan of management, which will address the management principles, guidelines and objectives of the Aboriginal Management Committee.	<b>In progress – Forests NSW / Completed – for DECC</b> A Plan of Management for Kosciuszko National Park was completed in June 2006 in consultation with the Aboriginal Management Committee. The plan includes management objectives, policies and actions that address cultural heritage issues and foster connection to Country.
2005	Sthn	5.1.4.5	Create a provision for two Aboriginal representatives to sit on the South West Slopes Regional Advisory Committee.	<b>Completed</b> Three Aboriginal representatives were appointed to the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes Regional Advisory Committee in 2003-2004.



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
<b>MANAGING FOR OTHER FOREST VALUES AND USES</b>				
Occupation permits in State forests				
1999	UE, LNE, Eden	2.3.3	Formation of Occupation Permit Taskforce. (The taskforce will also consider issues in the Eden region.)	<b>Completed</b> A taskforce of representatives from NPWS, Forests NSW and NSW Farmers was formed in November 2000.
2000	UNE, LNE	2.3.3	Phasing out of occupation permits.	<b>In progress</b> Phase-out is still being considered.
2002	Sthn	2.3.3	Consideration of the Southern region by the Occupation Permit and Permissive Occupancy Taskforce.	<b>Completed</b> A steering group comprised of representatives from DLWC, NSW Farmers, Forests NSW and NPWS met several times over 2001–2–02 to oversee the phase out of occupation permits and permissive occupancies. The group was chaired by NPWS. The phase-out, which affected about 120 people, was completed over an 18-month period ending in June 2003.
Within 18 months of gazettal of new reserves	Sthn	2.3.3	Phasing out of occupation permits in State forests that currently exist in areas identified as formal reserves and informal reserves and permissive occupancies on Crown land identified as formal reserves and informal reserves.	<b>Completed</b> Refer to milestone above.
Roads and trails				
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.13.4 2.12.4 (E)	Preparation of an MoU on joint roads and trails maintenance and access arrangements.	<b>Completed – UNE/LNE</b> NPWS and Forests NSW entered into an MoU in January 2000.  <b>In progress – Eden</b> A draft MoU has been prepared but will be reviewed before finalisation to ensure compatibility with a similar plan to be developed for the Southern forest agreement area.
2002	Sthn	2.13.4	MoU on the use of roads and trails maintenance and access arrangements.	<b>In progress</b> There has been no further progress by Forests NSW and DECC on the development of an MoU for the Southern region. A set of actions has been developed, and operational protocols have been confirmed in some instances, but a formal MoU is yet to be drafted. In the meantime, local discussions between the two agencies are occurring as the need arises. For example, there have been some negotiations regarding access arrangements to reserves in DECC's (Parks and Wildlife Group) South Coast Region, and Forests NSW has proposed workshops to discuss best management practices for fish passage near roads passing over or through forest streams.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Fire management				
2001	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.10 2.9 (E)	Preparation of a joint arrangement with District Fire Committees for the prevention, detection and suppression of bush fires.	<b>Implemented</b> Forests NSW and DECC continue to be represented on the District Fire Committees, formed under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> , along with the NSW Rural Fire Service. Forests NSW and DECC are recognised as two of four fire authorities under the Rural Fires Act. Forests NSW and DECC are also members of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee. The Bush Fire Coordinating Committee is the statutory body responsible for the coordination of all State fire fighting agencies, including the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades, Forests NSW, DECC and various animal and environment agencies and land managers, and for planning in relation to bush fire prevention and coordinated fire fighting. The committee advises the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service about bush fire prevention and mitigation and coordinated bush fire suppression.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.10	Continuing participation in District Fire Management Committees for the prevention, detection and suppression of bush fires.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(2)	Incorporate into Regional ESFM Plans and plans of management under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> provisions that address bush and other fires, ensuring ecologically sustainable forest management of forests.	<b>Implemented – for DECC</b> Addressed through District Fire Committees under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> , where consideration of these values is undertaken before finalisation of District Hazard Reduction Plans. Bush fire management is also addressed through reserve plans of management and Reserve Fire Management Plans at the individual reserve level. These address the provisions outlined and are also important for risk management, threatened species management and recovery planning. Revised regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW's fire management commitments. Forests NSW's corporate fuel management plan (or the Corporate Fire Management Strategy/Plan, as it is referred to in revised ESFM plans) is in a draft form and is under review by Forests NSW senior management. This corporate plan will provide a strategic framework for integrated management of Forests NSW-managed forests and will be supplemented by regional fuel management plans and fuel management programs.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Recreation and tourism				
2001	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.13.1 2.12.1 (E)	Preparation of joint regional recreation and tourism plans.	<p><b>In progress – UNE/LNE</b></p> <p>A joint DECC and Forests NSW plan has not been prepared. However, a DECC state-wide strategy for sustainable visitation (Living Parks) was completed in 2005 and publicly launched in early 2006 (see <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/LivingParks.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/LivingParks.htm</a>). A key action specified within Living Parks is the development of Branch Visitation Management Plans, which will guide regional recreation and tourism planning on the DECC estate. A framework for the development of these plans was completed in 2005–2006. The plans are due for completion in 2008.</p> <p><b>Completed – Eden</b></p> <p>A Far South Coast Nature Tourism and Recreation Plan was completed in May 2004, involving Forests NSW, DEC, Eurobodalla Tourism, Sapphire Coast Tourism, Uumburra Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Tours and the Department of Lands. This plan included the Eden region and some of the forests within the Southern region (see <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/farsouthcoastnaturetourismrecreationplan.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/farsouthcoastnaturetourismrecreationplan.htm</a>). Forests NSW recognises that native and planted State forests provide a wide range of opportunities for responsible recreation, sport, tourism and training, and that these can be provided within the context of sustainable multiple-use forest management and Government forest policy. During 2003 and 2004, Forests NSW developed a strategy for managing State forests for sustainable recreation, sport, tourism and training. In cooperation with peak groups representing forest users, as well as relevant Government agencies, a new policy and strategy for meeting the needs of the people who use State forests for these activities has been developed. The resulting strategic plan, entitled 'Living, working, playing ... forests 2005–2009', continues to guide recreational use of State forests.</p>
2003	Sthn	2.13.1	Preparation of joint regional recreation and tourism plans.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Some areas within the Southern region are included in a Far South Coast Nature Tourism and Recreation Plan. Additionally, a draft inter-departmental Nature Tourism Strategy (Nature and Tourism) was prepared by the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Regional Tourism Task Force. DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South Coast Region provided a leading role, but the initiative also involved Forests NSW, NSW Department of Lands, local councils, tourism organisations and others. The strategy promotes integrated and ecologically sustainable nature tourism the Southern Highlands, in part of the Southern Tablelands, and in the Shoalhaven. The document is proposed to be revised and placed on public exhibition at an unspecified time in the future.</p> <p>DECC has also developed a state-wide strategy for sustainable visitation (Living Parks), which was completed in 2005 and publicly launched in early 2006 (see <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/LivingParks.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/LivingParks.htm</a>). A key action specified within Living Parks is the development of Branch Visitation Management Plans, which will guide regional recreation and tourism planning on the DECC estate. A framework for the development of these plans was completed in 2005–2006. The plans are due for completion in 2008. DECC is discussing data exchange with Forests NSW and will consult with other agencies and regional tourism organisations during preparation of the Southern Branch plan. Forests NSW recognises that native and planted State forests provide a wide range of opportunities for responsible recreation, sport, tourism and training, and that these can be provided within the context of sustainable multiple-use forest management and Government forest policy. During 2003 and 2004, Forests NSW developed a strategy for managing State forests for sustainable recreation, sport, tourism and training. In cooperation with peak groups representing forest users, as well as relevant Government agencies, a new policy and strategy for meeting the needs of the people who use State forests for these activities has been developed. The resulting strategic plan, entitled 'Living, working, playing forests 2005–2009', continues to guide recreational use of State forests.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Carbon sequestration opportunities				
2004	UNE	2.13.2	Undertaking a revegetation project that includes carbon sequestration opportunities.	<b>Deferred</b> Legal constraints have been identified that will require legislative change to enable carbon sequestration opportunities on reserves to be realised. Other further work is also necessary (e.g. updating the schedule of potential sink establishment areas) but is subject to the future consideration of the matter by Cabinet, including any legislative changes. Further work has therefore been deferred but is being considered for further action in 2008.
Plantation areas within national parks				
2001	UNE, LNE	3.3 6.16.1 Att. 11	Supply from logging associated with the rehabilitation of identified hardwood plantations remaining within the new reserve system and completion of harvesting of plantations in national parks.	<b>No reporting required</b> No areas of plantation in dedicated national park were logged or required rehabilitation.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE	6.16.1	Rehabilitation works on plantation areas within national parks must be completed within 6 months of harvest completion.	<b>No reporting required</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE	6.16.1	Works programs and rehabilitation plans to be jointly prepared and approved. Rehabilitation costs to be funded by sale royalties.	<b>No reporting required</b> Refer to milestone above.
<b>MANAGING TIMBER SUPPLY</b>				
Supply arrangements				
1999	UNE, LNE	3.2	Amendment of wood supply agreement with Boral.	<b>Completed</b> Amended wood supply agreement was signed on 5 March 1999.
1999	UE, LNE, Eden	Att. 8	Review legislation and policies relevant to the allocation and pricing of hardwood logs from State forests before the end of 1999.	<b>In progress</b> The 1999 price review was completed in 2001. A subsequent review, the 'Major Price Review' was initiated in 2006. It has not yet been finalised but is anticipated during 2008.
2000	UNE, LNE	3.2	Wood supply agreement arrangements for processing thinnings.	<b>Completed</b> No new agreements have been entered into.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2000	Eden	3.2	Amendment of wood supply agreement with Harris Daishowa Australia.	<b>Completed</b> The wood supply agreement was signed on 5 March 1999 and amended on 29 September 1999.
2000	UNE, LINE	3.2	Additional volumes supplied under a transitional 'top-up' arrangement over 2 years to assist industry adjustments to terminate by 31 December 2000.	<b>Completed</b> Forests NSW made arrangements for additional wood supply volumes over a 2-year period. These arrangements were terminated on 31 December 2000.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden, Sthn	3.4 4.3	Consultation on timber supply arrangements must occur through the development of plans of operation.	<b>Continuing</b> Consultation with industry is accepted practice as part of developing an annual plan of operations.
1999	UNE, LINE	6.16.2	The development of a process (before any purchases) of selecting land for purchase by SFNSW for timber supply must consider substantially unmet CAR conservation targets. A process for this and the key targets must be developed by SFNSW, including consultation with NPWS and PlanningNSW by the 30 June 1999. This is not to hinder the overall purpose of the Private Property Supplementation Program to supplement the SFNSW timber supply.	<b>In progress</b> Discussions have occurred between Forests NSW and PWG on the development of a process for considering unmet CAR conservation targets when Forests NSW purchases land to supplement timber supply. Pending a further outcome, when purchasing new lands, Forests NSW is using an internal process that considers unmet CAR conservation targets.  No recent progress.
2002	Sthn	3.3.3	The process (before purchase) of selecting land for purchase by SFNSW for timber supply must address criteria to be agreed between SFNSW and NPWS. These criteria will consider: the key substantially unmet CAR conservation targets; whether there is any need for access through reserves; issues of reserve design; and proximity to national parks/reserves.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
Resource availability and sustainable yield				
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	3.5	Results of resource inventory and annual monitoring must be used to review performance in achieving the implementation of sustainable yield of timber products in State forests.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	UNE; LNE	3.5 Att. 8	Refinement of resource availability by improving the inventory such as additional plot measurements (funding provided at \$500 000 pa for five years).	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Forests NSW has implemented a Forest Inventory Policy, which is designed to account for harvesting activity and maintain the currency of its strategic resource data. Continuous replacement of FRAMES plots is part of this policy</p> <p><i>Improvements to FRAMES Tools</i></p> <p>In relation to FRAMES improvements, by the end of 2006, Forests NSW had completed a broad series of improvements to its FRAMES modelling, including:</p> <p><b>Biometrics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth models have been updated for all areas using recent Permanent Growth Plot (PGP) measure data.</li> <li>• Models have also been simplified to improve robustness with respect to implementation and testing.</li> <li>• Further data were collected and analysed to improve the recovery factors, volume functions, taper functions, height/diameter functions and tree product apportionment equations biometrics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Growth and yield simulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRAMES has been adapted to report species level yield trends.</li> <li>• Changes have been made to the modelled product mix to provide more realistic and flexible product categories.</li> <li>• The simulation tool has been integrated with the inventory and Woodstock wood flow model systems to improve efficiency and user-friendliness.</li> <li>• New reports have been developed that include the profiles of average pre- and post-harvest stand states for areas that meet the harvest criteria. This report can be used by regional staff to ground-truth the modelled harvest specifications.</li> <li>• Silvicultural and harvesting assumptions have been updated as a result of silviculture studies on the North Coast.</li> <li>• New log level trace reports have also been incorporated into the growth and yield simulation process, enabling precise log level data to be incorporated into FRAMES yield tables. Previous yield simulation models accurately predicted standing yield at estate level but were found to vary significantly at more localised levels. The new log trace approach enables precise estimates at local levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Area management</b></p> <p>Because of the complex nature of net area management and the large number of spatial inputs to area modelling, Forests NSW has restructured its strategic net area management toolkit. This has resulted in the development of a grid-based area prediction tool for North Coast regions. The new modelling environment permits layers that contribute to area availability to be easily extracted and updated as new data becomes available.</p> <p><b>Estate models</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes have been made from Spectrum RFA to the Woodstock estate modelling system to facilitate more reliable and efficient yield scheduling and reporting at a range of spatial levels.</li> <li>• Resource growth and yield estimates have been defined at a more localised level (e.g. in contractor management zones) to support planning and monitoring activities.</li> <li>• The model has been modified to ensure that only appropriate silvicultural intensities are applied to defined management areas.</li> </ul> <p>Forests NSW will continue to review the utility of these and other tools for informing future management decisions. As part of remeasurement, PGPs have been converted to a new plot size (0.2 ha). All new PGPs will be established at the new plot size. The larger plot size will result in a better capture of variability and improve mortality and recruitment modelling. When data become available, the current models will be reviewed and if necessary updated and incorporated in FRAMES.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Eden	3.5 Att. 8	Refinement of resource availability by improving the inventory, such as by additional plot measurements.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Intensive inventory activities in regrowth forests in Eden continue. This inventory activity has resulted in improved site quality classification, at the regional level.</p> <p>Additionally, within the PGP inventory program three existing plots were remeasured in 2005. Another two existing plots are proposed to be remeasured in late 2006. As part of remeasurement, PGPs have been converted to a new plot size. The larger plot size will result in a better capture of variability and improve mortality and recruitment modelling.</p> <p>Eden-specific tools</p> <p>In 2002–2003 Forests NSW designed and implemented an inventory-plot management system, called RE DEN, for modelling the Eden even-aged regrowth resource. The system is designed to predict individual tree and stand growth and yield for the even-aged regrowth forests and includes biometrics specific to the regrowth forests of the south-east of the State. The yield tables generated by RE DEN are designed to be used by yield-scheduling tools for estate-level modelling.</p> <p>The drivers of the models in RE DEN are stand age, measurement of site quality (site height), and the number of mature trees. Local taper and volume functions have also been developed; they allow the input of product specifications and determination of theoretical product (pulp) volumes by size. The outputs of the RE DEN system are yield tables for the regrowth forest that predict the piece size and volume available for harvest. These results are then combined with net harvestable area estimates and used to schedule thinning operations by using Spatial Woodstock in much the same way as FRAMES.</p> <p>Because of the organisational shift from Spectrum and StandSim<sup>20</sup> to Woodstock for yield-scheduling analysis, the outputs from RE DEN are formatted so they can be incorporated into the Woodstock package.</p> <p>The initial analysis from RE DEN and Woodstock focused on short-term timber availability issues, notably the current 20-year planning horizon. Following evaluation and refinement of the preliminary results, the system was then expanded to incorporate longer-term modelling of the resource, bringing it in line with other FRAMES models to consider a full 200-year strategic planning horizon. This work is still in progress, with the current focus being on sensitivity analysis of the outputs.</p> <p>Subsequent to the development of RE DEN, the MARVL inventory system, licensed to Forests NSW by New Zealand Forest Research, was upgraded and given the new name Atlas Cruiser. Although Forests NSW has converted the inventory data from the MARVL format for North and South Coasts, the complex nature of the Cruiser data model, the long modelling horizons and the nature of the inventory formats used for the Eden regrowth resource have delayed consideration of usage of this data for EDEN..</p> <p>Forests NSW will continue to review the utility of these and other tools for informing future management decisions.</p>

<sup>20</sup> STANDSIM was used as the scheduling tool in the Eden RFA.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2007 30 April	Sthn	3.5 Att. 6(6e)	Refinement of resource availability on native forests by additional inventory plot measurements to improve volume estimates at a regional level.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Some planning for additional inventory plots was begun in the Tumut sub-region, but actual establishment of new inventory plots in areas harvested around Batemans Bay was completed in late 2006. Forty-one new plots were established.</p> <p>A FRAMES strategic inventory plot update program has been completed in accordance with Forests NSW Forest Inventory Policy. Additional plots have been measured to provide an even intensity (1 plot in 200 ha) of plots across the estate.</p> <p>The region has remeasured all areas where harvesting has occurred as at 30/6/2006.</p> <p>Forests NSW has been reviewing its logging history to determine areas for undertaking further inventory in 2007.</p> <p>As part of re-measurement, PGP's have been converted to a new plot size. All new PGP's will also be established at the new plot size. The larger plot size will result in a better capture of variability and will improve mortality and recruitment modelling. When data become available, the current models will be reviewed and if necessary updated and incorporated in FRAMES.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	3.5	The results of resource inventory and annual monitoring of actual and predicted timber volumes must be used to review the performance in achieving the implementation of sustainable yield of timber products.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>No progress to report.</p>
FRAMES improvement and review				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	3.5	Inventory system used in FRAMES must be supplemented by progressive enhancement of modifier models, such as harvesting area exclusions and FRAMES parameters such as tree protection and tree availability modifier models.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>UNE/LNE: In 2005–2006 a switch from MARVL to Atlas Cruiser for inventory analysis occurred. Atlas Cruiser provides a more objective assessment of stem quality and improved data quality.</p> <p>In addition, the main focus of FRAMES development activity continues to be in the strategic wood modelling area. The introduction of Woodstock for yield-scheduling analyses has brought improvements. This tool has spatial data linkages that will enable plans to be more readily displayed and interpreted. There have also been improvements in spatial data management, and there is an ongoing program of improvement to the growth and yield-modelling system.</p> <p>Eden: No further progress to report.</p>
2006 31 December	Sthn	Att. 6(7)	Establishment of an ongoing FRAMES development program to include the listed elements.	<p><b>In progress</b></p>



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2006	Sthn	3.5 Att. 6(7)	Enhancement of modifier models in FRAMES, including the refinement of harvesting area exclusions and FRAMES parameters (such as the tree defect and tree availability modifier models), using locally-specific data to replace RFA regional average modifier models.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestones above.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	3.5	SFNSW consultation with NPWS and PlanningNSW on the terms and conduct of the FRAMES assessment.	<b>Continuing</b> No formal consultation has taken place this year.
2002	Sthn	3.5 Att. 6(7)	SFNSW will consult with NPWS, EPA and DoP on the terms and conduct of the FRAMES review/development program.	<b>In progress</b> No formal consultation has taken place this year.
2007	UNE, LINE	3.2 3.5	Review of supply levels at year 8, after inventory is reviewed, to determine a supply level for years 9-20, with value adding criteria applied at year 5.	<b>In progress</b> No further progress to report this year.
FRAMES monitoring and processes				
2004	UNE, LINE	3.5	SFNSW, NPWS and PlanningNSW will consult on appropriate spatial scales for reporting actual yields against FRAMES estimates.	<b>In progress</b> Formal consultation in relation to this milestone is yet to take place.
Ongoing	Eden, Sthn	3.5	SFNSW, NPWS and PlanningNSW will consult on appropriate spatial scales to reporting actual yields against FRAMES estimates.	<b>Continuing</b> Formal consultation in relation to this milestone is yet to take place.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden	3.5	Reporting on actual versus predicted volume at the scale determined by SFNSW, PlanningNSW and NPWS. To be included in the annual report to Parliament.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>Actual timber harvest volumes against IFOA supply commitments are incorporated into this implementation report. However, there are a number of issues – related to information on actual yields against FRAMES estimates – that have hindered comprehensive reporting. Forests NSW highlighted problems with ‘actual versus predicted’ methods in 2001–2002 that have prevented any meaningful comparison of FRAMES estimates with actual volumes harvested. These problems are to be tackled by further studies of yield regulation processes and the development of a systematic harvest event-recording system built on geo-database technology. By the end of 2006, Forests NSW had completed a broad series of improvements to its FRAMES modelling, which partly addressed issues of reporting actual versus predicted volumes at a tactical level. These included:</p> <p><b>Biometrics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth models have been updated for all areas using recent PGP measure data.</li> <li>• Models have also been simplified to improve robustness with respect to implementation and testing.</li> <li>• Further data were collected and analysed to improve the recovery factors, volume functions, taper functions, height/diameter functions and tree product apportionment equations biometrics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Growth and yield simulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRAMES has been adapted to report species-level yield trends.</li> <li>• Changes have been made to the modelled product mix to provide more realistic and flexible product categories.</li> <li>• The simulation tool has been integrated with the inventory and Woodstock systems to improve efficiency and user-friendliness.</li> <li>• New reports have been developed that include the profiles of average pre- and post-harvest stand states for areas that meet the harvest criteria. This report can be used by regional staff to ground-truth the modelled harvest specifications.</li> <li>• Silvicultural and harvesting assumptions have been updated as a result of silviculture studies on the North Coast.</li> <li>• New Cruiser log level trace reports have also been incorporated into the growth and yield simulation process, enabling precise log level data to be incorporated into FRAMES yield tables. Previous yield simulation models accurately predicted standing yield at estate level but were found to vary significantly at more localised levels. The new log trace approach enables precise estimates at local levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Area management</b></p> <p>Owing to the complex nature of net area management and the large number of spatial inputs to area modelling, Forests NSW has restructured its strategic net area management toolkit. This has resulted in the development of a grid-based area prediction tool for North Coast regions. The new modelling environment permits layers that contribute to area availability to be easily extracted and updated as new data become available.</p> <p><b>Estate models</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change have been made from Spectrum (RFA) to the Woodstock estate modelling system to facilitate more reliable and efficient yield scheduling and reporting at a range of spatial levels.</li> <li>• Resource growth and yield estimates are defined at a more localised level (e.g. in contractor management zones) to support planning and monitoring activities.</li> <li>• The model has been modified to ensure that only appropriate silvicultural intensities are applied to defined management areas.</li> </ul>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				<p>Eden-specific tools</p> <p>In 2002–2003 Forests NSW designed and implemented an inventory-plot management system, called REDEN, for modelling the Eden even-aged regrowth resource. The system is designed to predict individual tree and stand growth and yield for the even-aged regrowth forests and includes biometrics specific to the regrowth forests of the south-east of the State. The yield tables generated by REDEN are designed to be used by yield-scheduling tools for estate-level modelling.</p> <p>The drivers of the models in REDEN are stand age, measurement of site quality (site height), and number of mature trees. Local taper and volume functions have also been developed; they allow the input of product specifications and determination of theoretical product (pulp) volumes by size. The outputs of the REDEN system are yield tables for the regrowth forest that predict the piece size and volume available for harvest. These results are then combined with net harvestable area estimates and used to schedule thinning operations by using Spatial Woodstock in much the same way as FRAMES. Because of an organisational shift from Spectrum and StandSim<sup>21</sup> to Woodstock for yield-scheduling analysis, the outputs from REDEN are formatted so they can be incorporated into the Woodstock package. The initial analysis from REDEN and Woodstock focused on short-term timber availability issues, notably the current 20-year planning horizon. Following evaluation and refinement of the preliminary results the system was then expanded to incorporate longer term modelling of the resource, bringing it in line with other FRAMES models to consider a full 200-year strategic planning horizon. This work is still in progress, with the current focus being on sensitivity analysis of the outputs.</p> <p>Subsequent to the development of REDEN, the MARVL inventory system, licensed to Forests NSW by New Zealand Forest Research, was upgraded and given the new name Atlas Cruiser. Although Forests NSW has converted the inventory data from the MARVL format for the North and South Coasts, the complex nature of the Cruiser data model, the long modelling horizons, and the nature of the inventory formats for the Eden regrowth resource have delayed consideration of usage of this data for REDEN.</p>
Annually	Sthn	3.5 Att. 6(6d)	Information on actual yields against FRAMES estimates at the agreed scale to be provided to DoP and included in the annual report to the NSW Parliament (at the determined scale).	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
Annually	UNE, LINE	3.5	Monitoring of FRAMES performance to include comparison of actual and predicted volume each 12-month period at the RFA region level. To be included in the annual report to Parliament.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
Annually	Eden	3.5	Monitoring of FRAMES performance to include comparison of actual and predicted volume for the multi-aged forest resource each 12-month period. To be included in the annual report to Parliament.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>

<sup>21</sup> STANDSIM was used as the Scheduling Tool in the Eden RFA.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Annually	Sthn	3.5 Att. 6(6f)	Monitoring and review of FRAMES performance to include comparison of actual versus predicted volumes for each financial year.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
Annually	UNE, LINE, Eden	3.5	Monitoring of FRAMES performance will include an assessment of the progressive 20-year supply. To be included in the annual report to Parliament.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
Annually	Sthn	3.5	Monitoring and review of FRAMES performance to include assessment of progressive 20-year supply.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
2006	Sthn	Att. 6(8) point 2	Commission and publish an independent review of the enhanced systems and process, models, information base, and assumptions that contribute to the FRAMES system applying to both the South Coast and Tumut subregions of the Southern region.	<b>In progress</b> Improvements to FRAMES, including those described above, are yet to be finalised. Therefore, an independent review of enhanced FRAMES has not been commissioned.
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(8) point 2	Review sustainable yield every 5 years by using enhanced FRAMES systems and information bases. The results will inform the annual volume that may be harvested from the Southern region (or sub-region), being mindful of achieving long-term sustainable yield and optimising sustainable-use objectives consistent with this agreement.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(8) point 3	Complete and publish independent audits of sustainable yield in time for each subsequent 5-year review.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(6c) point 2	The FRAMES models will reflect the site-specific silvicultural regimes applied in the Southern Region.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
Production of timber products				
Annually	UNE, LINE, Eden	3.5	Report on the annual production of timber products other than the production of quota sawlogs.	<b>Continuing</b> Information on the annual production of timber products other than quota sawlogs is contained within this report.
Annually	Sthn	3.5 Att. 6(6d)	Report to DoP, NPWS and EPA on the annual production of products other than production of quota sawlogs for each financial year.	<b>Continuing</b> Information on the annual production of timber products other than quota sawlogs is contained within this report.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Timber supply arrangements and management and charcoal production				
2002	Sthn	3.3.2	SFNSW must make a baseline analysis of tree species mix, size, quality and quantity for each compartment within State forest (post-forest agreement), using existing data contained in harvesting records and other sources (i.e. sales data on sawlogs and higher value products). The results of this analysis must be provided to NPWS and DoP.	<b>No reporting required</b> Milestone no longer required.
Annually	Sthn	3.3.2	Each year, SFNSW must monitor and report, as part of the forest agreement annual report process, the amount of residual timber (tonnage) harvested from each compartment, and the amount of species, size, quality and quantity of trees harvested in each compartment from sales data on sawlogs and higher value products and compare this with the baseline data.	<b>No reporting required</b> Milestone no longer required.
Annually	Sthn	3.3.2	If monitoring each year indicates a change in these parameters (i.e. amount of species, or size, quality and quantity of trees harvested), SFNSW must consult DoP and NPWS to determine if remedial action is required, and SFNSW must implement appropriate actions agreed between the three agencies.	<b>No reporting required</b> Milestone no longer required.
Annually	Sthn	3.3.2	Each year, SFNSW must monitor and report, as part of the forest agreement annual reporting process, the total quantity (tonnes) of fluxwood (if this is sourced as either part of the 200 000 t of residue timber or as thinnings) and the total quantity (t) of thinnings.	<b>No reporting required</b> Milestone no longer required.
Silvicultural practices				
1999	UNE, LINE	2.2.4	Preparation of eco field guides.	<b>Completed</b> Eco field guides for the Upper North East and Lower North East regions have been published and can be purchased through Forests NSW.
2002	Sthn	2.2.4 4.3	Prepare and publish eco field guides for the Southern region.	<b>Completed – South Coast sub-region</b> <b>In progress</b> – Tumut sub-region The eco field guide for the South Coast Sub-region, <i>Field Guide to Flora, Fauna and Heritage Features of Forest Management on the South Coast of NSW</i> , was printed in late 2005. The Tumut sub-region eco field guide is in preparation.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.4 Att. 6	Preparation of SFNSW Forest Practices Code: Part 5 – Wildlife Management in Native Forests.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
2002	Sthn	2.2.4 Att. 4	SFNSW Forest Practices Code: Part 5 – Wildlife Management in Native Forests.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
2001 Ongoing (Sthn)	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	2.2.8 Att. 6(2c) (S)	Native forests silvicultural regimes must be implemented in State forests.	<b>Implemented</b> Forests NSW has published a <i>Native Forests Silvicultural Manual</i> ( <a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/268055/forests-nsw-native-forest-silviculture-manual.pdf">http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/268055/forests-nsw-native-forest-silviculture-manual.pdf</a> ) that complements its field guides and training programs and provides a description of silvicultural practices that are applied in State forests. In addition, two documents have been prepared: Circular 2002/02 Implementing Silviculture in LNE AND UNE regions, and Circular 2002/03 Implementation of IFOA Silviculture in the Southern Forest Agreement Region. They provide further instruction on applying silviculture according to the IFOAs.  Site-specific requirements are documented in each harvesting plan, and the implementation and outcomes of each plan (including silviculture) are subject to monitoring and reporting, as required by Circular 2003/01 Monitoring and Measuring Compliance of Operations.
2001	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.8	Preparation of arrangements for silvicultural practices, including establishment of demonstration areas (UNE, LNE regions only), audit compliance, reporting and consultation.	<b>In progress</b> Silvicultural practices may be subject to auditing in accordance with Circular 2003/01 Monitoring and Measuring Compliance of Operations.  Three silvicultural demonstration areas have been established in the LNE region. These sites are at Queens Lake (2001), Kiwarrak (2002) and Tuggolo (2004) State forests. The three sites continued to be available throughout 2006–2007 to help train forest operators. These sites cover a range of forest types and silvicultural regimes permissible under the IFOA. No formal silvicultural demonstration sites have been set up in the Eden region.
2003	Sthn	2.2.8 Att. 2(o) 4.2	Preparation of arrangements for silvicultural practices, including demonstration areas (for silvicultural practices and suite of silvicultural regimes), auditing, reporting of area harvested and silvicultural types and consulting on ecosystem management.	<b>In progress</b> Silvicultural practices may be subject to auditing in accordance with Circular 2003/01 Monitoring and Measuring Compliance of Operations.  No formal silvicultural demonstration areas have been set up in the Southern region.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.5	SFNSW to employ internal audit system to ensure consistent application of standards across Crown timber lands.	<b>Continuing</b> Circular 2003/01 Monitoring and Measuring Compliance of Operations continued to define Forests NSW supervision, monitoring and audit requirements for forest operational activities within the regions and divisions. Forests NSW's internal audit system consists of a four-tiered approach (refer to Chapter 3 of this report for details and results). In addition, Forests NSW successfully went through external audits against ISO 14001 and AS 4708 (Int) – 2003 standards.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.2.5	SFNSW to employ an internal audit system to ensure consistent application of standards and monitor compliance with IFOA.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Sthn	2.2.5	The results of this monitoring and auditing should be reported using a mechanism determined by DoP, NPWS, SFNSW, NSW Fisheries and EPA.	<b>Continuing</b> Public reporting of Forests NSW compliance with IFOA conditions, including Forests NSW internal compliance results, is contained within this report (refer to Chapter 3). Forests NSW's SEEing Report for 2006-2007 contains details of compliance at a state-wide level.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.2.3	Harvesting plans to be prepared for all logging operations and forest products conducted under a timber licence.	<b>Completed</b> Harvesting plans are prepared for all logging operations conducted under timber licences. A harvest planning manual giving details of the requirements to ensure consistency and standards has been developed.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.2.3	For activities regulated under Part 4 of the Forestry and National Park Estate Act, harvesting plans must be prepared for all logging operations conducted under a Timber Licence.	<b>Completed</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.2.7	Notification by SFNSW of the location and nature of forestry operations to be done at least bi-monthly to PlanningNSW, NPWS, EPA and NSW Fisheries, as outlined in IFOA arrangements.	<b>Implemented</b> Forest operation locations are provided to regulatory agencies in the monthly IFOA report.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.2.6	Notification of the location and nature of forestry operations to NPWS, EPA, NSW and DoP, as outlined in IFOA arrangements.	<b>Implemented</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	UNE LINE Eden	2.2.7	Liaison by SFNSW with DUAP, NPWS, and EPA for proposed forestry operations and activities not originally covered by forest agreement or IFOA. SFNSW must carry out an appropriate assessment of the impacts resulting from any proposed changes, and each agency must consider the environmental consequences of any proposed changes in terms of their regulatory responsibility.	<b>Continuing</b> This process was not required during 2006-2007.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.2.7	Liaise with DoP, NPWS and EPA on proposed forestry activities not covered by forest agreement and integrated forestry operations approval. Impacts from the proposed forestry activities must be assessed.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2002	Sthn	Att. 6(2n)	Establish a process, including public reporting, for regular audits of compliance and reviews of codes of practice, eco field guides and regional prescriptions.	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>DECC assesses compliance with the EPLs and TSLs that form part of the IFOAs. See Chapter 3 of this report for further information.</p> <p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Forests NSW has defined its audit procedure in 'Forest Practices Circular (FPC) 2006/17: Monitoring and Audit Manual'. Forests NSW publicly reports, at a state-wide level, compliance and monitoring results in its SEEing report each year. As part of the implementation of the Forests NSW EMS, all operational control documents are regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with the required time frames within the final documents or as per Forests NSW standard operating procedures.</p> <p>DPL-Fisheries performs opportunistic threatened species compliance activities in relation to forestry operations where they coincide with other fishery compliance duties. NSW Fisheries investigate complaints when received.</p> <p>Information on TSL, EPL and Fisheries Licence compliance is provided in Chapter 3. Forests NSW internal compliance results are also provided in Chapter 3.</p>
2007	Sthn	Att. 6(2n)	Undertaking audits of compliance at first and subsequent 5-yearly reviews.	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>The approach for the first 5-year review is being considered.</p>

**IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

**STAFF TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY INITIATIVES**

Staff training

Ongoing	UNE, LINE, Eden	2.1.1 3.6 (E)	<p>SFNSW field staff and contractors must receive appropriate competency-based training.</p> <p>In Eden, establish timber industry training and accreditation program to assist workers in developing recognised competencies in soil and water, flora and fauna, indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage, log grading and log merchandising requirements.</p>	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>Forests NSW staff and contractors are continuing to receive appropriate competency-based training; the records of such training are maintained on the corporate Complete Human Resource Information System (CHRIS) database. Records of contractor competencies are maintained on the Forests NSW Contractors and Operators Licensing and Permits system.</p>
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Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Sthn	2.1.1 Att. 6(2k)	Field staff and contractors of SFNSW must continue to receive appropriate competency-based training, including training in biodiversity management, soil and water management, log grading, silviculture, harvest planning and cultural heritage.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.1.2	NPWS field staff and contractors must receive appropriate competency-based training.	<b>Continuing</b> DECC continues to provide staff training programs. These cover natural and cultural heritage management (including Aboriginal) and operational, technical and safety matters. Programs range from technical training related to occupational health and safety requirements to state-wide capacity-building initiatives targeted at particular staff classifications.
2005 31 December	Sthn	5.1.4.5	All NPWS staff located in the Southern Directorate be provided with adequate cultural awareness training to improve customer relations with Aboriginal communities.	<b>Continuing</b> Most staff in the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch have attended Aboriginal cultural awareness training. A new cultural awareness training package is being developed by DECC and will be implemented in 2007, with all DECC staff required to attend this training (as available).
<b>Employment and industry initiatives</b>				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	3.6 Att. 10 Att. 8 (S)	Employ a range of initiatives to facilitate employment, subject to funding.	<b>Implemented – for DECC</b> UNE/LNE As a consequence of the forest agreements, 105 positions were filled to manage the additions to the DECC estate in the UNE and LNE. In 2005–2006, an additional 21 positions were created within DECC to manage the estate in UNE and LNE. Employment in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage is addressed elsewhere in this document. Eden A total of 38 new permanent positions have been established since the south-east forest reform program began in 1994. This includes the 14 jobs required for managing the additions to DECC estate referred to in the FA. Southern Funded initiatives included pest species management, fire management, asset maintenance, preparation of management plans, Aboriginal heritage management and neighbour relations. Capital works outsourced by DECC since the forest agreement was signed include lookout and walking track construction, camping area development and interpretation facilities. As identified in the FA, 91 positions for conservation and Aboriginal heritage management were funded, including four Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officers (of which one is a female position).

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Industry initiatives				
2004	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.9.2 2.8.2 (E)	Private property supplementation program, involving the purchase of timber rights or private property to assist in supply arrangements to industry, must apply controls in legislation.	<b>In progress</b> In 2006–2007 no additional property purchases were made.
Ongoing	Sthn	3.3.3	SFNSW will undertake a private property supplementation program (such as purchase of timber rights or private property), and when any private land is purchased and dedicated as State forest, harvesting and road operations must be subject to forest agreement and conditions of the IFOA.	<b>Continuing</b> No private property supplementation occurred during the reporting period.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	3.6	Extension of FISAP to fund various initiatives in the UNE, LNE and Eden regions.	<b>Continuing</b> UNE and LNE The Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package (FISAP) allocated \$7.5 million to the Private Property Timber Supplementation Program to help Forests NSW to purchase timbered property as a means of providing additional resources to the native timber industry in the UNE and LNE regions. Funding for this program was finalised in 2002–2003. No additional properties were purchased in 2006–2007. However, during the period of implementation, nine properties were purchased with allocated FISAP funds. The Log Haulage Assistance Program continued to be implemented across the UNE and LNE regions. Funds of \$1 million a year over 5 years were allocated to help native forest quota sawmilling companies meet additional log haulage costs incurred when they have to obtain quota sawlog supplies from outside their usual areas of supply. In March 2003, the Premier announced a 2-year extension of the Log Haulage Assistance Program, to 31 December 2005, with additional funding from Forests NSW. To 30 June 2007, \$4,966,582 in FISAP funds had been expended on Log Haulage Assistance. Eden \$1 million was allocated to the Commercial Regrowth Thinnings initiative to provide assistance to enable one or more of the existing integrated harvesting crews to expand the commercial thinnings operations already taking place. The initiative was to occur under existing FISAP programs. More than \$1 million has been expended to contractors in the Eden area to purchase mechanised harvesting equipment under the Industry Development Assistance program of FISAP, and there has been training under the FISAP Training Strategy to achieve the aims of the Commercial Regrowth Thinnings initiative.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2006	Sthn	3.6	FISAP applies in the Southern region and will be available to fund initiatives until 20 June 2006.	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>\$2.5 million of FISAP funds have been allocated towards the Sawlog Productivity Program – Silvicultural Program for the South East region. Both the NSW and Federal Governments contribute to this initiative. The initiative aims to improve the sawlog productivity of South Coast forests. Within the operational constraints of the RFA and IFOA, the strategy is to select and cull unsellable trees, thus restoring productivity to degraded timber stands capable of improved sawlog growth, and to release young, potentially merchantable trees otherwise inhibited by the non-merchantable overstorey.</p> <p>To 30 June 2007, \$2,500,000 has been expended under this program and 6260 ha had been treated.</p> <p>FISAP payments under this initiative concluded in 2006–2007.</p>
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS				
Complaint handling				
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.15	Devise and implement a coordinated complaint handling and response system.	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>A coordinated complaint handling protocol was developed and implemented in 2001.</p>
2002	Sthn	6.15	Devise and implement a coordinated complaint handling and response system for the IFOA.	<p><b>Implemented</b></p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	6.2	Public participation is required when making a forest agreement or when an amendment or revocation occurs.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>No amendments to the Southern Forest Agreement occurred during 2006–2007.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Community awareness and education				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	Att. 8 Att. 6(2g) (S)	Providing ongoing formal participation to raise awareness and understanding of ESFM and how it can be achieved in New South Wales forests.	<p><b>Continuing – for DECC</b></p> <p>Forests are only one element of a much broader landscape managed by DECC; hence ESFM is indirectly addressed as part of the broader conservation awareness and understanding promoted by the agency, rather than being a specific component. Public and educational programs undertaken by DECC include guided walks and tag-along 4WD tours; ranger talks and on-site inspections; development of the Sustainable Schools Program in NSW; training, planning and control programs for pest species; and the Discovery program, which focuses on providing community education opportunities for the general public and interested groups on natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p>As a result of the finalisation of the regional ESFM plans, Forests NSW has continued to participate in, and provide awareness to, the community regarding ESFM practices.</p> <p>At a strategic level, Forests NSW promotes its land management practices through the <i>Bush Telegraph</i>, produced quarterly, and the SEEing report, produced annually. Both can be obtained from the Forests NSW website or through local DPI offices.</p> <p>Forests NSW's public and educational programs include ranger talks, education visits; development of the Sustainable Schools Program in NSW, and inviting NSW science teachers to view Forests NSW operations as a way of promoting ESFM management practices.</p> <p>Forests NSW also annually attended community meetings that relate to ESFM. They included catchment management, community bushfire management, community/school/education, conservation/environmental, cultural management, flora and fauna management, forestry practices, industry/stakeholder meetings, introduced predators/ feral animals, recreation/tourism and regional planning. Forests NSW staff attendance helps to raise public awareness and understanding of ESFM practices.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(2j)	Developing and implementing public education programs to deal with ecologically sustainable management issues, including management requirements for conservation and codes of forest practice governing activities in both public and private forests.	<p><b>Continuing – for DECC</b></p> <p>Forests are only one element of a much broader landscape managed by DECC; hence ESFM is indirectly addressed as part of the broader conservation awareness and understanding promoted by the agency, rather than being a specific component. Public and educational programs undertaken by DECC include guided walks and tag-along 4WD tours; ranger talks and on-site inspections; development of the Sustainable Schools Program in NSW; training, planning and control programs for pest species; and the Discovery program, which focuses on providing community education opportunities for the general public and interested groups on natural and cultural heritage.</p>
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	Att. 8	Continuing to develop the public consultation and public reporting mechanisms through the introduction of new partnerships (e.g. the International Model Forest Network).	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>No progress to report.</p>
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	Att. 8 Att. 6(2i) (S)	Improving cooperation and coordination between government agencies so as to achieve integrated management for conservation, wood production and other values in both public and private forests.	<p><b>Continuing</b></p> <p>No progress to report.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(2f)	Improving the coordination and effective use of resources allocated to research for ESFM in New South Wales.	<b>Continuing</b> No progress to report.
<b>INFORMING THE PUBLIC</b>				
Access to information				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	1.6	Granting of an IFOA on, or as soon as possible after, the making of the agreement.	<b>Completed</b> IFOAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions were signed on 21 December 1999 and commenced on 1 January 2000. Subsequent amendments were made to the IFOAs. Amendment 1 for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions commenced on 1 December 2001, and amendment 2 for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions commenced on 3 May 2003. Amendment 3 commenced on 31 May 2004. Amendment 4 for the Eden region commenced on 23 March 2006.
2002	Sthn	1.6.1 Att. 6(1) & (2a)	Granting of an IFOA for the Southern region.	<b>Completed</b> An IFOA for the Southern Region was signed by the NSW Ministers for Planning, Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on 3 May 2002 and commenced 13 May 2002. Amendment 1 to the IFOA for the Southern region commenced on 31 May 2004.
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.10	Furnishing of the Agreement (and IFOA) to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament: to be laid before Parliament within 15 sitting days of receipt.	<b>Completed</b> The forest agreement for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions was furnished to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament on 9 March 1999. The IFOAs were furnished to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament on 24 December 1999.
2002	Sthn	6.10 6.1	A copy of the forest agreement, including any amendment or termination of the agreement, must be furnished to the Presiding Officer, so it can be laid before that House within 15 sitting days of that House after it is received by the Presiding Officer.	<b>Completed</b> The forest agreement and IFOA for the Southern region were furnished to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament in May 2002.
Ongoing	Sthn	6.2	Public participation is required when making a forest agreement or when an amendment or revocation occurs.	<b>Continuing</b> Public consultation occurred during the making of the forest agreements. No amendments to the agreements have been made to date.
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.11	Public notice in a newspaper circulating throughout the State, and also in a newspaper circulating in the region, about the Agreement and IFOA.	<b>Completed</b> Public notice of the making of the forest agreements was given in March 1999, and for the IFOA in December 1999.
2002	Sthn	6.11	Public notice in a newspaper circulating throughout the State, and also in a newspaper circulating in the region, about the making of the forest agreement and IFOA or amendment.	<b>Completed</b> Public notice of the making of the forest agreement and IFOA was given as required.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Access to information <i>continued</i>				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	Determining a method to provide all research reports to the public.	<b>Completed</b> Project reports can be viewed through a link on the RACAC website ( <a href="http://www.racac.nsw.gov.au">www.racac.nsw.gov.au</a> ) and the Australian Government's RFA website ( <a href="http://www.rfa.gov.au">www.rfa.gov.au</a> ).
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.11	Copies of documents to be made available for public inspection at the head office and other regional offices of PlanningNSW.	<b>Completed</b> Forest agreements were signed on 5 March 1999 and deposited at PlanningNSW's head office in Sydney and regional offices in Newcastle, Queanbeyan and Grafton; State Forests of NSW (now Forests NSW) regional offices in Casino, Glen Innes, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, and Eden; and NPWS regional offices in Port Macquarie, Armidale, Grafton, Glen Innes, Alstonville and Merimbula.
2002	Sthn	6.11	Copies of documents to be made available for public inspection at the head office and other regional offices of the Department of Planning.	<b>Continuing</b> The Southern Forest Agreement and IFOA were made available at various DIPNR [the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources], NPWS and State Forests of NSW [now Forests NSW] offices within Southern region. They were also made available for public inspection at DIPNR head office in Sydney.
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.11	Copies of documents made available on the Internet by means of the website of PlanningNSW.	<b>Completed</b> The NSW forest agreements and IFOAs were made available on the RACAC website ( <a href="http://www.racac.nsw.gov.au">www.racac.nsw.gov.au</a> ) in March 1999 and April 2000 respectively. The site also has links to the Commonwealth Government's RFA website ( <a href="http://www.rfa.gov.au">www.rfa.gov.au</a> ), which contains project reports carried out as part of the CRA/RFAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions.
2002	Sthn	6.11	Copies of documents made available on the Internet by means of the website of the Department of Planning.	<b>Completed</b> The NSW forest agreement and IFOA were made available on the RACAC website ( <a href="http://www.racac.nsw.gov.au">www.racac.nsw.gov.au</a> ) in 2003. The site also has links to the Commonwealth Government's RFA website ( <a href="http://www.rfa.gov.au">www.rfa.gov.au</a> ), which contains project reports carried out as part of the CRA/RFAs for the Southern region.
2002	Sthn	2.11.3	All project reports relevant to the regional forest assessment must be made public.	<b>Completed</b> All CRA/RFA project reports have been published and are publicly available via the Commonwealth Government's RFA website.
2002	Sthn	Att. 6(5)	Publish all FRAMES CRA reports for Southern.	<b>Completed</b> All FRAMES CRA reports for the Southern region have been completed and are publicly available.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Additional reporting mechanisms				
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	4.2	Additional reporting and consultative mechanisms for NPWS (e.g. State of the Parks report, NPWS Advisory Council, District Advisory Committee).	<b>Continuing – for DECC</b> State of the Parks reporting is occurring, as is corporate-level annual reporting. DECC Regional Advisory Committees continue to provide advice to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and DECC on a range of natural and cultural heritage conservation matters both on and off park. Membership of these committees includes Aboriginal communities, women, local government and farmer groups.
2002	Sthn	4.2	Additional reporting and consultative mechanisms for NPWS, such as the State of the Parks report.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	4.3	Additional reporting mechanisms for SFNSW (e.g. plan of operations, regional ESFM plans).	<b>In progress</b> Forests NSW has regional/corporate reporting and consultative mechanisms for considering forest management, including the annual plan of operations (supplied to regulators), and publicly exhibited documents like the ESFM model/regional plans that have incorporated public comments. Other reporting mechanisms are, for example, the <i>Bush Telegraph</i> , which continues to be published every 2 months by Forests NSW, as well as the DPI Forests NSW Research and Development Annual Report prepared each financial year.
2002	Sthn	4.3 Att. 2p Att. 6(7c)	Additional reporting and consultative mechanisms for SFNSW, such as plan of operations, NFMS, and any committee established to implement forest management at the landscape level. Document basis for silvicultural practices and publish Native Forest Silvicultural Manual.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above. Forests NSW has published a <i>Native Forests Silvicultural Manual</i> that complements its field guides and training programs. The manual documents the basis for Forests NSW's silvicultural practices and contains the silvicultural specifications and guidelines required by the Forest Agreements and IFOAs.
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	2.2.6	SFNSW reporting at state-wide level through Environmental and Social Values Report.	<b>Continuing</b> Forests NSW's SEEng report has been published for 2006–2007 and is available through the DPI website.
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	4.5	Additional reporting mechanisms, such as committees, by other agencies.	<b>Continuing – for DECC</b> State of the Parks reporting is occurring, as is corporate-level annual reporting. DECC Regional Advisory Committees continue to provide advice to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and DECC on a range of natural and cultural heritage conservation matters both on and off park. Membership of these committees includes Aboriginal communities, women, local government and farmer groups. There were no additional reporting mechanisms to report for Forests NSW.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
<b>ESFM CRITERIA AND INDICATORS</b>				
<b>Monitoring</b>				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	2.11.2 2.10.2 (E) Att. 7 (S)	Monitoring of ESFM criteria and indicators.	<b>Continuing</b> DECC continues to monitor and report annually on its progress towards achieving ESFM through the criteria and indicators.  FNSW has a dedicated officer who helps administer the collection of data through an internal system, known as SEEDS. The data collected and entered into SEEDS are used to monitor and report on the ESFM criteria and indicators, as well as being used to help Forests NSW to report in its SEEing report. State of the Environment report and other Federal government reports. Forests NSW continues to modify the system to allow for better ways to collect, enter and present its data for the various reports that it produces.
<b>Reporting</b>				
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	2.11.2 2.10.2 (E) Att. 9	Reporting on indicators to contribute to annual report to Parliament.	<b>Continuing</b> Reporting of the ESFM criteria and indicators has been incorporated into the NSW forest agreement reporting process for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions since 1999–2000, and from 2002–2003 for the Southern region. See Chapter 2 for information on the results of monitoring.
<b>Trial and assessment</b>				
2000 1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.2 2.10.2 (E)	Preparation of evaluation framework for the criteria and indicators, to provide basis for 5-year review.	<b>Completed</b> PlanningNSW devised a draft evaluation framework in 2000–2001. The draft was accepted, in principle, as a final document by agencies involved in the collection of ESFM criteria and indicators monitoring data. The framework has since been applied.  The purpose of the framework is to collect information on the appropriateness of each indicator, such as cost-effectiveness, ability to obtain data, and ability to obtain data in specified format. The information obtained from the framework will be used to help review the criteria and indicators as part of the first 5-year review of the forest agreements.  An assessment of the ESFM criteria and indicators will be part of the first 5-year review of the forest agreements and IOAs. The review will incorporate those for the Southern region to ensure consistency and compatibility among regions. However, the improvement and development of monitoring and reporting processes for the criteria and indicators by all participating agencies has been ongoing since 1999–2000.
2002 30 September	Sthn	2.11.2	Preparation of an evaluation framework for the criteria and indicators.	<b>Completed</b> Refer to milestone above.



Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2004	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.2 2.10.2 (E)	Trial and assessment of indicators to ensure they are practicable, measurable, cost-effective and capable of being implemented at the regional level.	<b>In progress</b> The ESM criteria and indicators will be assessed as part of the first 5-year review.
2007	Sthn	2.11.2	Review of indicators.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.
Data management				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.13	Lodgement of all archival copies of data.	<b>Completed</b> All archival copies of data for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions have been lodged.
2002	Sthn	6.13	Lodgement of all archival copies of data.	<b>Completed</b> Archival copies of data for the Southern region have been lodged.
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.13	Data management agreement.	<b>Completed</b> Data management agreement finalised by State members of the CRA Data Management Group and endorsed by RACD of Planning NSW in March 2000, applicable to the North East (UNE and LNE) and Eden regions. Agreement attached to North East RFA (Attachment 13), Eden RFA (Attachment 13).
2002	Sthn	6.13 Att. 6(2h)	Preparation of data management agreement.	<b>Completed</b> Data management agreement attached to Southern RFA (Attachment 12).
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	Att. 8 Att. 6(2h)	Developing and implementing an information system to facilitate the sharing of data for use by all agencies, including local government, involved in the management of forested land.	<b>Continuing</b> In March 2001, the NSW Government launched the Community Access to Natural Resource Information (CANRI) website ( <a href="http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au">www.canri.nsw.gov.au</a> ). The site was developed to improve the integration and coordination of data among government departments and to increase public awareness of natural resource management. The site aims to integrate existing data and information systems and provide the community with access to a range of natural resource information. Of use to community groups, industry groups, landholders, government agencies and students, it provides easy access to maps and other natural resource information. It also allows stakeholders to contribute information to the site and acts as a source for data sharing. The CANRI framework provides a central access point to various natural resources data, such as vegetation mapping and data, soil profile information, and information on water quality and storage and river flow. Further developments allowed for access to information on minerals and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. A biodiversity information system (BioNet) has been developed. It allows users to search for records of specific species, or for all species across a specific area of the State. Maintenance of the CANRI website ceased in 2004, but the CANRI group of products is still available through the NSW Natural Resource Atlas portal at <a href="http://www.nratlas.nsw.gov.au/wmc/savedapps/nratlas">www.nratlas.nsw.gov.au/wmc/savedapps/nratlas</a> .

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Research				
1999	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	For research projects that are in areas formerly on State forests and are now in national parks and nature reserves, SFNSW to provide NPWS with details of affected studies, location of sites and access requirements.	<b>Completed</b> In accordance with requirements of the NSW forest agreements, details of all research projects in former State forests in the UNE, LNE and Eden regions have been identified and details (including location and access requirements) of these studies were provided to the NPWS in 2000–2001. PWG is providing access to these sites where required. Sites identified in the North East region included the former Lorne Flora Reserve (now national park) and Yabba State forest (now Toonumbar National Park), and Coolangubra State forest (now part of the South East Forest National Park) in the Eden region.
2002	Sthn	2.11.3	Continuing projects in former State forest areas to be documented and details provided to NPWS on affected studies, location of sites and access requirements.	<b>Completed</b> Only one research project area, situated in the Murrumbidgee NP, has been identified on DECC tenure (previously State forest) as requiring continued access by Forests NSW. Details of the location of the area where field plots are located have been provided by Forests NSW to PWG. PWG permits periodic access.
2000	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	Preparation of strategy to outline all monitoring and research to be undertaken.	<b>Deferred</b> A strategy has not been prepared. However, some joint research occurs (e.g. on pests and weeds, threatened species and the Australian Research Committee project).
2003	Sthn	2.11.3 Att. 7	A strategy for important research and monitoring (including ESFM indicators) must be prepared jointly by SFNSW and NPWS.	<b>Deferred</b> A strategy has not been prepared. However, some joint research occurs (e.g. on pests and weeds, threatened species and the Australian Research Committee project). Additionally, DECC's (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch has established a Research and Survey Steering Group consisting of internal and external members. A draft research plan and operational plan has been prepared and is being implemented.
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(2f)	Improving the coordination and effective use of resources allocated to research for ESFM in New South Wales.	<b>Continuing</b> No further progress to report.
2004	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	Preparation of a compendium of forest research.	<b>In progress</b> A compendium of forest research is being compiled.
2007	Sthn	2.11.3	A compendium of New South Wales forest research must be prepared.	<b>In progress</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	Eden	3.1	An operational research trial within the Eden region is proposed to be conducted by SFNSW and EPA associated with selective harvesting from some filter strips.	<b>Continuing</b> Operational research trial not implemented during 2006–2007.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2010	Sthn	Att. 6(6a)	Continue to develop a suite of computational tools to help manage NSW forests at operational scales for a range of values, including wood yield, growth stage, water quality and quantity, natural and cultural heritage and wildlife habitat.	<b>No reporting required</b> The spatial forest event management system GeoMaster (NZ Forest Research) has been set up for evaluation and testing with native forest operations. Testing of GeoMaster is complete. Development of a geodatabase, of some form is continuing and will be rolled out as part of a structured GIS-tools development program over the next couple of years.
2010	Sthn	Att. 6 (6b)	Develop, by the end of 2010, a model to predict recruitment and maintenance of habitat trees over time.	<b>No reporting required</b> No further work on this model has occurred during 2006–2007.
2007	Sthn	Att. 6 (6c)	Determine, based on review, field-based sampling and principles of sustainability to determine the range of silvicultural regimes and prescriptions that can be appropriately applied to each stratum of forest type.	<b>In progress</b> No progress to report.
<b>REPORTING AND REVIEW</b>				
Reporting on the forest agreements				
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.9	Preparation of an annual report on the forest agreement, which will include a discussion on the achievement of milestones for ESFM and compliance with any IFOA.	<b>Continuing</b> This year (2006–2007) is the seventh that progress reports have been prepared for the NSW forest agreements and IFOAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions. Progress reporting is provided for each financial year for: the achievement of milestones in the forest agreements; monitoring data collected for the ESFM criteria and indicators; and compliance with the IFOAs.
Annually	Sthn	6.9	The Minister administering the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> must prepare an annual report on this agreement, which will include ESFM and compliance with any IFOA for the region.	<b>Continuing</b> This year (2006–2007) is the fifth that an annual report covering the implementation of the forest agreements for the Southern region has been prepared. Progress reporting is provided for: the achievement of milestones in the forest agreement; monitoring data collected for the ESFM criteria; and indicators and compliance with the IFOA.
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	6.9	Each annual report on the agreements is to be tabled in each House of Parliament by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning as soon as practical after its is prepared.	<b>Continuing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1999–2000 Forest Agreement Annual Report – UNE, LNE and Eden regions - tabled.</li> <li>• 2000–2001 Forest Agreement Annual Report – UNE, LNE and Eden regions - tabled.</li> <li>• Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2001–2002 – UNE, LNE and Eden regions - tabled.</li> <li>• Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2002–2003 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions (date of tabling to be advised).</li> <li>• Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2003–2004 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions (date of tabling to be advised).</li> <li>• Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2004–2005 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions (date of tabling to be advised).</li> <li>• Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2005–2006 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions (date of tabling to be advised).</li> </ul>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Review				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.8	Ministers to review the performance of the forest agreements and IFOAs, including their effectiveness and efficiency in meeting Government goals and policies.	<b>Continuing</b> Part of the first 5-year review.
2007	Sthn	6.8	Every 5 years after the agreement is signed, a review of the performance of the agreement must be undertaken by the Ministers to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the agreement (and approval) in meeting the NSW Government's goals and policies.	<b>Continuing</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.8	Parties to ensure the public are given an opportunity to participate in the review (public notification and inspection).	<b>No reporting required</b> Refer to milestone above.
2005	Sthn	6.8	The public is to be given an opportunity to participate in the review of the agreement.	<b>No reporting required</b> Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.8	Report on the outcome of the Ministers' performance review to be tabled in each House of Parliament 12 months after the review.	<b>No reporting required</b> Not required until 12 months after the completion of the review.
2007	Sthn	6.8	A report on the outcome of each review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the relevant reporting period.	<b>No reporting required</b> Refer to milestone above.

Notes:

(E) Reference in Eden Region Forest Agreement

(S) Reference in Southern Region Forest Agreement

## Appendix 2 PWG responsibilities and major policies (2006–2007)

Name of institution	Responsibilities for forests (and tenure)	Major non-legislative policies relevant to PWG
PWG–DECC NSW	<p>Responsible for the management of lands reserved as a range of reserve categories under the NP&amp;W Act so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conserve nature</li> <li>• conserve objects, places and features of cultural value</li> <li>• foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation.</li> </ul> <p>Each reserve category is managed in accordance with a range of principles specific to the reserve category. These include variously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological function</li> <li>• protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes</li> <li>• protection of the ecological integrity of ecosystems for present and future generations</li> <li>• conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value</li> <li>• promotion of public appreciation and understanding of a reserve's natural and cultural heritage values</li> <li>• provision for sustainable visitor use and enjoyment of a reserve and its values (including opportunities for outdoor recreation, and including adaptive reuse of buildings or structures) that is compatible with the reserve's values</li> <li>• for lands reserved as Aboriginal areas, provision for the use of the reserve by Aboriginal people for cultural use</li> <li>• provision for appropriate research and monitoring.</li> </ul>	<p>Access to Inholdings Policy (Feb 03)</p> <p>Adaptive Reuse Leases Policy (Feb 03)</p> <p>Beekeeping Policy (Jul 02)</p> <p>Boundary Fencing Policy (Nov 04)</p> <p>Conservation Management Plan Policy and Guidelines Jul 02</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Conservation Policy 2001</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Community Consultation Policy 2001</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Information Policy 2001</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Strategic Policy Dec 06</p> <p>Cycling Policy Jun 03</p> <p>Discovery Programs Policy Sep 03 57</p> <p>Filming and Photography Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Fire – Aircraft Operations Policy (FMM 4.4)</p> <p>Fire – Bans and Closures Policy (FMM 4.13)</p> <p>Fire – Briefing, Debriefing and Incident Analysis Policy (FMM 4.16)</p> <p>Fire – Burning Operations Policy (FMM 4.8)</p> <p>Fire – Bush–Urban Interface Fire Management Policy (FMM 3.10)</p> <p>Fire Communications Equipment Policy (FMM 3.2)</p> <p>Fire Communications Planning Policy (FMM 3.3)</p> <p>Fire – Community Relations and Public Affairs Policy (FMM 6.4)</p> <p>Fire Control Lines Policy (FMM 3.9)</p> <p>Fire – Coordinated Fire Management Policy (FMM 4.2)</p> <p>Fire – Dangerous Goods Policy (FMM 6.5)</p> <p>Fire Detection Policy (FMM 2.3)</p> <p>Fire – Earthmoving Equipment Policy (FMM 4.3)</p> <p>Fire – Environmental Impact Assessment Policy (FMM 2.5)</p>

Name of institution	Responsibilities for forests (and tenure)	Major non-legislative policies relevant to PWG
		<p>Fire Equipment Standards Policy (FMM 3.7)</p> <p>Fire – Fauna Rescue Policy (FMM 5.2)</p> <p>Fire – Finance and Insurance Policy (FMM 6.1)</p> <p>Fire – Fireground Maps and Marking Policy (FMM 4.17)</p> <p>Fire – Fire Investigation Policy (FMM 5.3)</p> <p>Fire – Fuel Management Policy (FMM 2.4)</p> <p>Fire – Learning and Development Policy (FMM 3.11)</p> <p>Fire Management Planning Policy (FMM 2.1)</p> <p>Fire – National Medal Policy (FMM 6.6)</p> <p>Fire – Natural Area Fire Management Policy (FMM 4.6)</p> <p>Fire – Out-of-Area Firefighting Support Policy (FMM 4.5)</p> <p>Fire – Personal Firefighting Equipment Policy (FMM 3.8)</p> <p>Fire – Personal Health and Fitness Policy (FMM 3.12)</p> <p>Fire Policy Development Policy (FMM 1.2)</p> <p>Fire – Post Fire Rehabilitation Policy (FMM 5.1)</p> <p>Fire – Prescribed Burn Planning Policy (FMM 4.7)</p> <p>Fire Preparedness Policy (FMM 3.1)</p> <p>Fire – Protection of Cultural Heritage Policy (FMM 4.11)</p> <p>Fire – Protection of Natural Heritage Policy (FMM 4.12)</p> <p>Fire – Protection of NPWS Facilities Policy (FMM 4.10)</p> <p>Fire – Remote Area Fire Team Deployment Policy (FMM 4.14)</p> <p>Fire – Reporting and Documentation Policy (FMM 4.15)</p> <p>Fire – Research Policy (FMM 2.6)</p> <p>Fire – Roads and Trails Policy (FMM 2.2)</p> <p>Fire – Safety and Welfare Policy (FMM 6.3)</p> <p>Fire – Smoke Management Policy (FMM 3.4)</p> <p>Fire Suppression Chemicals Policy (FMM 4.9)</p> <p>Fire – Visitor Safety Policy (FMM 3.6)</p> <p>Fire – Weather Information Policy (FMM 3.5)</p> <p>Fire – Working Conditions Policy (FMM 6.2)</p> <p>Firearms Manual</p> <p>Firewood Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Hang Gliding and Paragliding Policy Nov 04</p> <p>Leases for Permanent Residential Accommodation Policy Feb 05</p> <p>Management of Native Birds that Show Aggression to People Policy and Guideline Sep 03</p>

Name of institution	Responsibilities for forests (and tenure)	Major non-legislative policies relevant to PWG
		<p>Management of Possums Causing Disturbance to Residential or Commercial Property Policy Nov 05</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Military Activities Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Mitigation of Commercial Crop Damage by Flying Foxes Policy and Guideline Jun 05</p> <p>Moveable Heritage Policy 2002</p> <p>Neighbour Relations Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Orienteering, Rogaining and Geocaching Policy Sep 02</p> <p>Pets Policy Aug 02</p> <p>Park Names Policy Oct 02</p> <p>Recreational Horse Riding Policy May 06</p> <p>Rehabilitation of Fauna Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Repatriation of Aboriginal Cultural Material Policy 2002</p> <p>Revocation of Land Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Threatened Species Information Disclosure Policy Feb 2005</p> <p>Threatened Species Recovery Plan Preparation Policy and Procedure Statement May 2001</p> <p>Trade of Fauna Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Translocation of Threatened Fauna in NSW Policy Oct 2001</p> <p>Vehicle Access Policy Jul 02</p> <p>Visitor Safety Policy Jul 02</p>

# Appendix 3 Flora and fauna recorded in new additions within UNE

Flora		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Amorphospermum whitei</i>	Rusty plum	V
<i>Corokia whiteana</i>	<i>Corokia</i>	V
<i>Cryptocarya foetida</i>	Stinking <i>Cryptocarya</i>	V
<i>Davidsonia jerseyana</i>	Davidson's plum	E1
<i>Davidsonia johnsonii</i>	Smooth Davidson's plum	E1
<i>Endiandra floydii</i>	Crystal creek walnut	E1
<i>Endiandra hayesii</i>	Rusty rose walnut	V
<i>Endiandra muelleri</i> subsp. <i>bracteata</i>	Green-leaved rose walnut	E1
<i>Marsdenia longiloba</i>	Slender <i>Marsdenia</i>	E1
<i>Randia moorei</i>	Spiny gardenia	E1
<i>Syzygium moorei</i>	Durobby	V

Fauna		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Aepyprymnus rufescens</i>	Rufous bettong	V
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian bittern	V
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy black-cockatoo	V
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked stork	E1
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black bittern	V
<i>Menura alberti</i>	Albert's lyrebird	V
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little bentwing-bat	V
<i>Myotis adversus</i>	Large-footed <i>Myotis</i>	V
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed rock-wallaby	E1
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	V
<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	Wompoo fruit-dove	V
<i>Syconycteris australis</i>	Common blossom-bat	V

V: vulnerable

E1: endangered species



## Appendix 4 Flora and fauna recorded in new additions within LNE

Flora		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Diuris praecox</i>	Rough double tail	V
<i>Melaleuca biconvexa</i>	Biconvex paperbark	V
<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta lilly pilly	V
<i>Tetradlea juncea</i>	Black-eyed Susan	V

Fauna		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathamii</i>	Glossy black-cockatoo	V
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	V
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	Wallum froglet	V
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed quoll	V
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked stork	E1
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Pied oystercatcher	V
<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>	Comb-crested jacana	V
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift parrot	E1
<i>Macropus parma</i>	Parma wallaby	V
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little bentwing-bat	V
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern bentwing-bat	V
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful owl	V
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied glider	V
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel glider	V
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed phascogale	V
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	V
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned babbler (eastern subspecies)	V
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater broad-nosed bat	V
<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	Rosenberg's goanna	V

V: vulnerable

E1: endangered species

# Appendix 5 Main legislation relevant to sustainable forest management in New South Wales (DECC – PWG)

Agency	Main legislation	Purpose	Tenure categories to which legislation applies
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003</i>	To establish catchment management authorities and devolve to them certain natural resource management functions in their regions.	
State Forests of NSW	<i>Forestry Act 1916</i>	To provide for an adequate supply of timber and to protect environmental values.  Provides for DECC to administer the Environment Protection Licences issued to Forests NSW	
State Forests of NSW	<i>Timber Marketing Act 1977</i>	To ensure appropriate quality in the grading and sale of timber.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i>  <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>  <i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>	To constitute the Environment Protection Authority and to make provision with respect to its general responsibilities and management.  To protect water quality from harvesting through the application of Environmental Protection Licences and reporting and management of contaminated sites.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>  <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>  <i>National Parks and Wildlife Regulations 2002</i>	To conserve nature including threatened species; conserve objects, places and features of cultural value; and foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation.	NPW Act applies to sustainable forest management in all lands reserved under the NPW Act, which include national parks, historic sites, State conservation areas, regional parks, nature reserves, karst conservation reserves and Aboriginal areas.  TSC Act applies to all land tenures but is reported on here in respect of lands reserved under the NPW Act.
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Wilderness Act 1987</i>	To identify, protect and control use of wilderness.	Wilderness Act applies to many land tenures but is reported on here in respect of lands reserved under the NPW Act.

Agency	Main legislation	Purpose	Tenure categories to which legislation applies
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>  Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000	Requires assessment of the environmental and other effects of activities that are not conducted under an integrated forestry operations approval issued under the <i>Forestry and National Parks Estate Act 1998</i> .	Lands managed by PWG (a group within the DECC)
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning	<i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 2001</i>	To provide for accreditation and regulation of timber plantations (accredited plantations must be managed in accordance with a Code of Practice).	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995 No. 50</i>  <i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Amendment Act 1999 No. 50</i>	To provide for the payment of expenditure on forest industry restructuring, nature conservation and certain other environmental initiatives from the Environmental Trust, and for other purposes.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1996, 1998</i>	To provide for Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals for licensing State Forest forestry operations for a 20-year period.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>  Native Vegetation Regulation 2005	To regulate the clearing of native vegetation (including trees) on private and some Crown lands, by requiring consent or compliance with a Regional Vegetation Management Plan or Code of Practice.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Soil Conservation Act 1938</i>	To protect soil from activities that may cause erosion	
Department of Aboriginal Affairs	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>	To establish the Aboriginal Land Council System and provide for the vesting of claimable Crown lands or freehold lands in the NSW Aboriginal Land Council or Local Aboriginal Land Councils.	
Department of Land and Water Conservation	<i>Native Title (NSW) Act 1994</i>	To confirm certain native title rights and ensure NSW law is consistent with the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).	
National Native Title Tribunal	<i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)</i>	To acknowledge native title and provide mechanisms to protect native title interests.	
NSW Heritage Office	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i>	To identify and conserve environmental heritage.	
NSW Fisheries	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>	To protect fish habitat and threatened fish species and maintain fish passage.	
Department of Agriculture	<i>Noxious Weeds Act 1993</i>	To provide for categorisation of noxious weeds and specify the extent of control required for each category by private and public landholders.	
NSW Rural Fire Services	<i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>	To coordinate prevention and suppression of bushfires.	
NSW Workcover Authority	<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983</i>	To promote a safe work environment, use of safe equipment and adherence to safe working practices, including for forestry activities.	

Agency	Main legislation	Purpose	Tenure categories to which legislation applies
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<p><i>National Park Estate (Reservations) Acts 2002, 2003, 2005</i></p> <p><i>National Park Estate (Southern Regions Reservation Act) 2000</i></p> <p><i>National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006</i></p>	To provide for Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals for licensing State Forest forestry operations for a 20-year period.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005</i>	To provide for Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals for licensing State Forest forestry operations for a 20-year period.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Filming Approval Act 2004</i>	Enables approvals to be granted to carry out filming in national parks, marine parks and other areas regulated under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and the <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i> , provided certain criteria are met. The granting of such approval is limited in respect of wilderness areas to filming for educational, scientific, research or tourism purposes.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<p><i>Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1996</i></p> <p><i>Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1983</i></p> <p><i>Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1984</i></p>	<p>Makes changes to the national parks estate, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revocation of the dedication of certain land as flora reserves (within State forests) and as State forest</li> <li>• reservation or dedication of that land to create nine national parks (including South East Forest National Park and Chaelundi National Park) and one nature reserve and to make additions to 15 existing national parks</li> <li>• revocation of certain land as national park, and re-reservation as other national park</li> <li>• alteration of names of certain national parks.</li> </ul> <p>The Act also provides that the Minister may exclude certain land and access roads from reservation as national parks estate. Such excluded land is vested in the Minister on behalf of the Crown for the purposes of Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>This Act revokes certain dedications of State forests, parts of State forests (including part of a national forest) and the status of certain lands as flora reserves, and reserves these lands as national parks (including Washpool National Park) or parts of national parks.</p> <p>This Act revokes certain dedications of State forests and parts of timber reserves and reserves or dedicates these lands, and certain other Crown lands as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additions to four existing national parks (including Werrikimbe National Park and Barrington Tops National Park)</li> <li>• addition to one existing nature reserve (Mount Seaview Nature Reserve) and one new nature reserve.</li> </ul>	

Agency	Main legislation	Purpose	Tenure categories to which legislation applies
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1983</i>		
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<i>Pesticides Act 1999</i> <i>Dangerous Goods Regulation 2005</i> <i>Radiation Control Act 1990</i> <i>Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985</i> <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001</i> <i>Waste Recycling and Processing Corporation Act 2001</i>	To control the use of pesticides and other chemicals, including those used in forest and plantation management	All

## Appendix 6 Progress of undertakings in IFOAs (Eden, UNE, LNE and Southern) 2006–2007

This table captures the progress of provisions in the IFOA that require a document, information or data to be produced.

Section of IFOA	Provision in IFOA	What, when and who is to receive the information	Progress
<b>PART 2: Provisions applying to forestry operations</b>			
17 Policy on Aboriginal involvement UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a policy on Aboriginal involvement in the management of indigenous heritage in connection with forestry operations.	Provision of policy to RACD by December 2000.	Policy incorporated into Eden, Upper and Lower North East and Southern ESFM plans. Forests NSW plans completed. Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans published.
18 Training program UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must develop a training program for officers, employees and other persons referred to in section 10 of the <i>Forestry Act 1976</i> in relation to the management of heritage in connection with forestry operations.	Commence training program by 31 December 2000.	Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training developed with Aboriginal staff input for delivery to all staff and employees was started in September 2002 and continues, with 88 staff and contractors trained in 2006–2007.
<b>PART 3: Logging operations</b>			
23/22 Annual plan of logging operations 23 (1) to (3) UNE/LNE 22 (1) to (3) EDEN	Must prepare, for each financial year, a plan of logging operations that provides specified information.	Forward to the regulatory agencies a copy of the annual plan of logging operations for each financial year by 1 June of the preceding financial year.	An Annual Plan of Logging Operation for 2006–2007 covering UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden was submitted to the regulators. The details provided are those required under the IFOA.
23/22 Written notice of particular harvesting operations 23 (4) to (7) UNE/LNE 22 (4) to (7) EDEN	Must submit a written notice specifying each of the matters in respect of the harvesting operation.	Submit to regulatory agencies at least 5 working days before the commencement of any particular harvesting operation for the purposes of producing timber in the Region.	Forests NSW submits a monthly report outlining all current and proposed operations and other information as agreed by the IFOA implementation committee. Notification is done on a monthly basis. Any amendments are notified as soon as possible.

Section of IFOA	Provision in IFOA	What, when and who is to receive the information	Progress
23A/23 Notice of completion of harvesting operations 23A UNE/LNE 23 EDEN	On completion of any particular harvesting operation for the purposes of producing timber in the region, Forests NSW must submit a written notice containing specified information.	Submit to regulatory agencies on completion of any particular harvesting operation.	Forests NSW advises notice of completion of harvesting each month in the monthly report to regulators.
24 Annual reports on logging operations UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a report on past logging that provides specified information.	Each calendar year by 31 January (from 2001 onwards).	The 2006–2007 report was provided to RACU by 31 January.
<b>PART 4: Forest products operations</b>			
27 Plan of forest products operations UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must submit a plan of forest products operations that provides specified information.	[The Former] DUAP may specify information. Submit to regulatory agencies by 30 June 2000. Need to notify regulatory agencies about any amendments to plan.	A Plan of Forest Products Operation covering UNE, LNE and Eden for 2006–2007 was provided to RACU. It is recognised that it is very difficult to predict the forest products or locations that will be licensed by Forests NSW. Discussions are in progress with RACU to provide a report at the end of the period in the same way as is provided for the Southern IFOA Region, rather than a sometimes meaningless plan. New arrangements will be negotiated as part of the 5-year review.
<b>PART 5: Ongoing forest management operations</b>			
29 Scientific trials concerning thinning UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must carry out scientific trials to assess the economic and environmental impacts of thinning and consult on design of trials.	Available if requested. Consult DUAP and NPWS.	Forests NSW (Eden Region), in association with CSIRO, completed a thinning trial in 1999. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring is continued as part of this project.</li> <li>• Further work was carried out in October 2005 to develop yield schedules and prescriptions to facilitate economic thinning on the North Coast.</li> </ul>
30 (1) to (4) Annual plan of burning operations UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare an annual plan in relation to proposed burning for the purposes of bush fire hazard reduction or regeneration and provide the specified information.	Available if requested.	Annual Plans were prepared by regions and then submitted through BRIMS to the district bushfire management committees.



Section of IFOA	Provision in IFOA	What, when and who is to receive the information	Progress
30 (5) and (6) Assessment prior to burning UNE/LNE/EDEN	Prior to burning operations on a tract of land, Forests NSW must assess the potential impacts on the environment of proceeding or not proceeding with the operations.	Available if requested.	ESFM corporate fuel management plans have been developed to address these issues. The process was finalised in December 2005.
30 (7) to (10) Site-specific plan of burning operations UNE/LNE/EDEN	Prior to burning operations on a tract of land, Forests NSW must prepare a site-specific plan for the burn; the plan must provide specified information.	Prepare site-specific plans for burning operations. The plans must be prepared within 6 months after the date on which the model document has been approved.  Available if requested.	Before burning operations on a tract of land, Forests NSW must prepare a site-specific plan for the burn; the plan must provide specified information. Forests NSW uses a template for site-specific burning. Site-specific information may be collected for these operational plans as part of the harvest plan preparation process, or specifically for broad-area burns. These plans were developed as part of the ESFM process and are regularly reviewed as part of the EMS (ISO 14001) continuous improvement process.
30 (11) to (14) Model site-specific plan of burning operations UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a model document setting out the proposed format and general contents of site-specific plans of burning operations.	Submit model document to DUAP for approval by 30 June 2000 (DUAP to consult with NPWS and NSW Fisheries on model)	Forests NSW participates in the BRIMS steering committee regarding site-specific burn issues and items. Many relevant issues have been discussed, and resolutions led to the development of a NSW standard, as found in the BRIMS system. The Forests NSW template has to comply with other bushfire agencies; therefore, the process is taking longer. Moreover, the template now needs to be reviewed in light of changes to the training regime and safety standards. The risk-management methodology needs to be incorporated into the model plan as well. This is expected to be completed by mid-2006.
31 Scientific trials concerning burning UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must carry out scientific trials to assess the impacts on the environment of burning for the purposes of bush fire hazard reduction or regeneration and consult on design of trails.	Consult DUAP, NPWS and NSW Fisheries	A report is being written on the findings of the Eden and Bulls Ground frequent fire effect study. It is proposed to integrate the study with the National Bushfire Strategy as part of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. Forests NSW is contributing a number of projects to the Bushfire CRC, and outcomes of the projects will be released progressively during the CRC funding period over the next 7 years.
33 (1) and (2) Grazing management plans UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a plan(s) that specifies strategies to control adverse impacts of grazing animals on the environment.	Prepare grazing management plan(s) within 6 months after the model document has been approved.  Consult rural lands protection boards.  Available if requested.	Awaiting comments from RACU. However, Forests NSW is working on simplifying the model for implementation.
33 (3) to (6) Model plan UNE/LNE/EDEN	Submit a model document setting out the proposed format and general contents of the grazing management plan(s).	Submit model document to DUAP for approval by 30 June 2000 (DUAP to consult with NPWS and NSW Fisheries on model).	Comments from RACU are expected during this period.

Section of IFOA	Provision in IFOA	What, when and who is to receive the information	Progress
33 (10) to (12) Periodic review UNE/LNE/EDEN	Regularly and periodically review any grazing management plan(s).	At least every 5 years.	As there are no approved plans consistent with the approved Model Plan this is not applicable.
34 (1) to (6) Weed management plans UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a plan(s) that specifies strategies to control weeds and must provide specified information.	Prepare weed management plan(s) within 6 months after the model document has been approved.  Consult local control authorities and NSW Agriculture.  Available if requested.	All regional plans have been drafted consistent with the approved model plan and are undergoing review before approval. It is anticipated that the plans will be approved by the end of June 2007.
34 (7) to (10) Model document UNE/LNE/EDEN	Submit a model document setting out the proposed format and general contents of the weed management plan(s).	Submit model document to DUAP for approval by 30 June 2000 (DUAP to consult with NPWS on model).	All regional plans have been drafted consistent with the approved model plan and are undergoing review before approval. Regional plans for Southern and Central have been prepared and are due for approval in July 2007. The regional plan for North East region was approved in May 2007.
34 (14) and (15) Periodic review UNE/LNE/EDEN	Regularly and periodically review any weed management plan(s).	At least every 5 years.	Will be reviewed within 5 years of the regional plan being approved.
35 (1) and (2) Feral/introduced animal management plan UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a plan(s) that specifies strategies to control feral/introduced animals, where the presence of those animals may have an adverse impact on the environment.	Prepare feral/introduced animal management plan(s) within 6 months after the model document has been approved.  Consult Rural Lands Protection Boards.  Available if requested.	All regional plans have been drafted consistent with the approved model plan and are undergoing review before approval. The pest animal management plans for North East Region, Central, Eden and Southern are prepared and are due to be approved in July 2007.
35 (3) to (8) Model document UNE/LNE/EDEN	Submit a model document setting out the proposed format and general contents of the feral/introduced animal management plan.	Submit model document to DUAP for approval by 30 June 2000 (DUAP to consult with NPWS on model).	All regional plans have been drafted consistent with the approved model plan and are undergoing review before approval. The pest animal management plans for North East Region, Central, Eden and Southern are prepared and are due to be approved in July 2007.
35 (12) to (11) (sic) Periodic review UNE/LNE/EDEN	Regularly and periodically review any feral/introduced animal management plan.	At least every 5 years.	Will be reviewed within 5 years of regional plan being approved.

Section of IFOA	Provision in IFOA	What, when and who is to receive the information	Progress
38 Assessment of regeneration UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must assess the extent and nature of regeneration following the cessation of logging operations on a regular and periodic basis and consult on what data and analysis are required.	First assessment to be completed by 31 December 2004, and further assessments at intervals of no more than 5 years following the first assessment.  Consult DUAP and NPWS  Available if requested.	Forests NSW has been carrying out routine regeneration surveys in the RFA areas; however, a consistent process of assessment is still to be finalised. Consultation will occur between Forests NSW and its regulators during the 5-year review assessment.
<b>PART 6: Ancillary road construction</b>			
40 (1) to (6) Road and fire trail management plans UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must prepare a plan(s) that contains specified matters in relation to ancillary road construction.	Prepare road and fire trail management plan(s) within 2 years after the model document has been approved  Available if requested	Road Management Plan for Southern (including Eden forest agreement) and North East (UNE) were finalised in December 2006. Central Regions (LNE) Road Management Plan is expected to be finalised in September 2007.
40 (7) to (12) Model plan UNE/LNE/EDEN	Submit a model document setting out the proposed format and general contents of the road and fire trail management plan(s).	Submit model document to DUAP for approval by 30 June 2000 (DUAP to consult regulatory agencies on model)	A model road management plan was finalised in December 2005
<b>PART 7: Miscellaneous</b>			
42 Compartment histories UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must keep records on compartment, identifying specified information.	Available if requested	Regions maintain records in the Compartment History. These are available for inspection if required
43 (1) and (2) Forests NSW to ensure compliance by certain persons UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must require as a condition of any licence, permit or other authority that it issues or grants under the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that any holder of any licence, permit or other authority under the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i> is to comply with the applicable terms of this approval</li> <li>• that where there is an inconsistency between the authority and the approval, the approval prevails.</li> </ul>	Provision of an example of the licence, permit or other authority with the appropriate conditions	All Licence conditions are issued to appropriate personnel working on State Forests and made mandatory to comply. Appropriate conditions are also included in the harvest plan for all relevant personnel to comply with.

Section of IFOA	Provision in IFOA	What, when and who is to receive the information	Progress
43 (3) and (4) Forests NSW to ensure compliance by certain persons UNE/LNE/EDEN	<p>Must take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that specified persons comply with the applicable terms of the IFOA when undertaking forestry operations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on IFOA and training in responsibilities and provision of IFOA.</li> <li>• Supervise, audit or monitor and record what supervision, auditing or monitoring is undertaken.</li> <li>• Record particulars of non-compliance.</li> <li>• Corrective actions are recorded.</li> <li>• Undertake other measures (i.e. system to notify any non-compliance or system to deal with non-compliance and feedback to specified persons so it does not happen in the future).</li> </ul>	Available if requested.	Forests NSW has in place a comprehensive planning process to ensure compliance with the IFOA by all relevant personnel. Appropriate supervision is undertaken during the implementation of the operational plan and the operations are monitored during and after the event under the four-tiered audit system.
45 Inconsistencies UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must advise of any inconsistency.	Notify DUAP and regulatory agency (when it relates to a term of a licence) as soon as Forests NSW becomes aware of the inconsistency.	A number of inconsistencies have been notified to RACU. This is an ongoing process and the issues will be resolved as part of the 5-year review.
47 Requirement to provide information/records UNE/LNE/EDEN	Provide any information or records requested by DUAP or regulatory agencies in a written notice.	Provide list of what was requested and when it was provided. This is required by RACD for the annual report, due in May each year.	This is an ongoing process. Forests NSW is working towards providing any outstanding FA/RFA annual reports as soon as possible.  Other IFOA reports are being provided to regulatory agencies as and when due.
48 Public availability of documents UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must make available specified documents for public inspection.	During the duration of the IFOA.	All reports provided to RACU (e.g. Monthly Reports, Logging Plan of Operations and Forest Products Plans) are either sent to key stakeholders or made available at the Regional offices.
49 Assessment of effectiveness of approval UNE/LNE/EDEN	Must assist in any assessment of this approval and consider specified matters.	Assist regulatory agencies at any time during the duration of the IFOA.	Forests NSW provides assistance as appropriate.