

NSW FOREST AGREEMENTS AND INTEGRATED FORESTRY
OPERATIONS APPROVALS

NSW Forest Agreements

Implementation Report

Upper North East

Lower North East

Eden

Southern regions

2007–2008



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

2007–2008

Upper North East

Lower North East

Eden

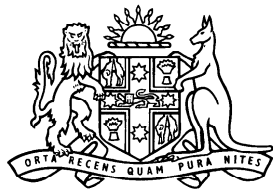
Southern regions



NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment

INFORMATION



This project has been coordinated by the Crown Forest Policy and Regulation Section [formerly the Resource and Conservation Unit] of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

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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 ninth 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 2007 to 30 June 2008.

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.

The Hon. Frank Ernest Sartor, MP
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health

Summary

This is the ninth 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), and the Environment Protection and Regulation Group (EPRG) of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW); and Forests NSW and Fisheries within Industry & Investment NSW.

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 2007–2008. The former names of DECCW and Industry & Investment NSW are used throughout the report. That is the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and Department of Primary Industries (DPI) as they existed in 2007–2008.

It should be noted data reported for Southern FA have previously included Goulburn sub-region, which is part of the Southern FA, but is excluded from reporting obligations. This relates mainly to data for planted forests and has been corrected for this report, with the previous year’s data also amended. Data before 2006–2007 have not been changed. The inclusion of Goulburn sub-region was due to a collating error in the SEEDS database.

Milestone achievements and highlights

The continual achievement of milestones will assist progress towards ESFM of NSW forests. In 2007–2008, 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.

Private native forestry

The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice (the Code) came into effect on 1 August 2007 under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. With the introduction of the Code, all harvesting of native timber for the purposes of private native forestry requires:

- approval through a property vegetation plan (which can last for up to 15 years), or
- an existing consent under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* or the *Soil Conservation Act 1938*, or
- consent under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

The Code requires that private forestry operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes by protecting landscape features such as old growth forests, rainforests, steep lands and drainage features. Site-specific biodiversity and habitat features are also protected through compulsory retention of hollow bearing and feed trees, and by limiting harvesting techniques.

Conservation reserve management and additions

The total number of reserves since the last reporting period increased. Additions to the DECC reserve system for 2007–2008 included new areas resulting from the *Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006*.

Joint strategy to facilitate an employment and development program for Aboriginal people

In 2007–2008, 8% of the DECC workforce were Aboriginal people. This represents a total of around 300 people. Aboriginal employment in DECC is above the NSW Government benchmark of 2%.

In 2008, DECC established an additional seven Aboriginal cadetships, making a total of 17 Aboriginal cadetships in the agency. In 2007–2008, 5% of the Forests NSW workforce were Aboriginal people, which is not significantly different to the previous period.

Reduced direct and indirect employment in the forest sector

The estimated total direct and indirect employment in the forest sector, by Forests NSW, totalled 5 493 equivalent full-time (EFT) positions across all FA regions for 2007–2008. This was a reduction of 477 from the previous reporting period (2006–2007)¹.

A key reason for the drop was a continuing trend of rationalising businesses in the regions. This may have been compounded by the affects of drought conditions that proceeded this period over a large area.

¹ These figures are estimates rather than census or survey data.

Similarly with last year, the largest employment sector was primary processing, which made up 58% of its total employment across all forest agreement regions. Harvesting and haulage accounted for 13% of employment, growing and managing forests accounted for 8%, and apiary 7%.

Overall there was also a drop in direct employment by DECC for all regions from the 2006–2007 reporting period.

Threatened species surveys in State forests

Surveys by Forests NSW of threatened species are required under current licensing conditions.

In 2007–2008, Forests NSW made 2574 pre-harvest flora and fauna surveys on State forest in the FA regions. This was an increase in the number of pre-harvest flora and fauna surveys reported since the previous period.

An annual herb *Euphrasia arguta*, thought to be extinct for more than 100 years, was recorded in Nundle State Forest in the LNE region. It had last been recorded in the forest over a century ago.

Timber volumes harvested

Timber volumes permitted to be harvested by Forests NSW are designated in the NSW forest agreements, RFAs and IFOAs.

Harvesting of quota sawlogs increased in UNE, Eden (included pulp grade timber) and Southern regions during 2007–2008. Across all regions 280 144 m³ of quota sawlogs was harvested (or 317 444 m³ including poles and girders), compared to 258 253 m³ (or 294 638 m³ including poles and girders) in the previous year. This represented 72% of the 388 500 m³ committed native forest quota volume (or 82% including poles and girders).

Harvesting of non-quota logs also increased; while non-quota pulp grade timber, harvested from Forests NSW native forest and hardwood plantations, decreased in 2007–2008.

Plantations

Forests NSW SEEDS data reports on plantation establishment generally, but does not distinguish new plantations, or plantation rotations.

In 2007–2008, 2946 ha (previously 1505 ha in 2006–2007) of plantation was by Forests NSW. The least area of plantations established was in the Southern region (114 ha) while softwood plantations were also established in the UNE (769 ha) and Eden (595 ha).

Of the total 1113 ha of first rotation hardwoods planted, 182 ha were planted in LNE and the remainder in UNE.

Effective stocking rates (based on the survival of planted trees one year after planting) were higher in all regions than in the previous period.

Bushfire

The incidence of bushfire varies greatly from year to year. In 2007–2008, DECC estate in the FA regions experienced a decrease in the total amount of land burnt by wildfire (46 131 ha compared with 149 728 ha in 2006–2007). The total area of native forest within State Forests affected by bushfire decreased from 9969 ha in 2006–2007 down to 5081 ha in 2007–2008.

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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
CO _{2e}	Abbreviation of the term 'carbon dioxide equivalents', which can include a range of greenhouse gases
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. As of 3 December 2007, DEH became known as DEWHA (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts).
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
DMR	Department of Mineral Resources
DOG	Disturbed old growth

EFT	Equivalent full-time (employees)
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 F	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
LHPAs	Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (RLPBs before 1 January 2009).
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 of DECC)
NRAC	Natural Resources Advisory Council
PAS	Priorities Action Statement
PMP	Park Management Program
RACU/RACD	Resource and Conservation Unit of DECC (now Crown Forestry Regulation and Policy Section of DECCW) and former Resource and Conservation Division

RACAC	Resource and Conservation Assessment Council
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
RLPB	Rural Lands Protection Board ²
RVMP	Regional Vegetation Management Plan
PR Act	Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999
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 database	Social, Economic and Environmental Database developed by Forests NSW
SoP	State of the Parks (a survey, report and database managed by the PWG of DECC)
TSL	Threatened Species Licence
UNE	Upper North East
VCA	Voluntary Conservation Agreement (as per the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>)
VDS	Visitor Data System
Wildlife Atlas	Atlas of NSW Wildlife

² As of 1 January 2009, RLPBs became known as LHPAs (Livestock Health and Pest Authorities)

Glossary

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). All Australian governments, as signatories to both the National Strategy for Conservation of Australia’s Biological Diversity (1996) and the NFPS, endorsed the goal of a CAR system of reserves for Australia. 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 are identified in the *New South Wales National Parks Establishment Plan 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, un-mineable coal seams, deep saline formations or deep ocean.

Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA)/ Regional Forest Assessment (RFA) – Assessments made 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 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 and vitality – Ecosystem health is the state of an ecosystem’s processes (energy, nutrient, hydrological and biological), which maintains the vitality of the system, being 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 six metres, with an overstory canopy cover greater than 20%.

forest ecosystem – Native vegetation overstory 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. See also Special Management Zones.

Forest Resource and Management Evaluation System (FRAMES) – Forests NSW statewide 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 over-mature growth phases.

park – In this report, this refers to any area, within the Forest Agreement regions, of national park (NP), nature reserve (NR), State conservation area (SCA), regional park (RP), Aboriginal area, historic site or 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.

Special management zones – Under the *Forestry Act 1916* the Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources may, by notice in the Government Gazette, declare any area of State forest (other than a flora reserve) to be a special management zone if satisfied that the area has special conservation value. Special Management Zones strengthen the conservation status of the informal reserve system and may only be revoked by an act of parliament.

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

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.

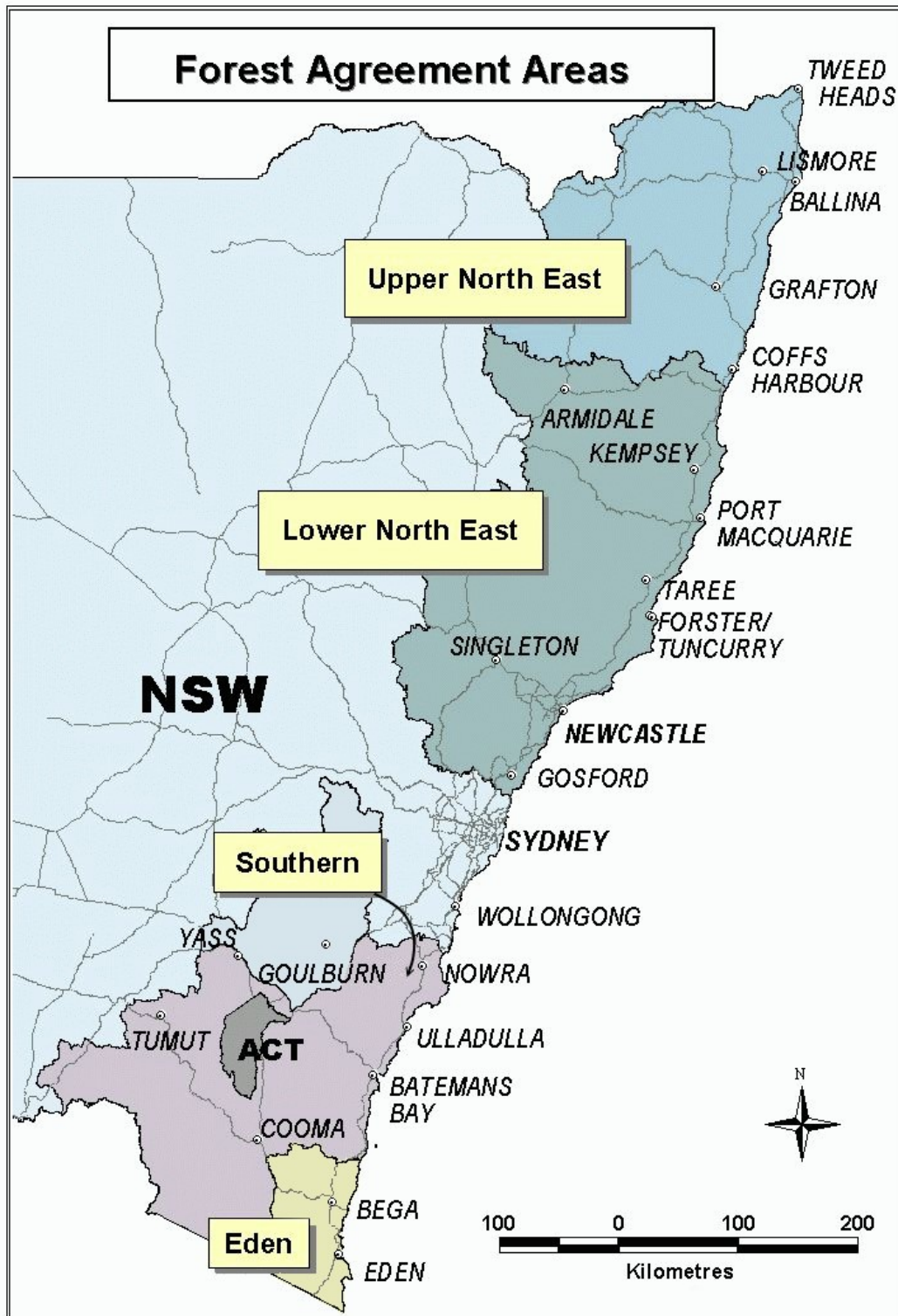
tenure – Title to land as controlled by legislation.

threatened species – Any species of plant or animal listed under Schedule 1 (endangered species), Schedule 1A (critically endangered species) or Schedule 2 (vulnerable species) of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, or Schedule 4 (endangered species), Schedule 4A (critically endangered species) or Schedule 5 (vulnerable species) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Threatened species, threatened populations, and threatened ecological communities profiles are available at www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/index.aspx

threatening process – A process that threatens, or may have the capability to threaten, the survival or evolutionary development of species, populations or ecological communities. These include processes listed as key threatening processes under Schedule 3 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and Schedule 6 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Map 1A: NSW forest agreement regions showing Upper North East, Lower North East, Southern and Eden. The sub-region of Goulburn in the Southern region is not included in the reporting.



i Introduction

This is the ninth 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 forest operations 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 PWG³ and the former Environment Protection Authority (EPA)⁴), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Fisheries and Forests NSW, and the former Department of Natural Resources (DNR). 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 2007–2008 produced significant advances in these roles.

Departmental structural changes

The formation of the Departments of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and Water and Energy (DWE) is outlined in the 2006–2007 Annual Implementation Report. Also on 27 April 2007, the Resource and Conservation Unit of the Premier's Department, which oversees annual implementation reporting, was transferred to DECC.

On 1 July 2009 the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) became the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). The new department is responsible to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and the Minister for Water. 'DECC' is the abbreviation used in this report, as it existed during the 2007–2008 reporting period.

Also on 1 July 2009, The Resource and Conservation Unit (RACU) and the Forestry Unit of DECC combined to become the Crown Forestry Policy and Regulation Section of DECCW. RACU is the name used in this report as it existed during the 2007–2008 reporting period.

³ PWG encompasses the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

⁴ The Environment Protection and Regulation Division (EPRG) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change encompasses the Environment Protection Authority.

Report structure

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 2007–2008. 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 4**, including 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

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 2007–2008. Specific details on the progress of individual milestones, as defined in the agreements, are provided in **Appendix 1 – Individual milestone progress**.

DECC Park Management Program

DECC continued to develop its Park Management Program, that will provide an important component of an EMS. The program defines DECC's objectives for park management, and integrates park policy, planning, operations, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and feedback.

Components of the Park Management Program completed in 2007–2008 included:

- The Park Management Policy Manual became an active online resource available to staff through the Department's intranet.
- The Park Facilities Manual was released in December 2007 and provides a set of planning and design guidelines for excellence in sustainable management of visitor facilities.
- The Asset Maintenance System was distributed for application across parks in NSW in 2008; it provides a comprehensive inventory of assets within parks.

Conservation reserve management and additions

The total number of reserves since the last reporting period increased. Additions to the DECC reserve system for 2007–2008 included new areas resulting from the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (*National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006*).

DECC continued to prepare plans of management for dedicated reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council considered and made recommendations on 24 draft plans of management covering 33 parks. Significant plans reviewed included those for Conjola National Park, and Guy Fawkes River National Park, Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area. A Park Planning Guide is planned for development under the Park Management Program to structure these plans under an agreed planning hierarchy and ensure consistency and accuracy.

Five-year review of Crown reserves

The Memoranda of Understanding for both Crown reserves and State conservation areas (SCAs) contain provisions for five-yearly reviews. In the case of SCAs, the review is also a statutory requirement of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (clause 47M), requiring the Minister administering the Act to provide reasons why and SCA could not be reclassified as a national park or nature reserve.

The first five-year review of SCAs was completed in 2008 and recommended reclassification of ten parcels of land, including six SCAs as national park or nature reserve.

Joint strategy to facilitate an employment and development program for Aboriginal people

In 2007–2008, 8% of the DECC workforce were Aboriginal people. This represents a total of around 300 people. In 2007–2008, 5% of the Forests NSW workforce were Aboriginal people. These figures are both above the NSW Government benchmark of 2% Indigenous employment.

In 2008, DECC established an additional seven Aboriginal cadetships, making a total of 17 in the agency. Through the Aboriginal cadetship program, cadets study full-time and have 12 weeks of practical work experience each year to complete their undergraduate degree, with guaranteed employment on successful completion.

Private native forestry

Private native forestry is the sustainable logging of native vegetation on private property. The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice (the Code) came into effect on 1 August 2007 under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. With the introduction of the Code, all harvesting of native timber for the purposes of private native forestry requires approval through a property vegetation plan (which can last for up to 15 years), an existing consent under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* or the *Soil Conservation Act 1938*, or consent under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

DECC developed the Code, with Forests NSW filling an advisory role.

The Code requires that private forestry operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes by protecting landscape features, such as old growth forests, rainforests, steep lands and drainage features. Site-specific biodiversity and habitat features are also protected through compulsory retention of hollow bearing and feed trees, and by limiting harvesting techniques.

Before the introduction of the Code approximately 20% of private native forestry activities required consent under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*, while the remaining 80% of activities operated under an exemption to the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

The Minister for the Environment has granted *Biodiversity Certification* on the Code. This means the landscape, biodiversity and habitat protection features of the Code meet the objectives of the *Threatened Species Act 1995*. Biodiversity Certification means that landholders do not have to obtain licences or permits under the *Threatened Species Act 1995* to harvest native timber.

Forestry regulation on public land

DECC regulates forestry on public land in NSW to help protect threatened species and water quality from forestry operations. The regulation is provided through 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*. Non-compliance with conditions of the licences are dealt with through meetings with senior Forests NSW officers, issuing feedback or warning letters, clean-up notices, penalty notices or prosecution action as appropriate to the circumstances.

Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, DECC conducted 12 audits of Forests NSW pre-operational planning and operations in forest regions covered by an IFOA. As a result of these audits Forests NSW was issued with four penalty notices, three clean-up notice and 12 warning letters, required to do remedial work at 28 sites, and seek expert soil conservation advice for eight sites.

The incidents of non-compliance with regulation and Forests NSW codes of practice, identified in all levels of internal audits, were 25% fewer than the previous year (see Figure 3-1A). The number of incidents fell in the LNE, Southern, and particularly Eden, regions during the reporting period, while an increase was recorded in UNE.

Forests NSW carried out compliance checks 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 (48%), flora and fauna (34%) and other issues, such as safety (29%).

2 Monitoring ecologically sustainable forest management – criteria and indicators

Introduction

This chapter provides a brief summary of the results of monitoring the ESFM criteria and indicators for the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions for 2007–2008. Monitoring the indicators is an ongoing and an evolving process. With a comprehensive review of the ESFM criteria and indicators likely to start in July 2008 (as part of the NSW Forest Agreement five-year review process), 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 ESFM indicators began in 1999–2000 for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions (ESFM Technical Committee 1998, 1999) 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 considerably. These include State of the Parks reporting and Forests NSW SEEing reporting. In 2007–2008, 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 is moving to align monitoring requirements for ESFM criteria and indicators with its 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 2007–2008. The ESFM indicators are those described in

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

Using indicators to assess achievement of EFSM

The NSW Government's EFSM 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 EFSM 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 EFSM indicators have been based largely on the original Montreal Process Implementation Group (MIG) set of sub-national indicators (MIG 1998)^{5,6}. 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 five years.

State of Parks (SoP) Data

Data and interpretation

The data presented in this report by the Parks and Wildlife Group (PWG) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) are for all parks within the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) 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.

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007, the State of the Parks (SoP) qualitative survey provided extra information on some indicators. As the SoP survey is only run every third year, this level of information cannot be reported annually. There was no survey in 2007–2008 and, as a result, the level of information provided for some indicators may differ from the previous year's report. The next survey will occur in August 2010, and will provide information that may be reported on for the 2009–2010 EFSM reporting period.

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

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

Criterion 1 – Biodiversity

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 understand how different land management administrations can affect forest biodiversity⁷. Changes in the extent of forest ecosystem types are measured against modelled forest type extents that are listed in the RFAs⁸.

Change within the DECC estate

New gazettals⁹ were responsible for increases in the area of forest ecosystems in all regions during 2007–2008.

There were increases in the area of forest, including candidate old growth, within the parks system for both UNE and LNE regions during 2007–2008, due to new gazettals.

In the UNE region, new gazettals protected 8764 ha of forest, covering 81 of the 163 mapped forest types, including 5851 hectares (ha) (59 types) mapped as candidate old growth.

For the UNE region during 2007–2008, there was an increase in the extent of 81 of the 163 forest ecosystems, by a total area of 8764 ha across nine new reserve additions. For 59 (as above) of these 81 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of candidate old growth (COG) forest in the parks system of 5851 ha and for 53 of the 81 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of disturbed old growth (DOG) forest in the parks system by 1763 ha (Table 2-1A). Around 88% 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 2007–2008. This included an increase in the reserved area of two endangered forest ecosystems, rainforest and swamp, which increased by areas of 191 ha and 13 ha, respectively. The reserved area of eleven vulnerable forest ecosystems increased

⁷ Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, www.daffa.gov.au/data/assets/word_doc/0004/451642/crit-indicators.doc

⁸ 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.

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

by a total of 67 ha, including 23 ha of Yellow Box–Broad-leaved Stringybark. The reserved areas of six rare forest ecosystems increased by a total of 268 ha, including a 238 ha increase in the Dorrigo White Gum forest ecosystem.

The addition of 1600 ha to Nymboida NP in UNE in 2007–2008 has enhanced the management of the reserve and improved the protection of vegetation communities that are under-represented in the reserve system, including 51 ha of the endangered rainforest forest ecosystem.

In the LNE region, new gazettals protected 10 842 ha of forest, covering 61 of the 200 mapped forest types, including 396 ha (eight types) mapped as candidate old growth.

For the LNE region during 2007–2008, there was an increase in the extent of 62 of the 200 forest ecosystems by a total area of 10 842 ha across 23 new reserve additions.

For 11 of the 62 forest ecosystems, there was an increase in the area of COG forest in the reserve system by 431 ha. For another 18 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the area of DOG forest in the reserve system by 807 ha. Around 11% of these additions are 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 2007–2008. This included a 1 ha increase in the reserved area of one endangered forest ecosystem, Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum. The reserved area of 15 vulnerable forest ecosystems increased by a total of 271 ha, including 69 ha of Escarpment Redgum, 45 ha of Paperbark, and 43 ha of Snow Gum–Mountain/Manna Gum. The reserved areas of five rare forest ecosystems increased by a total of 221 ha, including 127 ha of swamp and 77 ha of mangrove.

The addition of 1041 ha to Karuah NP in LNE in 2007–2008 has increased protection for 181 ha of COG and 56 ha of DOG, and for several forest ecosystems including the rare swamp and mangrove ecosystems, and the vulnerable Paperbark and Escarpment Redgum ecosystems. Gazettal of this land also conserves habitat for threatened flora and fauna species including a number of vulnerable species: koala, glossy black cockatoo, masked owl, eastern freetail-bat, little bentwing-bat, eastern bentwing-bat, greater broad-nosed bat and the black-eyed Susan (*Tetratheca juncea*).

Several other endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna species were recorded in the reserve additions in the UNE and LNE. A full list of threatened species recorded in the newly reserved areas is provided in Appendix 2.

There were additions to the 'Not Growth Staged' category in both the UNE and LNE regions (Table 2-1B) due to additions to the reserve system that contain forest 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.

As noted in previous annual reports, high conservation value old growth forest (HCVOG) is not reported 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 (Table 2-1A).

Table 2-1A: Change in area (ha) of old-growth-stage categories within the DECC estate – UNE and LNE regions (2007–2008)

Eucalypt forest old growth stage	Total change since last reporting period (ha)	
	UNE region	LNE region
Candidate old growth forest (COG)*	+5 851	+431
Disturbed old growth forest (DOG)	+1 763	+807
Total	+7 614	+1 238

* Includes any HCVOG

Source: PWG of DECC

Table 2-1B: Changes in area (ha) of growth stage categories within the DECC estate – UNE and LNE regions (2007–2008)

Eucalypt forest growth stage	Total change since last reporting period (ha)	
	UNE region	LNE region
Rainforest	+205	+14
Mature forest	+242	+359
Disturbed mature forest	+232	+92
Young forest	+332	+3 591
Recently disturbed forest	+1	+2 490
Not growth staged	+81	+3 058
Total	+1 093	+9 604

Source: PWG of DECC

There were increases in the area of forest ecosystems by growth stage distribution within the reserve system in Southern region during 2007–2008 as a result of the gazettal of new land into the reserve system (Table 2-1C).

For the Southern CRA region, of the 185 forest ecosystems listed, there was an increase of 184 ha in the extent of 25 forest ecosystems, therefore increasing the percentage of target achieved in the reservation of these forest ecosystems. In addition, for 18 forest ecosystems there was an increase in the percentage of candidate old growth on PWG lands.

Table 2-1C: Change in area (ha) of growth stage and old-growth-stage categories within the DECC estate – Southern region (2007–2008)

Eucalypt forest growth stage	Southern region
Candidate old growth forest	+36.21
Disturbed old growth forest	+118.59
Disturbed mature forest	+1.46
Mature forest	+11.16
No old growth category	0.00
Rainforest	+0.52
Recently disturbed forest	0.00
Unknown successional stage	+16.39
Young forest	0.00
Total	+184.33

Source: PWG of DECC

The amount of old growth forest in Kosciuszko NP increased by 26.4 ha, which was almost 73% of the amount of old growth added to the reserve system in Southern Region (a total 36.2 ha of old growth forest was added to Southern FA reserve system in 2007–2008).

There were also increases in the area of forest ecosystems by growth stage distribution within the reserve system in Eden region during 2007–2008 as a result of the gazettal of new land into the reserve system (Table 2-1D).

For the Eden CRA region, of the 78 forest ecosystems listed, there was an increase of 551.9 ha in the extent of 19 forest ecosystems, therefore increasing the percentage of target achieved in the reservation of these forest ecosystems. In addition, for 14 of those forest ecosystems there was an increase in the percentage of Candidate Old Growth on PWG lands.

Table 2-1D: Change in area (ha) of growth stage and old growth stage categories within the DECC estate – Eden region (2007–2008)

Eucalypt forest growth stage	Southern region
Candidate old growth forest	+141.42
Disturbed old growth forest	+7.30
Disturbed mature forest	+26.25
Mature forest	+262.12
No old growth category	+17.45
Rainforest	+16.00
Recently disturbed forest	+17.13
Unknown successional stage	+6.47
Young forest	+57.72
Total	+551.86

Source: PWG of DECC

The amount of old growth forest in South East Forests NP increased by 129 ha, which was 91% of the amount of old growth added to the reserve system in the Southern Region.

Forest type and growth stage change within State forests

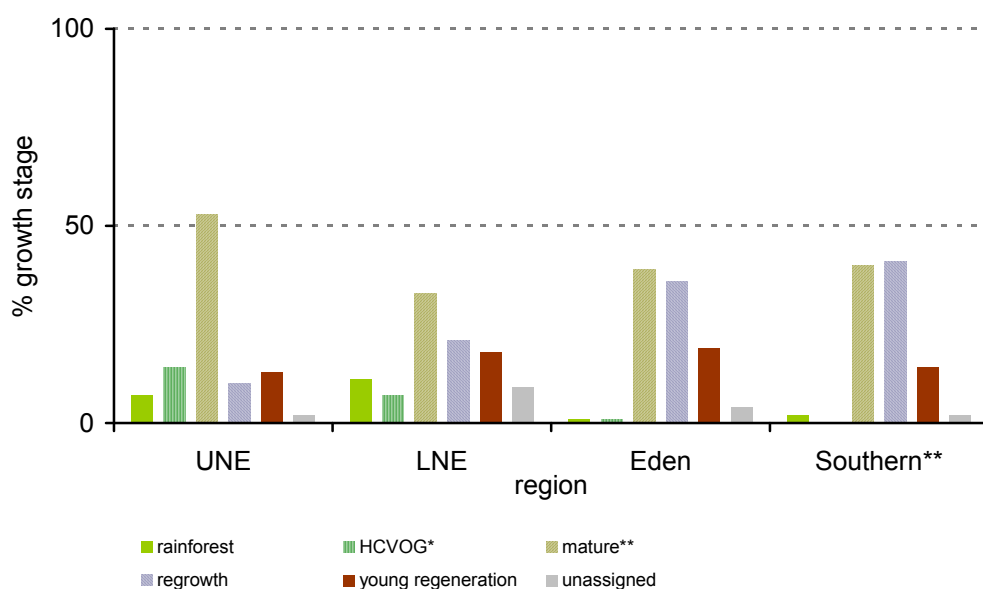
As stated in earlier annual reports, the size of the State forest estate decreased since 1999–2000 due to various land transfers, principally those facilitated by the *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002*, *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003* and the *National Park Estate (Reservations) 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 any of the FA regions between 2006–2007 and 2007–2008. Minor changes in the percentage distribution of growth stages by region were recorded, and these may be due to the decrease in estate size.

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 41000 ha) continued to be 'unassigned' in the LNE. This reflects that no information had been collected about the forest structure layer in the unassigned area and Forests NSW had 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 (2007–2008)



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 by Forests NSW and no information collected about the forest structure layer in the unassigned area.

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)

In 2007–08, two community partnership programs known as Kosciuszko to Coast and Slopes to Summit were successfully established on the southern section of the great eastern ranges in NSW.

Data and interpretation

Fragmentation continues to result in the listing of species, ecological communities and populations under the provisions of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act).

In 2007–2008, there were 11 species, one population, and one ecological community occurring in the FA regions that were newly listed on the *TSC Act*. Of the eleven newly listed species, two (both species of orchid) have habitat fragmentation or clearing of vegetation listed as threatening processes, as does the newly listed endangered population of greater gliders (*Petauroides volans* (Kerr 1792)) and the endangered ecological community, Tableland Basalt Forest. Additionally, the threatened status of two species, the orange-bellied parrot *Neophema chrysogaster*, and the North Rothbury persoonia *Persoonia pauciflora* P.H, both of which also list habitat fragmentation and clearing of vegetation as known threats, was upgraded from endangered to critically endangered.

The Great Eastern Ranges (Alps to Atherton) Initiative (GERI) continued in 2007–2008. This initiative, which aims to increase protections between reserved ecosystems and other retained habitats along more than 2800 km of the great eastern ranges of Australia from Walhalla in Victoria to Atherton in far north Queensland, made several advances in 2007–2008. Two community partnership pilot programs known as Kosciuszko to Coast and Slopes to Summit were successfully established on the southern section of the great eastern ranges in NSW as part of the Alps to Atherton Initiative. The programs involve 15 partner organisations including DECC and Forests NSW. Kosciuszko to Coast aims to reconnect isolated woodlands and grasslands between Kosciuszko and Namadgi NPs and the coastal forests of the far south coast. Slopes to Summit aims to link natural areas between the western slopes near Albury and Kosciuszko NP.

Projects taking place under these programs include sponsoring and supporting those managing land for conservation; establishing voluntary conservation agreements and covenants; and whole-of-paddock habitat restoration. They provide a model for three additional partnership programs that will begin operating in the upper Hunter River, Southern Highlands and Border Ranges regions in 2008–2009.

More details and updates on this initiative can be found at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ger/index.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)

Data and interpretation

Data were provided in the 2003–2004 reporting year on the number of forest-dwelling species recorded on DECC estate in each of the regions. No new data are available from Forests NSW or PWG of DECC on this indicator for this reporting period.

PWG has not updated the data because the list is not a true measure of change in species diversity. A prime concern is that the source of the information, the Atlas of NSW Wildlife, relies on the initiative of public and government researchers for it to be maintained. Increases in species records are therefore more likely to reflect research efforts rather than true changes in the range of species occurring on DECC estate. 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 that can have records dating back over many years. Reported increases in species may therefore include species recorded before the reporting period. Additionally, even true changes in the local distribution of a species are meaningless in isolation from records from other locations and environmental data.

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. During surveys in State forests for threatened flora and fauna before harvesting during early 2008 a plant thought to be extinct for more than 100 years was recorded in Nundle State Forest.

DECC estate

In NSW, the TSC Act is the main 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 TSC Act. The NSW Scientific Committee¹⁰ makes determinations for listings, details of which can be found at:

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.

¹⁰ An independent committee of scientists appointed by the Minister for the Environment.

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 2-1E.

There were two reclassifications during 2007–2008 for vertebrate fauna or for flora:

- The orange-bellied parrot *Neophema chrysogaster* (Latham 1790) was reclassified from endangered to critically endangered.
- The North Rothbury persoonia *Persoonia pauciflora* P.H. Weston was reclassified from endangered to critically endangered.

In the UNE region, there was one new listing for vascular plants during the 2007–2008 reporting period. The new listing was for the herb *Rotala tripartita* Beesley as endangered in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act.

In the LNE region, there were two new listings for vascular plants during 2007–2008. The new listings were for:

- The shrub *Banksia conferta* A.S. George subsp. *Conferta*, which was listed as critically endangered in Part 1 of Schedule 1A of the TSC Act and
- The orchid *Corybas dowlingii* D.L. Jones, which was listed as endangered in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act.

In the Southern region, there were six new listings for vascular plants during 2006–2007. The new listings as critically endangered in Part 1 of Schedule 1A of the TSC Act were for:

- The orchid *Prasophyllum innubum* D.L. Jones
- The orchid *Prasophyllum keltonii* D.L. Jones
- The orchid *Prasophyllum canaliculatum* D.L. Jones
- The orchid *Pterostylis oreophila* Clemesha
- The orchid *Thelymitra atronitida* Jeanes

Other new listings under the TSC Act were for:

- The orchid *Calochilus pulchellus* D.L. Jones, as endangered in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act
- The shrub *Hibbertia* sp. nov. 'Menai' A.T. Fairley, as an endangered species in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act.
- The orchid *Prasophyllum canaliculatum* listed as critically endangered in the Southern region also occurs in the Eden region.

Table 2-1E: Status of forest-dwelling species – all regions (2007–2008)

Region	Schedule 1 endangered		Schedule 2 vulnerable	
	Listed before 2007–2008	Listed during 2007–2008	Listed before 2007–2008	Listed during 2007–2008
<i>UNE region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	18	0	92	0
Invertebrate fauna	3	0	0	0
Vascular plants	85	1	56	0
Total listed	106	1	148	0
<i>LNE region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	12	0	80	0
Invertebrate fauna	1	0	0	0
Vascular plants	46	2	71	0
Total listed	59	2	151	0
<i>Eden region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	11	0	40	0
Invertebrate fauna	1	0	0	0
Vascular plants	24	1*	16	0
Total listed	36	1*	56	0
<i>Southern region</i>				
Vertebrate fauna	19	0	58	0
Invertebrate fauna	0	0	0	0
Vascular plants	29	8*	29	0
Total listed	48	8*	87	0

Source: PWG of DECC

*Includes one species found in both Eden and Southern regions.

Listing of endangered populations and ecological communities

In 2007–2008 the reference to the Bega Dry Grass Forest in the South East Corner Bioregion and the Candelo Dry Grass Forest in the South East Corner Bioregion in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the *TSC Act* (endangered ecological community) was omitted. This was replaced by a listing of the Lowland Grassy Woodland in the South East Corner as an endangered ecological community on Schedule 1 of the *TSC Act*. This community is located within the Southern and Eden regions.

There was a new listing of the Tableland Basalt Forest in the Sydney Basin and South Eastern Highlands Bioregion as an endangered ecological community on Schedule 1 of the *TSC Act*. This community extends into the Southern region.

An additional listing within the Southern region was for greater glider *Petauroides volans* in the Eurobodalla local government area. This was listed as an endangered population in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the TSC Act.

Table 2-1F summarises the status of endangered populations and endangered ecological communities for all regions.

Table 2-1F: Status of endangered populations and endangered ecological communities — all regions (2007–2008)

All regions	Schedule 1	
	Listed before 07/08	Listed during 07/08
Endangered population	13	1
Endangered ecological community	44 ¹¹	1
Total listed	54	4

Source: PWG of DECC

State forests

Trained Forests NSW staff survey 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*¹². Threatened species surveys mainly focus 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 the conditions of the IFOAs).

In 2007–2008, Forests NSW made 2574 pre-harvest flora and fauna surveys on State forest in the FA regions. This represents an increase in the number of pre-harvest flora and fauna surveys reported. This increase is partly explained through direct reporting from the Forests NSW Biodata system. Surveys across all regions resulted in a total of 4514 individual sightings of threatened flora and fauna species (figure 2-1B).

Samples of findings for 2007–2008 were:

In the UNE, 3609 threatened species were recorded. In addition 321 sightings of *Petauroides volans* (greater glider) were recorded. Although this species is not listed under the Act, it is an important indicator of sustainable forest management. Examples of other species recorded are 167 sightings of *Petaurus australis* (yellow-bellied glider), 259 sightings of *Calyptorhynchus lathami* (glossy black cockatoo), 30 of *Pteropus poliocephalus* (grey-headed flying-fox), and 144 sightings of *Phascolarctos cinereus* (koala).

Also recorded in the UNE were 81 occurrences of *Amorhosperrum whitei* (rust plum), a vulnerable small to medium-sized tree found in the coast and adjacent ranges of northern NSW. In the Moonee Creek area north of Coffs Harbour to north-east of Grafton 47 examples of *Quassia* sp. 'Moonee Creek' (Moonee Quassia) were found, and almost 70% of the total number of sightings recorded were of the endangered cycad *Macrozamia johnsonii* (Johnson's cycad) with 2479 individuals.

¹¹ Two endangered ecological communities were reclassified as one community.

¹² Threatened Species Licence contained in the IFOA for each region.

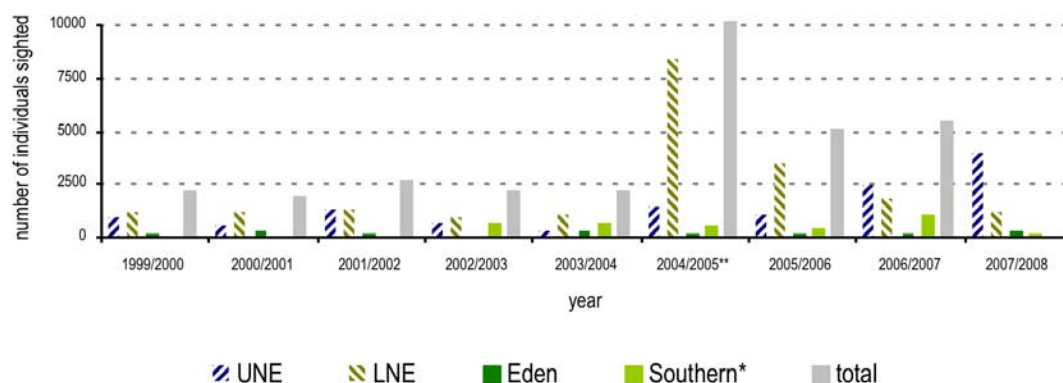
In the LNE, 843 threatened species were recorded (1814 previous reporting period). In addition to these records, 321 sightings of *Petauroides volans* (greater glider) were made. Examples of species recorded include 18 sightings of the nomadic *Pteropus poliocephalus* (grey-headed flying-fox), and 16 *Mixophyes balbus* (stuttering frog)¹³.

During one of these surveys for threatened flora and fauna before harvesting in early 2008, a plant thought to be extinct for more than 100 years was recorded in Nundle State Forest. The Forests NSW flora ecologist, confirmed it as most likely being the long-lost *Euphrasia arguta*. This annual herb reaches a height from 20 to 35 cm and is a partial parasite.

The find was confirmed by the South Australia's Department for Environment and Heritage. The species has been considered extinct, as it has remained unknown for more than a century since it was last recorded, again from Nundle, east of Tamworth, in June 1904. Forests NSW is now developing a conservation management plan for the plant, which was in an area disturbed during fire control activities the previous summer.

In the Southern region, 407 threatened species surveys were undertaken, resulting in 62 sightings recorded. Records are in addition to 40 observations of *Petauroides volans* (greater glider), but include eight observations of *Tyto tenebricosa* (sooty owl), 25 of *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (gang-gang cockatoo) and 1 observation of *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis* (eastern bent-wing bat). Two hundred and five threatened species observations were recorded in Eden region, including 41 observations of *Petaurus australis* (yellow-bellied glider), 23 *Potorous tridactylus* (long-nosed potoroo), 12 *Petaurides volans* (greater glider), 15 *Isoodon obesulus obesulus* (southern brown bandicoot), 1 *Pachycephala olivacea* (olive whistler) and 90 *Xanthomyza phrygia* (regent honeyeater).

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



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

** For clarity reasons 2004/2005 figures do not include records for *Macrozamia johnsonii* (11 768 individuals in UNE) or *Euphrasia ciliolata* (11 350 individuals in the LNE). In subsequent years only 70 individuals of *Euphrasia ciliolata* were recorded. The high numbers recorded in 2004/2005 are likely to be a result of targeted surveys.

From 2005–2006, data for the UNE and LNE and Southern regions have been obtained from Forests NSW biodata system as opposed to SEEDS. Biodata provides a more comprehensive list of threatened species recorded than SEEDS. For Eden region data continues 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

¹³ Figure for stuttering frog includes tadpole numbers.

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 DECC, 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%).

Data and interpretation

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

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007, this indicator was reported by DECC for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. A SoP survey did not take place in 2007–2008 and no other data was collated for this indicator relevant to PWG lands. As a consequence, reporting on this indicator for DECC estate did not occur during the reporting period.

Forests NSW and DECC actively participate in cooperative programs, for example on managing bell miner associated dieback (BMAD), which is a forest health issue affecting forest species extent and abundance in the NSW FA regions.

Dieback affected areas are located in the catchments of the major rivers of the North Coast of NSW, including the Tweed, Richmond, Clarence, Macleay and Hastings. Helicopter mapping has indicated that about 20 000 ha of forest in the Toonumbar/Richmond range are affected by BMAD.

The BMAD Working Group has developed a BMAD Strategy to provide a coordinated approach to the management of BMAD in north-eastern NSW. In 2008, the Scientific Committee, established by the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, made a Final Determination to list 'Forest eucalypt dieback associated with over abundant psyllids and bell miners' as a Key Threatening Process in Schedule 3 of the NPW Act (a copy of the determination can be downloaded from:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Forests NSW has considered the timber production implications of bell miner associated dieback as its forecasting system incorporates current inventory information that provides the state of growing stock. Inventory plots are located across the landscape and cover a range of conditions including areas affected by eucalypt decline. Measurement of these plots therefore takes into account any loss of volume associated with eucalypt dieback. Because this information is built into the Forests NSW forecasting system, any potential volume loss is reflected in the forecast.

Criterion 2 – Productive capacity of forest ecosystems

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 1.6 million ha in 2007–2008.

The native forest estate covers approximately 1.27 million ha. Of this, approximately 675 500 ha (53%) is not available for native forest harvesting due to a number of restrictions. These include areas reserved for conservation, special prescription areas and non-harvest management areas (they do not include softwood production areas — reported separately). An area of 353 000 ha (29% of the total native forest) is especially protected for conservation¹⁴.

The following were reported at 30 June 2008:

- Total Forests NSW native forest in the UNE region was approximately 385 600 ha. Approximately 41% was available for harvest and 59% reserved for conservation purposes¹⁵ or unable to be harvested because of other restrictions¹⁶. It is estimated that 9% of the native forest estate requires further assessment¹⁷.
- Total Forests NSW native forest in the LNE region was approximately 451 000 ha. Approximately 64% was available for harvest. Approximately 36% was unable to be harvested, which included areas reserved for conservation, harvest exclusions and other restrictions, and areas requiring further assessment (13%).
- Total Forests NSW native forest in the Eden region was approximately 164 280 ha. It is estimated that 71% was available for harvest. Approximately 29% was reserved for conservation or was unable to be harvested because of other restrictions.
- Total Forests NSW native forest in the Southern region was approximately 270 530 ha. It is estimated that around 60% was available for harvest. Approximately 40% 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.

¹⁴ Land for conservation purposes are classified as FMZ 1, 2 or 3A under the FMZ system described in *Managing Our Forests Sustainably: Forest Management Zoning in NSW State Forests* (SFNSW, 1999).

¹⁵ As for footnote 14.

¹⁶ 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 due to 'on ground findings', such as unmerchantable forest types, accessibility, rock, and low volume areas, and these are termed 'operational exclusions'.

¹⁷ Areas for further assessment are classified as FMZ 8 under the FMZ system.

Forests NSW plantations

Softwood plantation estate accounts for approximately 16% (267 000 ha) of the total State forest estate across all regions. The figure does not include formal reserves (e.g. flora reserves) within the planted forest estate, which have been reported as part of the native forest estate because they include substantial areas of native forests and retained vegetation.

However, softwood plantation estate figures do include service and environmental exclusion zones that have not been planted with trees and often comprise of native forest.

Most plantation softwood estate, approximately 185 000 ha, is found within the Southern region. This equates to around 40% of the total State forest estate in the Southern region (which excludes Goulburn sub-region for the purposes of this report). The Eden, UNE and LNE regions have around 42 000 ha, 22 500 ha and 17 500 ha of softwood plantation respectively. Of the total Softwood plantation estate it is estimated that 72% of the area is available for harvest (excluding formal reserves, which have been attributed to native forests).

About 4% of total State forest estate across all regions is hardwood plantation estate and is mainly found within the UNE (approx 57 000 ha) and LNE (approx 17 300 ha). It is estimated that 48% of the total area of hardwood plantation estate is available for harvest.

Plantations authorised under the PR Act

To encourage plantation industries in rural areas, the Government has streamlined and improved legislation governing plantation forestry. The *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* (PR Act) came into effect in 2001 and seeks to streamline the approval process required to invest in plantations while maintaining existing environmental standards¹⁸.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is the consent authority for plantations under the PR Act. A code has been developed and sets clear guidelines for plantation establishment and to improve land degradation and other environmental problems, while also providing sustainable timber resources and a diversified source of income for rural producers.

DPI has not supplied PR Act plantation figures by FA regions, but has provided data for the north coast, Hunter and south coast. Table 2-2A shows the area of existing, new and environmental plantations authorised each year under the PR Act for these regions.

¹⁸ Reference: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/private-forestry/plantation-authorisations/guidelines-for-applicants#Existing-plantations

Table 2-2A: Area of plantations authorised under the PR Act for the North Coast, Hunter and South Coast. Authorised plantations include existing plantations, newly established plantations and environmental plantations.

Year	North Coast	Hunter	South Coast
	Area (hectares) of plantations approved under the PR Act		
2001–2002	919	134	1 038
2002–2003	3 425	118	322
2003–2004	2 915	200	1 523
2004–2005	8 060	2 233	4 397
2005–2006	123 457	1 664	2 033
2006–2007	14 038	438	1 826
2007–2008	14 567	2 506	584

Private Native Forests

As at 30 June 2008, DECC had issued 418 private native forestry property vegetation plans covered approximately 115 000 ha. DECC continues to work with landowners and industry to ensure that they are aware of the new regulatory arrangements and the Native Forestry Code of Practice.

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)

280 144 m³ of quota sawlogs (or 317 444 m³ 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 reports before 2006–2007, 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 before 2006–2007, 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 in tables 2-2B and 2-2C.

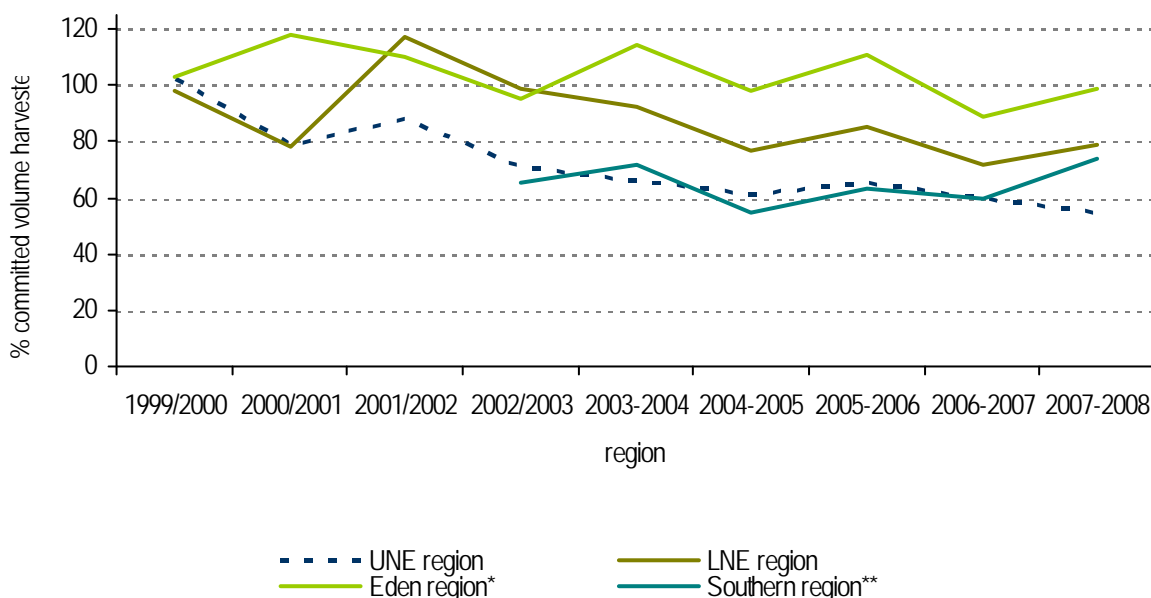
Committed volumes harvested

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 by 25%, but not to exceed 5% over a 5-year-period.

In 2007–2008 there were increases in the quota sawlogs harvested in UNE, Eden and Southern, with 280 144 m³ harvested across all regions (or 317 444 m³ including poles and girders), compared to 258,253 m³ (or 294 638 m³ including poles and girders) in the previous year. This represented 72% of the 388 500 m³ committed native forest quota volume (or 82% including poles and girders).

Figure 2-2A provides detail on the percentage of committed quota sawlog harvested by region.

Figure 2-2A: Percentages of committed quota sawlog volumes harvested – all regions (excluding poles and girders)



* 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

In the UNE during 2007–2008, 59 502 m³ of quota sawlogs (66 861 m³ when including poles and girders) was harvested from Forests NSW native forests and hardwood plantations. This represents only 55% of the committed volume (109 000 m³ a year, as specified in the UNE IFOA) and is a reduction from the previous year.

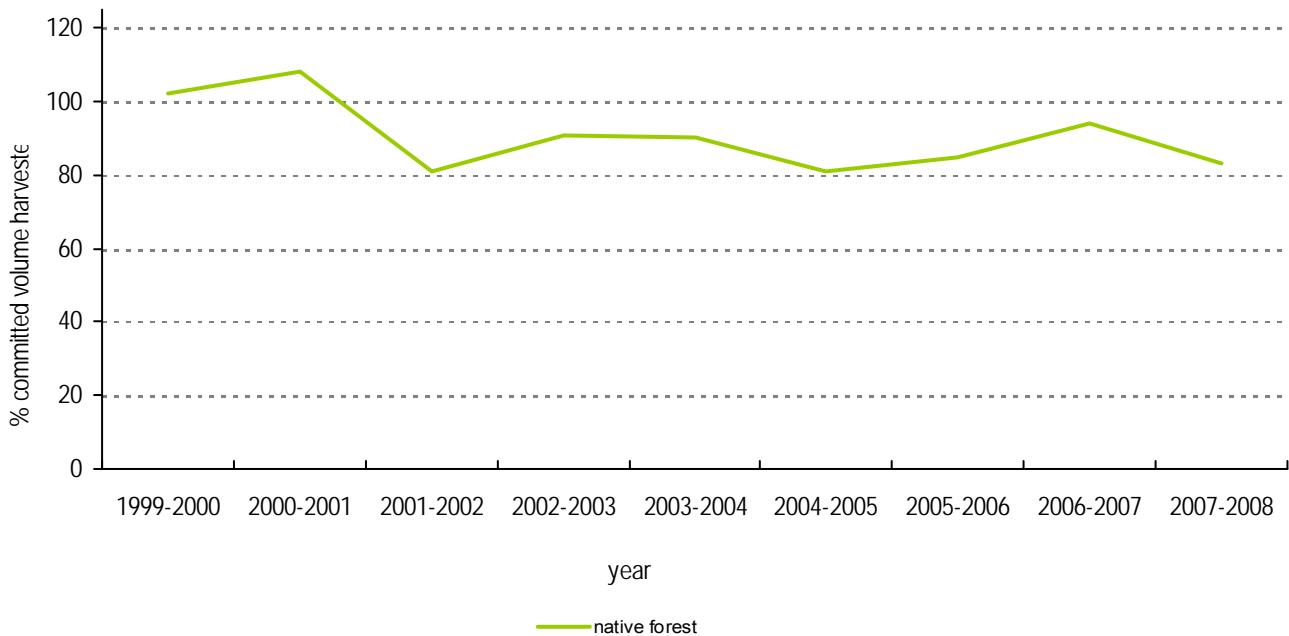
For the LNE region, quota sawlogs harvested from the region during 2007–2008 totalled 126 858 m³ (155 981 m³ when including poles and girders) representing 79% committed volume of 160 000 m³ per annum as specified within the LNE IFOA.

Quota sawlogs harvested from the Eden region are wholly obtained from Forest NSW native forests. Quota sawlog volumes in 2007–2008 totalled 22 677m³, which represented 99% of the committed volume (of 23 000m³ in accordance with the Eden IFOA). No poles or girders were harvested in Eden.

Quota sawlogs harvested in Southern Region totalled 71 107 m³ (71 926 m³ when including poles and girders). This volume represents 74% of the committed volume, which was an increase of 13% on the previous year, based on a committed volume of 96 500 m³ per annum (48 500 m³ South Coast and 48 000 m³ Tumut).

Pulp grade sawlogs also form part of quota sawlog volumes for the Eden region. 285 306 m³ of quota pulp grade sawlogs was allocated in Eden in 2007–2008 or 83% of the committed volume based on a committed volume of 315 839 tonnes (t) a year. Committed volume percentages of pulp grade sawlogs since 1999–2000 are shown at figure 2-2B.

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



Source: Forests NSW data

As well as 2007–2008 figures being reported, figures for 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 have been updated and modified since the previous report (2006–2007).

Non-quota sawlogs and pulp-grade timbers

In 2007–2008, 435 492 m³ of non-quota logs were harvested from Forests NSW native forests and hardwood plantations across all regions. This is a significant increase on the 388 205 m³ of non-quota logs harvested in 2006–2007. Non-quota pulp grade timber harvested from Forests NSW native forest and hardwood excluding Eden totalled 283 781 t in 2007–2008. This is an increase of around 34 000 t from the previous year. 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. Non-quota figures are presented in Tables 2-2B and 2-2C.

Table 2-2D summarises timber products supplied in all regions in 2007–2008 compared to 2006–2007.

Table 2-2B: Volumes of timber products other than quota sawlogs from State forests – UNE and LNE regions (2007–2008)

Log type	Unit	UNE region			LNE region		
		Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation	Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation
Veneer*	m ³	n/a	n/a	25 801	n/a	n/a	570
High quality large*	m ³	n/a	n/a	80 383	n/a	n/a	0
High quality small sawlogs	m ³	22 037	1 885		29 073	12 054	
Low quality sawlogs	m ³	56 330	21 292	30 137	118 434	70 127	14 439
Poles/piles and girders**	m ³	6 794	565	0	15 401	13 721	0
Fencing / landscape / sleepers (sawn)	m ³	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-quota logs total	m³	85 161	23 743	30 137	162 909	95 902	14 439
***Pulp grade and chipwood	tonnes	18 189	11 597	4 089	66 769	63 171	3 166

* 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 2-2C: Volumes of timber products other than quota sawlogs from State forests – Eden and Southern regions (2007–2008)

Log type	unit	Eden region			Southern region		
		Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation	Native forest	Hardwood plantation	Softwood plantation
Veneer*	m ³	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	3 818
High quality large*	m ³	n/a	n/a	154 213	n/a	n/a	481 557
High quality small	m ³	684	0		7 472	0	
Low quality	m ³	7 726	0	39 866	42 283	0	0
Poles/piles and girders**	m ³	0	0	0	819	0	0
Preservation logs	m ³	0	0	21 172	0	0	4 826
Fencing / landscape / sleepers (sawn)	m ³	0	0	0	8 794	0	1 503
Non-quota logs total	m³	8 410	0	Not presented	59 368	0	Not presented
Pulp grade***	tonnes	n/a	n/a	290 963	124 055	0	183 755

* 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

Table 2-2D: Volumes of timber products in all FA regions in 2007–2008 compared to 2006–2007.

Log type	Unit	2007–2008			2006–2007			Difference between 2007–2008 and 2006–2007		
		native	hw pltn	sw pltn	native	hw pltn	sw pltn	native	hw pltn	sw pltn
Veneer logs	m ³	6 638	10 510	27 077	8 727	7 055	26 031	-2 089	3 455	1 046
High quality large sawlogs (>40 cm native, >18 cm cypress, >24 cm swd)	m ³	246 902	16 094	716 152	228 000	14 471	496 887	18 902	1 623	219 265
High quality small sawlogs (<40 cm native, <18 cm cypress, <24 cm swd)	m ³	59 266	13 939		59 434	12 243		-168	1 696	
Low quality sawlogs	m ³	224 773	91 419	84 442	192 368	73 015	83 407	32 405	18 404	1 035
Poles/piles and girders	m ³	23 014	14 286	0	24 864	11 530	0	-1 850	2 756	0
Preservation logs	m ³	0	0	25 998	0	0	30 708	0	0	-4 710
pulp grade and chipwood	t	493 900	75 187	481 972	518 064	56 650	603 749	-24 164	18 537	-121 777
Fencing/landscape/sleepers (sawn)	m ³	8 794	0	1 503	14 751	0	881	-5 957	0	622
Total		1 063 287	221 436	1 337 144	1 046 208	174 965	1 241 663	17 079	46 471	95 481
Non-quota logs	m ³	435 492			388 205			47 287		
Pulp excluding Eden	t	283 781			249 755			34 026		
Quota	m ³	280 144			258 253			21 891		
Hardwood plantation quota		40 890		15%	33 056		13%			
Native forest quota		253 540		91%	236 727		92%			

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, for Forests NSW, data have been provided on the quantities of non-timber products harvested in all regions (including the UNE and LNE regions).

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

Forests NSW

State forests are a source of numerous non-timber forest products. For the purpose of measurement against this indicator, non-timber products in State forests have been identified as 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 of actual products and quantities of products taken from State forests, by region, are provided in Table 2-2E.

Table 2-2E: Non-timber products obtained from DECC Southern and Eden regions (2007–2008)

	Southern region	Eden region
Animal/insect-related products		
Apiary – number of beekeepers ¹	32	4
Apiary – number of sites ²	290	21
Apiary – number of hives	unknown	unknown
Film/documentary (permits) ³	24	
Communication sites (permits) ⁴	37	2
Other structures (permits) ⁴	19	1
Transmission lines/cables/pipelines (km) ⁵	625	

Source: PWG of DECC

- 1 Data review indicates 38 apiary companies have designated set-down sites in part of South Coast region.
- 2 Number of consented set-down sites: approximately 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, tracks data based on where access roads follow infrastructure for the NPWS Estate 2005 within the Southern CRA area in South Coast region (298 142 ha.)

Similar to the previous FA annual report (2006–2007), there was a general decline in most forest products taken from State forests in 2007–2008, except for gravel/sand/rock which increased by 25 852 t in total, despite a drop of 549 t in LNE.

Less craft timber (a minor product) was supplied in 2007–2008 than the previous year (12 m³ of craft timber was supplied compared to 30 m³ the previous year).

Across all regions in 2007–2008, 315 925 ha of State forests were covered by grazing permits, occupation permits or Crown lease.

There were 1019 apiary sites (apiculture for honey production) on State forests in the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions at the end of June 2008. This represents a significant decline compared to the previous year. Forests NSW believes this decline is mainly associated with an industry-wide steady decline in the number of commercial apiarists (in contrast to hobby apiarists) and the impact of drought conditions.

DECC Southern and Eden regions

In the Southern region the only non-timber forest product licensed for removal in the DECC estate is honey. Across the region 55 licences are currently active. These licences were for a total of 174 sites (Table 2-2F). Unfortunately, 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 non-wood products removed under licence from DECC estate. Under the bee keeping policy, existing sites will be allowed to continue but no new/additional bee keeping sites will be permitted.

Other non-forest products licensed in the Southern region during 2007–2008 included intangible products such as film documentary permits (24), communication site permits (37), transmission lines, cables and pipelines (625 km), and permits for other structures (19).

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

Table 2-2F: Non-timber products obtained from State forests – all regions (2007–2008)

Forest product	Unit	Region			
		UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern
Grazing	ha	172 069	77 860	9 243	56 753
Apiculture	number of sites	892	109	1	17
Seed	kg	0	0	4	96
Firewood	t	479	1 694	505	3 881
Craft timber	m ³	0	12	0	0
Misc. native timber pieces	number	414	0	0	40
Wood blocks	number	0	0	0	0
Film/documentary	permits	1	1	0	2
Communication sites	number of permits	27	56	5	12
Other structures	number of permits	30	57	3	7
Powerlines / cables / pipelines	km	8	18	50	122
Gravel / sand / rock	t	16 650	719	57 770	1 513
Research	number of permits	17	5	1	1
Maps sold to public	number	300	210	4	160

Source: Forests NSW

Plantations

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

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

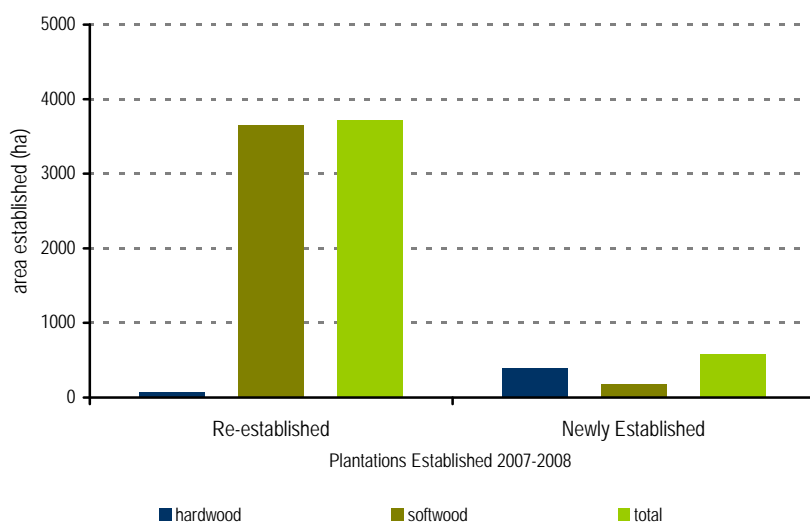
*Plantations established*¹⁹

The area of 2007 age class plantation established in all regions was 577 ha. This is made up of 394 ha of new hardwood plantation and 183 ha of new softwood plantation.

¹⁹ Data reported for Southern FA have previously included Goulburn sub-region. This has been corrected for this report, with the previous year's data also amended. This was due to a collating error in the SEEDS database.

The total area of re-establishment was 3725 ha; the majority being softwood re-establishment in Southern (2247 ha) and Eden (971 ha). The area of plantations established or re-established is reported as the net stocked area (excluding buffers and so forth) at the time of reporting. Minor changes may occur due to failed areas or reassessments.

Figure 2-2C: Area of hardwood and softwood plantations established by Forests NSW in 2007-2008 – all regions

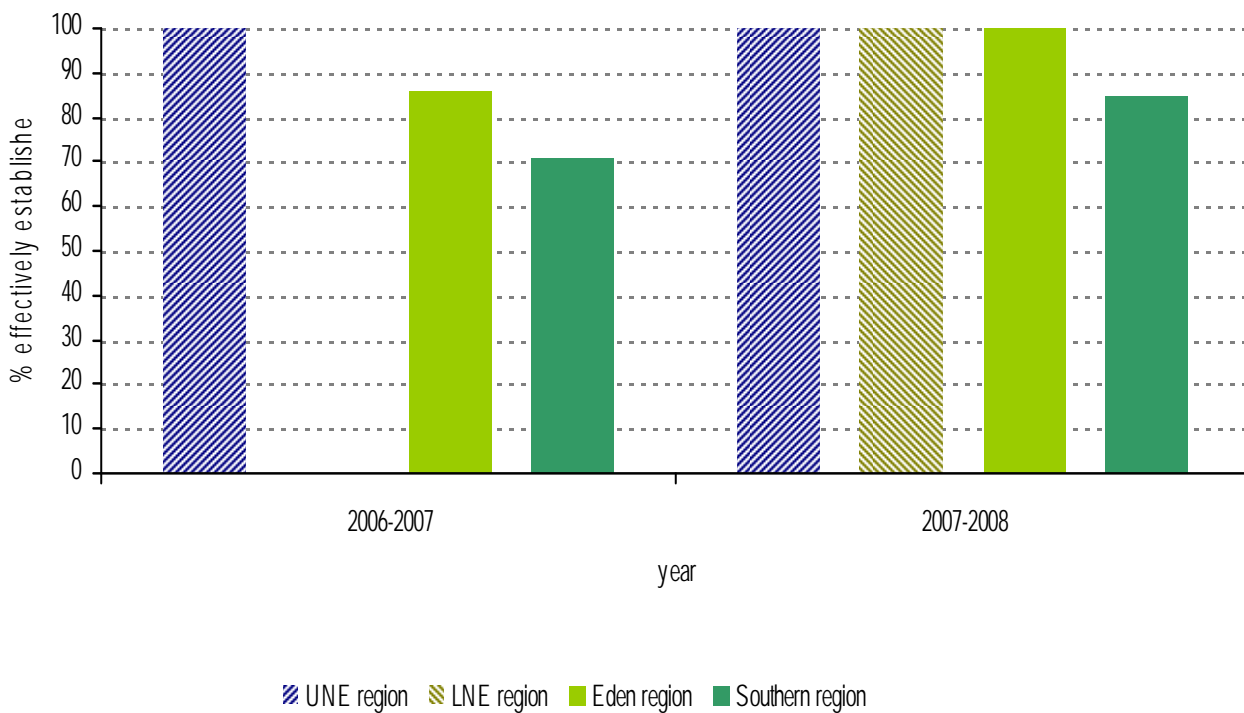


* Includes new plantations (Newly Established), and plantations re-established after harvesting (Re-established).
Source: Forests NSW data

Effective stocking rates

The effective stocking rate is the survival of planted trees one 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. Effective stocking rates were higher in all regions after drought conditions eased. In the Southern (85%) and Eden (100%) regions effective stocking rates represented improvements on the previous year (figure 2-2D). The effective stocking rate for LNE and UNE in 2007–2008 was 100%. It should be noted that hardwood and softwood plantation areas with effective stocking rates below 90% received additional restocking.

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



Note: if a value is zero 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 of DECC – 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. Although PWG continues to regenerate its lands where necessary, there has been no new information on this indicator since the 2004–2005 reporting period for DECC estate.

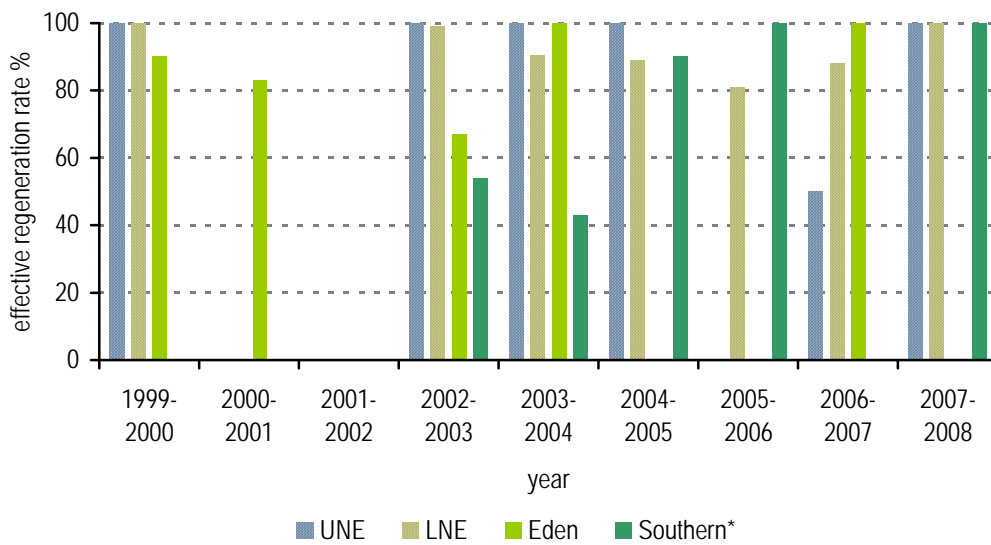
Forests NSW

Forests NSW regenerate harvested native forest to re-establish pre-harvest forest structure and species composition, specific to each forest type and locality. Surveys identify effective regeneration rates.

There were two additional regeneration surveys carried out when compared to the previous reporting period. Forests NSW carried out 14 regeneration surveys in 2007–2008 over an area of 2298 ha of State forest. No regeneration surveys occurred in the Eden region in 2007–2008 (which obtained a 100% regeneration rate in the previous reporting period).

Data indicate that effective regeneration rates remain high (about 100% regeneration per hectare when the area of surveys are taken into account) (see Figure 2-2E). Results for 2006–2007 also showed a regeneration rate of 100% in UNL, LNE and Southern regions. As stated, regeneration was not measured in Eden region in 2007–2008.

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

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 approximately \$700 000 towards the control of a feral animals and noxious or environmental weeds in the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions. This was similar to the effort made the previous year. All FA areas have supplementary weed and feral animal management plans in place with associated schedules.

During 2007–2008, the PWG of DECC continued to use weed control programs in parks and in targeted catchment areas, areas where threatened species are vulnerable to weeds and pests, along roads, and in high-visitation recreation areas. Programs and planning were developed and implemented in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, catchment management authorities (CMAs) and other organisations and landholders.

The effect of feral animals, invasive pests, overabundant native species and 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 for targeted weed and feral animal species across its estate. PWG continues to provide information for this indicator by providing case studies of pest and weed control programs in regions. In addition, every three years, PWG assesses how weeds and pest animals are being managed across the DECC reserve system, and how effective that management has been at reducing their negative impacts.

In 2007–2008, Forests NSW directed approximately \$700 000 towards the control of a range of negative agents across more than 1.6 million ha of State forest in the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions. Of the total amount spent, 37% was on controlling pest animals, introduced predators and feral animals and 63% on weed control.

Pest animal management is integrated into Forests NSW ESFM Plans, which were published in 2005. Supplementary Pest Animal Management Plans have been produced for UNE and Southern regions for 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. The programs are developed through meetings and correspondence, as does their integration with programs of other parties. See details on various programs within the regions below.

Data and discussion

PWG DECC information below was sourced from PWG Northern Branch (BMAD information) and the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08* (weed, pest and Phytophthora information).

In 2006–2007, PWG used data from the SoP qualitative assessment to report on some indicators, which cannot be reported on in similar detail until the next SoP assessment.

Noxious and environmental weeds

DECC–PWG

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 this indicator was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. As a SoP survey did not take place in 2007–2008, reporting on this indicator did not occur.

During 2007–2008, the PWG of DECC continued to use weed control programs in parks. For example, in Wollemi, Yengo and Werakata NPs located in the LNE region, a weed control program targeted mother-of-millions, bridal creeper, prickly pear, lantana, blackberry and tree of heaven.

In the Southern region, weed control programs were used in targeted catchments, along roads, high visitation/recreation areas and areas where certain threatened species are vulnerable from weed invasion. Volunteer groups (e.g. Talbingo and District Bushwalking Group and the Oldfields Caretaker Group) were encouraged to assist in weed control. Snowy Hydro Limited and the PWG of DECC worked collaboratively to regenerate former Snowy Hydro Scheme sites, for which weed control is a major component. The Roads and Traffic Authority and the PWG of DECC are also working in conjunction to reduce roadside weeds in Kosciuszko NP.

During 2007–2008, the PWG and other areas of DECC in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries worked with Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) to identify regional priorities for the control of environmental weeds. Workshops were held to identify and rank areas to guide CMA investment in weed control where biodiversity benefits would be greatest. These resulted in strategies such as the draft Northern Rivers Invasive Plants Action Strategy (www.northcoastweeds.org.au/nr-weed-action-strategy.htm). Statewide monitoring protocols are being developed so the recovery of native species can be measured following weed control.

The draft Plan to Protect Environmental Assets from Lantana, developed jointly by DECC and the QLD Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, was completed in 2007–2008. This plan establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to lantana invasions in native ecosystems and is due to go on public exhibition by June 2009. During the development of this plan, workshops were held throughout Qld and NSW to determine the native biodiversity at risk from lantana. Species ranking and site selection processes were developed, ecological communities and native plant and animal species (including those listed as threatened) at risk from lantana were identified, native

animal species that benefit from the presence of lantana were also identified, and site-specific management plans were approved (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/lantanaplan).

In 2007–2008, DECC worked with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Department of Education and Training to raise public awareness of weeds by implementing NSW: ‘No space 4 weeds’ (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/no-space) and *Weed warriors* (www.weedwarriors.net.au). NSW: ‘No space 4 weeds’ is a statewide campaign to raise awareness of weeds in the community by teaching people about the impacts of weeds and highlighting the benefits of preventing the spread of weeds. *Weed warriors* is a national program linked to an interactive computer package that teaches school students about the impacts of weeds and the principles of weed control.

Forests NSW

Eighteen weed species were subject to control works by Forests NSW during the year, including blackberry, nodding thistle and Scotch broom. The largest expenditure (\$147 750 approx) was on blackberry control. Table 2-3A contains further detail on the cost of Forests NSW noxious/environmental weed control activities during 2007–2008.

Table 2-3A: Forests NSW control efforts for noxious/environmental weed species in native forests – all regions (2007–2008)

Region	Number of species treated*	Expenditure (\$) (approx.)
Southern	4	88 700
UNE	3	8 300
LNE	13	92 800
Eden	6	66 180
Total		255 980

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

Bell miner associated dieback

Bell miner associated dieback (BMAD) continues to be a management issue for DECC/PWG in UNE, LNE, Central, Southern and Eden regions. Forests NSW and DECC jointly supported the work of BMAD Working Group, along with non-government organisations such as the North East Forest Alliance. 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 provide scientific advice to the working group.

The causes of BMAD remain unclear although associated factors include disturbance, inappropriate fire regime, presence of lantana (*Lantana camera*), poor vegetative structure and complexity, abundant lerps and soil attributes.

The BMAD Strategy continued to be implemented throughout 2007–2008. Adaptive management trials aimed at controlling landscape level lantana populations containing abundant bell miners, lerps and varying levels of dieback have been carried out in UNE and LNE. Methods trialled include removal of lantana with splatter gun application of herbicide and burning. Trial monitoring will continue for five to

fifteen years and will provide valuable management information about techniques for managing BMAD and lantana.

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre is carrying out research into eucalypt dieback in the Southern and Eden regions, and these trials may provide some valuable insight for managing landscape level BMAD sites. Bell miner removal trials have taken place on private land and invertebrate diversity and abundance are being monitored. BMAD continues to be a problem in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in the Southern region.

The investigation carried out in the Jilliby Valley in LNE during 2005–2006 has been reported.

In April 2008, DECC released its Statement of intent 1: Infection of native plants by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in response to the key threatening process listed under the TSC Act. This is the first in a series of proposed statements of intent. It outlines DECC's approach to implementing actions over the next five years to manage the threat and minimise its impact on biodiversity. It is a resource for government and other organisations, land managers and the public to tackle this threat into the future.

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 six agents were reported in hardwood plantations during 2007–2008: herbivorous insects, leaf and shoot fungi, stem borers and soil pathogens, *Creiis lituratus*, bell miner associated dieback and frost.

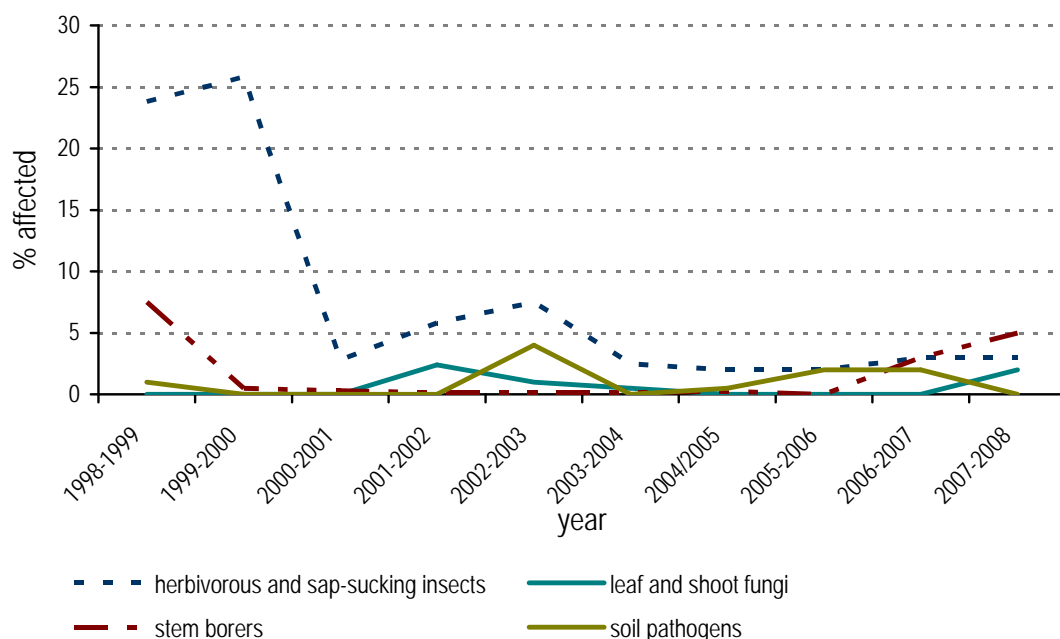
As illustrated in figure 2-3A, while herbivorous and sap-sucking insects affected around 25% of the hardwood plantations in 1999–2000, the proportion has decreased to around 3% in 2007–2008. Stem borers affected 5% of the hardwood plantations in 2007–2008 — up from 3% in the previous reporting period. Stem borers affected about 5% of the hardwood plantations in 2007–2008. Leaf and shoot fungi were recorded as being present in 2% of the hardwood plantations. Two additional agents were reported in 2007–2008, neither of which had been report in FA reports before. Bell miner associated dieback was reported in 0.5% of the hardwood plantations, and the psyllid *Creiis literatus* was reported in 4% of the hardwood plantations.

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

In 2007–2008, the most extensive agent continued to be the Monterey pine aphid, which is now estimated to affect around 47% of State forests softwood plantations (an increase of 7% since 2006–2007).

Dothistroma needle blight damage was estimated to affect 1% of the State forests softwood plantations, while *Sirex* wood wasp affected 1.5%. Damage by possums was estimated to affect 6% State forests softwood plantations (up from 0.01% in 2006–2007).

Figure 2-3A: Percentages of post-1994 Forests NSW hardwood plantations affected by selected agents 2007–2008 (statewide)



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

Source: Forests NSW data

Feral and pest animals

Control and research by DECC

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 PWG reported on this indicator for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. As a SoP survey did not take place in 2007–2008, reporting on this indicator using SoP data did not occur.

The NSW Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the Red Fox (Fox TAP, see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/pestsweeds/RedfoxApproved.pdf) identifies the threatened species that will benefit most from a reduction in fox predation and establishes monitoring programs to measure the effectiveness of control programs at priority sites. A review of the Fox TAP began in 2007–2008 and will include a critical assessment of the recovery of threatened species targeted for protection from foxes. An inter-agency working group is overseeing the review. Input from independent scientists will be sought before a revised draft is released for public comment in 2009 (page 75, Chapter 4: Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Many efforts under the Fox TAP in 2007–2008 monitored the success of fox control programs in maintaining or increasing populations of the threatened brush-tailed rock wallaby. Part of a fox baiting program in Watagans NP in the LNE region included a community education workshop in April 2008, to encourage neighbouring landholders to bait foxes on private lands (page 75, Chapter 4: Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

In 2007–08, DECC continued research to develop innovative control methods for foxes and wild dogs. These included techniques such as the M-44 ejector (a specially designed bait delivery device), llamas as livestock guarding animals, livestock protection collars, synthetic lures, night vision technology and correction collars (page 77, Chapter 4: Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Within the LNE region, a number of cooperative wild dog control programs were implemented with DECC, Forests NSW, various rural lands protection boards and wild dog control associations to reduce the impact of wild dogs on lands adjacent to Ben Halls Gap, Barrington Tops, Curracabundi NPs, and Wallabadah and Camerons Gorge NRs. These programs were also expanded to include the new Woolooma NP.

Also in the LNE region, wild dog management plans were renegotiated with wild dog associations, 4 km of new dog fencing were supplied to protected area neighbours, and materials and planning support were provided for the Moona / Winterbourne Wild Dog Association wild dog exclusion electric fencing project.

In the Southern Region in 2007–2008, the South Western Slopes Regional Pest Management Strategy 2008–2011 was completed and adopted. Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plans were implemented in the Brindabella and Wee Jasper Valleys, the Burrinjuck area, the Adaminaby/Yaouk area, the Goobragandra/Blowering locality of Kosciuszko NP, the East Gilmore Valley (including Wereboldera SCA), and the Hume area (including Woomargama NP).

Also in the Southern Region in 2007–2008, specific control programs for feral pigs were implemented with the assistance of neighbouring landholders on Black Andrew NR, Brindabella NP, Kosciuszko NP, Tinderry NR and Woomargama NP.

Deer browsing, trampling and wallowing are having a serious and increasing environmental impact on the Illawarra region. In 2007–2008, in Kangaroo Valley in the Southern region rural landholders formed a Landcare group in partnership with DECC to help control feral deer in specifically approved shooting zones in DECC estate and on adjoining properties (page 78, Chapter 4: Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Forests NSW

Feral animal and introduced predator control efforts on State forests (all regions) took place over approximately 600 000 ha at a cost of \$440 000 (table 2-3B). Six feral or pest animal species were targeted in 2007–2008, including *Sus scrofa* (pig), *Capra hircus* (goat), *Felis catus* (cat) and *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (rabbit). Wild cattle were the only listed potential pests not targeted in the current reporting period. As with the previous year, control efforts were most extensive in the Southern region, where an estimated \$250 000 was directed at four species, pigs, foxes, wild dogs and rabbits. The bulk of this spending (approx. \$185 000) was directed towards programs to control wild dogs.

Table 2-3B: Forests NSW control efforts for feral animal species – all regions (2007–2008)

Region	Number of species treated	Expenditure (approx.)
UNE	2	\$16 680
LNE	2	\$47 700
Eden	4	\$128 904
Southern	4	\$250 000
Total	6*	\$2,725

* 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 46 131 ha of DECC estate and 5081 ha of State forests this year within the forest agreement regions. Prescribed burns and other planned burns were conducted over an estimated 43 294 ha of DECC estate and 33 874 ha of 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 use 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

The incidence of fire varies greatly from year to year. The number of fires is most closely linked to prevailing weather patterns and, in particular, the occurrence of extreme fire conditions, best indicated by the number of statewide fire bans declared in a fire season. The main factors determining the severity and extent of bushfires are 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 determines the extent and severity of running fires (NSW State of the Environment 2006, see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2006)

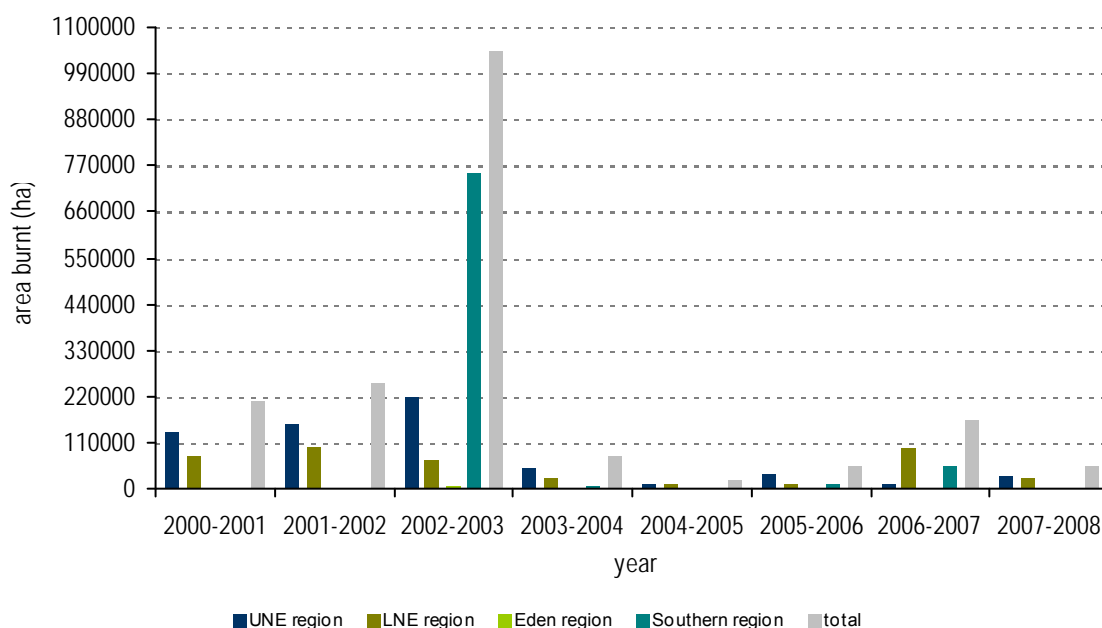
In 2007–2008, DECC estate in the FA regions experienced a decrease in the total amount of land burnt by wildfire (46 131 ha compared with 149 728 ha in 2006–2007) (Table 2-3C), although the 2005–2006 season was comparable (46 323 ha). The decrease occurred across the Eden, LNE and Southern regions. Wildfire data are collected on a park basis. Two parks experiencing wildfire (New England NP

and Nymboi–Binderay NP) fall within both LNE and UNE and the 3924 ha (3600 ha and 324 ha, respectively) of these parks experiencing wildfire have been counted in both these regions. One park experiencing wildfire (Wadbilliga NP) falls within both Southern and Eden and the 8 ha of this park experiencing wildfire have been counted in both these regions.

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007, the approach to bushfire management and the effect of fire management on Parks were reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. A SoP survey did not occur in 2007–2008 so this information was not collected for this indicator.

The total area of native forest within State Forests affected by bushfire decreased from 9969 ha in 2006–2007 down to 5081 ha in 2007–2008. The regions most affected by bushfire were UNE region with 4535 ha affected, and LNE region with 513 ha affected. Only 1 ha of bushfires was reported in Southern Region representing five incidents, all of which were within planted forests estate. There were 332 ha of recorded bushfires in the Eden region this year, also representing five fire incidents. Combined areas burnt by bushfire are reported in Figure 2-3B

Figure 2-3B: Area burnt by bushfire 2007–2008 – DECC estate and State forests (all regions by bushfire)



Data were incomplete for 1999–2000.

Monitoring began for the Southern region in 2002–2003.

Area of park system burnt in bushfire excludes prescribed burns by PWG and is regardless of origin ignition

Source: PWG and Forests NSW data

Table 2-3C: Areas of park system burned in bushfires (excluding prescribed burns by PWG and regardless of origin of ignition) (2007–2008)

Region (2007–2008)	Area of parks system burned in bushfires (ha)
UNE	22 700
LNE	23 121
Southern	240
Eden	70
Total	46 131

Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning is an important part of fire management that assists in reducing the incidence and severity of bushfires and improving bushfire control. Planning involves predicting fire behaviour 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 2007–2008, Forests NSW had planned for hazard reduction burns and post-logging burns to be carried out on about 42 186 ha of State forest across the four forest agreement regions. Hazard reduction and post-log burns then took place over approximately 31 349 ha (74% of the planned area), while the hazard reduction burns represented 57% of this figure. A further 7029 ha of plantation land was subject to area establishment burns. In addition 2525 ha of land was subject to pre-harvest burns.

In 2007–2008, prescribed burning on DECC estate took place on 43 294 ha across all regions, an increase from the 29 193 ha undergoing prescribed burns in 2006–2007. The LNE region underwent the largest area of prescribed burns. Additionally 88 ha of the DECC estate was mechanically treated (e.g. slashed), mainly in the Southern region.

The total area of parks within LNE region undergoing prescribed burns in the 2007–2008 year was approximately 18 110 ha, whilst 37 ha underwent mechanical treatment. In the UNE region, the total area of parks undergoing prescribed burns was 4559 ha and the area mechanically treated was 6 ha. In the Southern region, 15 415 ha of parks underwent prescribed burns and 44 ha underwent mechanical treatment. In the Eden region, 5211 ha of parks underwent prescribed burns a small area (less than 1 ha) underwent mechanical treatment.

Data on prescribed burns and mechanical treatment are collected on a park basis. Two parks undergoing prescribed burns (Bongil Bongil NP and Dorrigo NP) fall within both UNE and LNE regions and the 9.1 ha (0.1 ha and 9 ha respectively) of prescribed burns in these parks have been counted in both of these regions.

Data/information sources, references, further reading

DECC information sourced from the PWG Fire Management Unit.

Criterion 4 – Soil and water resources

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 ha of State forests is covered by eight regional road management plans. The total length of the road network within State forests across the forest agreement regions totals approximately 31 000 km.

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

In 2007–2008, the PWG of DECC began to distribute the newly developed Asset Maintenance System (AMS) to regional PWG offices. This system will allow for better maintenance and monitoring of all PWG owned and or maintained assets. It will include roads and trails and a tool that may support analysis of this infrastructure in future.

Forests NSW has eight regional road management plans that cover the four forest agreement areas. Planted Forest Region of Monaro finalised its plan during this period. The plans are applicable to each Forests NSW softwood and native forests region²⁰. Currently, the road management plans are internal Forests NSW documents, but may be used in the future as a basis for preparing a regional ESFM supplementary plan for road management. The plans cover all of the State forests within the FA areas.

The total length of the road network within State forests across the forest agreement regions totalled approximately 28 755 km (table 2-4A). Total road length recorded in Southern Region is around 12 995 km and in LNE region the reported road length increased significantly from 2687 km to 4 325 km, which appears to be a result of under reporting of the road network in 2006–2007 (the figure was reported as 5 403 in 2005–2006) and was unchanged in Eden and UNE.

²⁰ Forests NSW regional boundaries do not correspond with forest agreement area boundaries. As a result a number of Forests NSW road management plans may be applicable to each forest agreement region (for example, 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 2-4A: Length of road by classification on State forests – all regions (2007–2008)

Length of road by classification (km)	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern
Primary access	286	109	413	713
Secondary access	0	704	824	1 002
Feeder	0	1 409	482	5 304
Harvesting, link and boundary	4 101	1 172	1 321	5 083
Fire trail and service trail	3 782	931	2 500	895
Total road length	8 169	4 325	5 540	12 997

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 94 000 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 2007–2008, across all regions, Forests NSW carried out soil surveys across an estimated gross area of 88 726 ha (up from 82 252 ha reported in 2006–2007) and a net harvest area of 26 075 ha (down from 34 672 ha reported in 2006–2007). Table 2-4-B details the gross, net harvest and the percentage of total net area harvested for each region during the year. Where Forests NSW identifies soil issues associated with operations (mainly roading and harvesting), action is taken to remedy the issue in line with conditions in the IFOAs.

Table 2-4B: Area 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 (2007–2008)

Region	Gross area (ha)	Net harvest area (ha)	Percentage (%) of region's production area harvested
UNE	21 376	8 195	2.1%
LNE	27 905	9 571	2.1%
Eden	9 304	2 818	1.7%
Southern	30 141	5 491	2.0%
Total (2007–2008)	88 726	26 075	2.0%

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, the PWG carries out a review of environmental factors under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which consider the protection of soil and water values.

Target ten of the NSW Natural Resources Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy (MER) is that by 2015 there is an improvement in soil condition. As part of this work, a number of sites on DECC estate within the FA regions will be subject to soil profile and soil structure sampling/description.

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 3 440 000 tonnes of CO₂e sequestered is estimated to be sequestered in Forests NSW hardwood and softwood plantation (refer to figure 2-5A).

Forests NSW estimates the amount of CO₂e sequestered in its planted forest estate. This includes both softwood and hardwood plantation. The assumptions for the CO₂e sequestration calculations are shown in table 2-5A.

The total amount of CO₂ sequestered in Forests NSW total native forest was estimated to be 3.6 megatonnes of CO₂ during 2007–2008. For more details on the basis for this estimate see the Forests NSW *Annual report 2008–2009* (Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW).

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

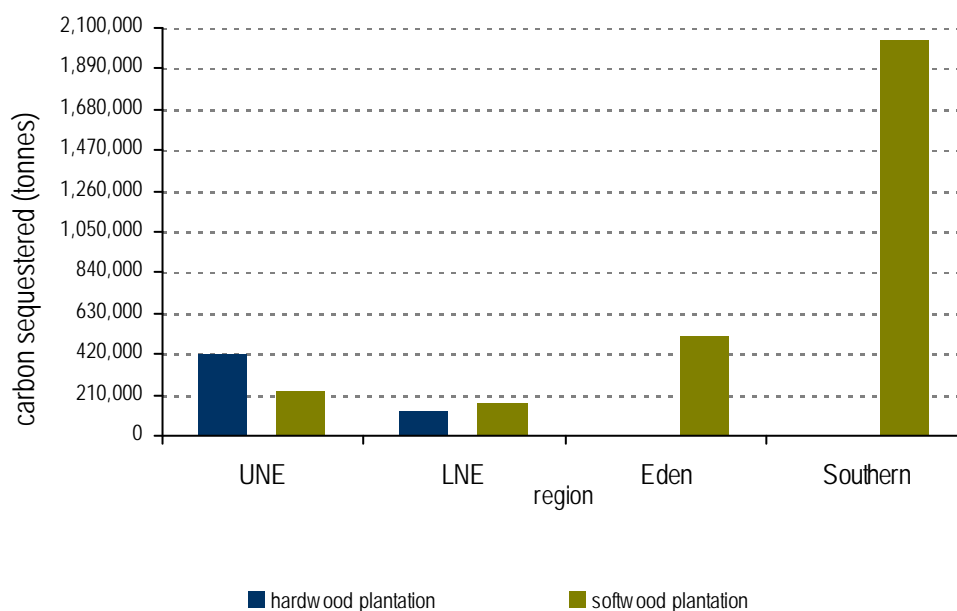
Assumptions	Softwood	Hardwood
CO ₂ sequestered (tonnes CO ₂ e) = net plantation area x mean tree biomass increment (MTBI) X carbon proportion (CP) x carbon to carbon dioxide factor (CCF), where:		
MTBI = SBI + CBI + RBI	9.487 296	11.647 35
SBI (stem biomass Increment) = TSVI x BD	6.72	8.25
TSVI (total stem volume increment)	16 m ³ /ha/year	15 m ³ /ha/year
BD (basic density)	0.42 t/m ³	0.55 t/m ³
CBI (canopy biomass increment) = SBI x 0.1765	1.186 08	1.456 125
RBI (root biomass increment) = (SBI + CBI) x 0.2	1.581 216	1.941 225
CP = 0.5	0.5	0.5
CCDF = 3.667	3.667	3.667

Source: Forests NSW

In 2007–2008, Forests NSW estimated that there were approximately 3 400 000 t of CO₂e sequestered in its planted forests within the Forest Agreement regions (refer to figure 2-5A).

Forests NSW estimates that the sum of CO₂e sequestered in plantation estate in the UNE, LNE, Southern and Eden regions was approximately 650 000 t, 290 000 tonnes, 2 000 000 tonnes and 500 000 t, respectively.

Figure 2-4A: Sequestered carbon in Forests NSW hardwood and softwood plantations – all regions (2007–2008)



Source: Forests NSW

Global carbon budget

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

DECC produced the 2007–2008 NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework that identifies ways for NSW public sector agencies to tackle climate change and its effect on biodiversity. This was followed with the release of the 2007–2008 DECC NSW Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity.

Data

DECC coordinates the whole-of-government policy for NSW on climate change, which is driven by the *NSW Greenhouse Plan* and the *State Plan – A New Direction for NSW*. DECC also coordinates the NSW Government’s response to climate change, which includes strategies to reduce emissions, encourage efficient use of water, promote sustainability and research adaptability to climate change.

The Commonwealth Government’s focus on climate change is enabling NSW to develop new initiatives that complement the Commonwealth’s initiatives. DECC is working with the Commonwealth on the development of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, to be established in 2010.

In October 2007, DECC produced *The 2007–2008 NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework*, which was prepared by the NSW Inter-agency Biodiversity and Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Working Group, of which DECC and Forests NSW are participants. This document

identifies ways in which NSW public sector agencies will tackle climate change and its effect on biodiversity.

Shortly afterwards, this state-wide framework was followed up by the November 2007 release of the *2007–2008 DECC NSW Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity*. This document outlines priority areas for action for DECC to take over the next two years to help buffer NSW's natural and cultural heritage against climate change impacts. This practical approach to climate change adaptation planning in DECC includes a range of measures, such as maintaining and expanding the reserve system, establishing connectivity between habitats to allow species to move to more favourable environments, scientific research, monitoring and modelling on which to base natural resource management and planning, and improved communication between and awareness raising within the community, scientists and policy makers.

The Great Eastern Ranges (Alps to Atherton) Initiative (GERI) in which Forests NSW is a partner, is an example of the strategic response from both agencies to climate change and other threats. Achievements of this initiative during the 2007–2008 period are discussed under Criterion 1: Fragmentation.

Criterion 6 – Socio-economic benefits

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.

DECC PWG

Data discussion

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 this indicator was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. There was no SoP survey in the 2007–2008 reporting year. As a consequence, reporting on this indicator using SoP data did not occur during the reporting period.

Under the *NSW State Plan*, DECC is working to increase visits to parks by 20% by 2016. It will do this by developing programs that foster an appreciation of parks and provide access to recreational opportunities.

In 2007–2008, DECC started developing branch visitation management plans (BVMPs) to guide the growth and resourcing of visitation to parks across NSW. These plans were a key action specified within Living Parks, the sustainable visitation strategy completed in 2005 and publicly launched in early 2006 (see Criterion 7: Park Management Framework and Planning, assessment and policy review for more information on BVMPs). In the 2007–2008 reporting period, DECC also worked on a way to improve recording of visitor numbers to provide better estimates in the future (page 84, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Also during the 2007–2008 reporting period, a pilot study was done to develop a method for collecting statewide visitor numbers and estimating visitor satisfaction. Telephone surveyors asked respondents about parks they had visited within the last four weeks. Interviewing began in early 2008 and will continue throughout the 2008 calendar year to provide estimates of the number of visits to parks, visitor satisfaction with park visits and the proportion of visitors participating in different activities (page 84, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

DECC is implementing the Visitor Data System (VDS), a database used to store and analyse visitor data. The system includes a traffic counter and results of a visitor survey. In 2007–08, the VDS was upgraded to increase functionality and resolve a number of software issues (page 85, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

In the LNE region, visitor surveys and profiles were made, including in the Sea Acres Nature Rainforest Centre and Arakoon SCA.

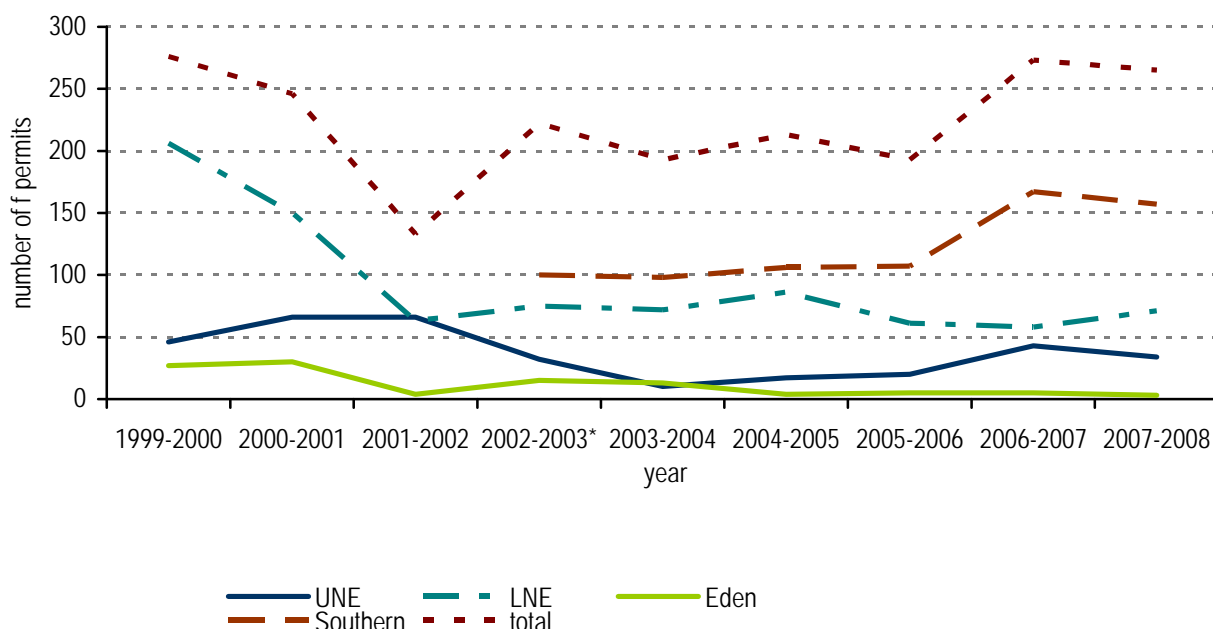
Also in the LNE region, as part of the Worimi Conservation Lands Recreational Use Study, a range of data was collected during the 2007–2008 Christmas holiday period. Observation teams using vehicle counters were located at the two beach access points. The project provided information on the variety of recreational activities that occur, and will assist in the development of the plan of management for the reserves (page 85, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

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 2007–2008, 265 permits were issued for recreational or educational activities in State forests (eight fewer than the previous year). Permits were issued in all regions: UNE (34) LNE (71) Southern (157) and Eden (3). 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 other casual visits or drives to forests. No data for the number of visits made to State forests were available for this reporting period.

Figure 2-5A: Permits issued for recreation/educational activities in State forests (all regions)



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

Recreation/tourism facilities

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

The total number of recreation/tourism facilities in State forests decreased slightly this year when compared with 2006–2007 figures. In addition, across the forest agreement regions 2986 ha of State forest was designated a ‘special value’ of tourism and recreation under the forest management zoning system in 2007–2008.

During the year, DECC upgraded visitor facilities in many parks, including Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, where \$312 000 was spent on a new play space, picnic facilities, parking and disabled access.

PWG Data discussion

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 this indicator was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. There was no SoP survey in the 2007–2008 reporting year. As a consequence, reporting on this indicator using SoP data for DECC estate did not occur during the reporting period.

In 2007–2008, a new search tool was added to the DECC website enabling people to search for parks by the type of facilities provided in those parks (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/Facilities.aspx).

During the year, DECC upgraded visitor facilities in many parks in the FA regions.

In the LNE FA region these upgrades included:

- Spending \$312 000 on new visitor facilities at Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, including a junior play space, new picnic facilities with barbecues and tables, and additional car park and bus parking facilities with disabled access (page 87, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).
- Constructing an \$80 000 amenities block in Copeland Tops State Conservation Area near Gloucester, to replace pit toilets. Future works planned include constructing a \$212 000 outdoor education gallery with a small interpretative area (page 87, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).
- Completing a major road upgrade and the Halls Peak Day Use and Camping Area, that will provide visitor access to, and accommodation in, a remote area of the park. At Tia Falls, a walking track upgrade to include disabled access was completed (page 87, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

In the Southern region an ongoing infrastructure program in Kosciuszko NP saw the completion of the Thredbo Valley multi-use track feasibility study, the completion of the planning and design stages of the Landers Falls Lookout construction, the upgrading of Cumberland Trail for public access, the upgrade of the Alpine Way Visitor Entry Station, the beginning of the re-routing of the Bicentennial National Trail in the Snowy Mountains Region (to increase safety for trail users), the construction of a toilet facility at

Rawson Pass, the construction of the Southern Cloud Lookout and interpretive signage near Tooma (in conjunction with Tumbarumba Shire), and the continuation of work on a variety of other projects including the Main Range Walking Track, rehabilitation of Rawson Pass, road works, bridge upgrades, securing water supplies, sludge storage facility construction, snow melt and rainwater collection, plantings and design works (pages 86–87, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

In the Eden region Bournda NP, Hobart Beach campground was upgraded. This \$80 000 two-year program involved relocating some campsites, constructing a new shelter shed, toilet and a school camping area. The upgrades have improved visitor comfort and privacy and ensured protection of Aboriginal sites (page 87, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Forests NSW

Forests NSW continues to provide data for the actual number of facilities available on its estate. In State forests in 2007–2008, there were a total of 128 recreation and tourism facilities (table 2-6A). The majority of which were within the LNE (69, an increase from 61 in 2006–2007) and Southern (32) regions. Overall there was a 4% decrease in the number of facilities across all forest agreement regions. The reduction was mainly in the Southern region where the number of facilities fell from 43 to 32. This is consistent with a strategy of focusing limited resources on prioritised recreational facilities within higher visitation areas.

Table 2-6A: Recreation/tourism facilities in State forests – all regions (2007–2008)

Recreational facilities provided	Region				Total
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	
Roadside rest area/picnic area	2	23	8	5	38
Forest drives (marked)	0	0	1	0	1
Forest walks (marked)	3	17	4	9	33
Lookouts	1	5	0	3	9
Camping areas	1	19	3	3	26
Camps/huts/cottages	1	5	2	12	20
Other	0	0	1	0	1
Total facilities	8	69	19	32	128

Source: Forests NSW data

In addition, across the forest agreement regions 2986 ha of State forest was designated a 'special value' of tourism and recreation under the forest management zoning system in 2007–2008. 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 when compared with 2006–2007 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 2007–2008, the estimate for total employment in forest sector decreased slightly (figure 2-6B). At the end of 2007–2008, employment by Forests NSW was estimated to be 511 and PWG 736, (or 1247 equivalent full-time (EFT) employees combined for Forests NSW and PWG).

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 contractors).

Estimated total direct and indirect employment in the forest sector, by Forests NSW, totalled 5493 EFT positions across all regions for 2007–2008 (Table 2-6A). Similarly with last year, the largest employment sector was primary processing, which made up 65% of its total employment across all forest agreement regions (figures 2-6B and 2-6C). Harvesting and haulage accounted for 14% of employment, growing and managing forests accounted for 9%, and apiary 4%.

Table 2-6B Estimated total direct and indirect employment in the forest sector, by Forests NSW. Figures show EFT positions across all regions for 2007–2008 and percentages by forest sector.

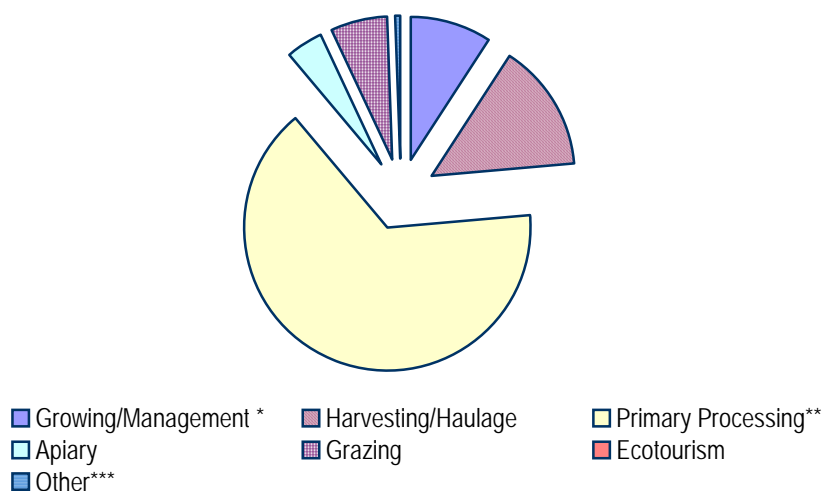
Forest sector	LNE	UNE	Eden	Southern	Totals	Percentage
Growing/managing*	132	115	73	171	511	9.30%
Harvesting/haulage	130	103	140	410	783	14.2%
Primary processing**	734	818	210	1831	3593	65.4%
Apiary	70	82	10	66	228	4.15%
Grazing	93	250	0	5	348	6.34%
Ecotourism	1	0	0	1	2	0.04%
Other***	21	7	0	0	28	0.51%
TOTAL	1 181	1 375	433	2504	5493	100.0%

Note: These figures are derived from the SEEDS database. Regional staff enter data for all categories except primary processing based on the Permits and Licence database. Primary processing figures are based on regionally sourced estimates.

A continuing trend in rationalising businesses was reflected in a further drop in employment numbers in the forest sector reported by Forests NSW. This drop was compounded by the affects of the drought conditions, which had proceeded this period over a large area. In addition the quality of the data

reported for some sectors was less than in previous years, with many figures based on estimates. This may also have contributed to a reduction in numbers recorded. The reduction is noticeable with apiary (dropped by 19), grazing (dropped by 32), harvesting/haulage (dropped from 861 to 783), primary processing (dropped from 3932 to 3593) and ecotourism (dropped from 29 to 2). Forests NSW staff numbers are reported to have fallen by one to 511.

Figure 2-6A: Forest sector employment (direct and indirect) – all regions (2007–2008)



* 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

DECC yearly data/information discussion

As of 30 June 2008, DECC’s Human Resources database listed 213 staff (including 43 casuals) 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, i.e. it is not restricted to the FA regions.

PWG direct employment

Table 2-6C and Figure 2-6B outline employment figures for PWG in each FA 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 from the 2006–2007 reporting period.

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

Region	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern
Staff employed	171	276	53	236

Source: PWG of DECC

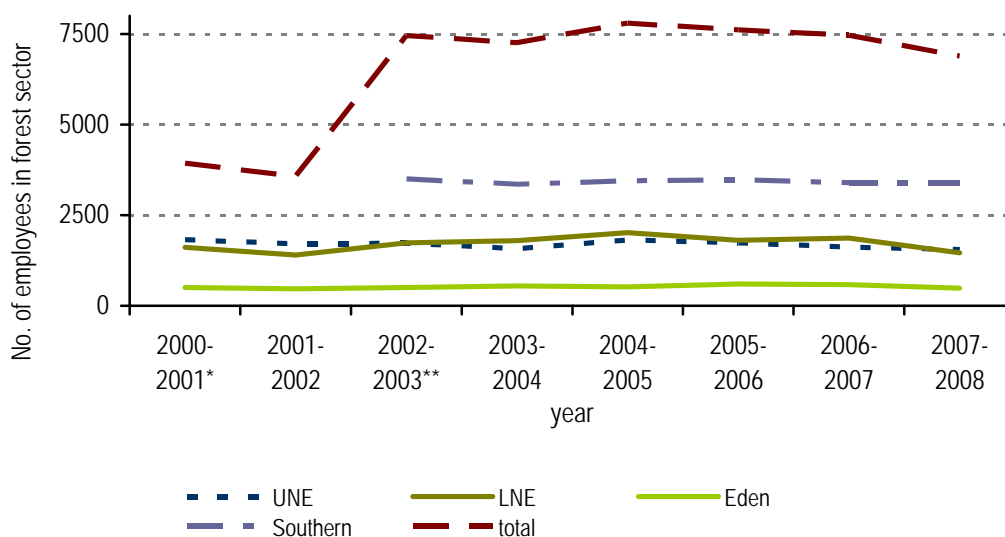
Reporting issues/opportunities, recommendations for an evaluation of the indicator and caveats by PWG

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

The proportion of each PWG field-based area that fell within an FA 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 used for the 2006–2007 and 2007–2008 years 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 FA regions, total employment figures included all permanent and temporary 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 decide 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 done by PWG. All staff from PWG Northern and Southern Branches, and relevant staff from PWG Central Branch, have been included whether they may or may not do forest-related tasks. Staff from the PWG Reserve and Wildlife Conservation Branch have only been included where able to be identified as doing 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 FA regions, but these are not easily identifiable and therefore have not been captured.

Figure 2-6B: Total PWG (direct) and Forests NSW (direct and indirect) regional employment – all regions (2007–2008)



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

Gross income

Indicator 6.5: Gross income index related to forests (Eden region)

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)

In 2007–2008, under the rock art conservation program, work in the LNE region included removing graffiti from rock art sites at Wollemi National Park and continuing rock art conservation training with DECC regional staff and Wonnarua Local Aboriginal Land Council members.

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.

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

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.

In general, during the 2007–2008 reporting year, DECC continued to support the management of cultural heritage in NSW parks by preparing an operational guide for DECC field staff. The guide will help staff to identify and manage Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage and will be completed in late 2008.

Also in 2007–2008, the Great Eastern Ranges Cultural Values Project was undertaken to explore ways in which NSW communities value landscapes that cover more than 2800 km of the NSW section of the

great eastern ranges, which are found within the UNE, LNE and Southern regions. The project provides an overview of the social, cultural and spiritual values of the great eastern ranges, and informs government agencies of ways in which they can engage with communities. The final report for the project will be completed in 2008–2009. For more information on the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, see Criterion 1 (page 92, Chapter 4: Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) is a database that contains detailed archaeological information on more than 55 000 recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW and more than 9000 Aboriginal heritage reports. It is used by government, industry and heritage professionals for land use planning, regulation and conservation management, and by local Aboriginal communities to help them manage, conserve and protect local sites and heritage. 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 December²¹ 2008, a total of 18 856 Aboriginal objects have been recorded off-park, with a further 5956 Aboriginal objects recorded on-park, across all regions (Table 2-6D). Figures 2-6C and 2-6D show numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded on and off the DECC estate – all regions (2007–2008). Overall there was an increase in the total number of Aboriginal objects, places and values recorded off-park, while the number of Aboriginal objects, places and values recorded on-park slightly decreased (compared with December 2007). Figure 2-6F shows numbers of historic cultural heritage objects recorded on parks for all regions.

The decrease in the number of Aboriginal items recorded on-park may be attributed to changes in the methodology for calculating the number of objects, rather than a change in the number of objects or places recorded per region. In addition, as the AHIMS database is constantly under review and subject to addition and subtraction of records, this may have contributed to the decrease in on-park sites within the regions.

Table 2-6D: Total numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded within the regions (current to December 2008)

Region (current to 2007)	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
Aboriginal objects recorded in region off-park*	1 947	9 781	997	6 131	18 856
Aboriginal objects recorded in region on-park	484	2 599	538	2 335	5 956

* This figure includes Aboriginal objects found on State Forests NSW

Source: PWG of DECC

Declaring an area as an Aboriginal Place is a way to formally recognise and protect Aboriginal people's cultural attachment to the land. In 2007–2008, guidelines and procedures for assessing Aboriginal Place nominations were reviewed to streamline the investigation process and expedite the declaration of Aboriginal Places.

At times, Aboriginal ancestral remains are uncovered by human, animal or environmental activity, causing distress to local Aboriginal communities. In 2007–2008, DECC worked closely with Aboriginal elders, traditional Aboriginal owners and Aboriginal communities on reburials. Projects included the

²¹ Data from the AHIMS database is current at the time the search was performed.

retrieval and reburial of ancestral remains uncovered in Bournda and Kosciuszko NPs. Reburial locations continue to be inspected to ensure these sites are secure.

The repatriation program enables ancestral remains to be returned to Country. In partnership with local Aboriginal communities, DECC continued to identify, rank and coordinate the return of ancestral remains, cultural materials and cultural information to Country (page 94, Chapter 4: Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Repatriation projects involving the Ngunnawal, Brungle/Tumut and Eden Local Aboriginal Land Councils of the Southern and Eden regions were conducted during 2007–2008.

The repatriation program in 2008–2009 will continue with planning for the return of approximately 104 remains held by the Australian Museum and Sydney University to local Aboriginal communities around Sydney and in southern NSW.

In 2007–2008, under the rock art conservation program, work in the LNE region included removing graffiti from rock art sites at Wollemi National Park and continuing rock art conservation training with DECC regional staff and Wonnaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council members (page 94, Chapter 4: Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

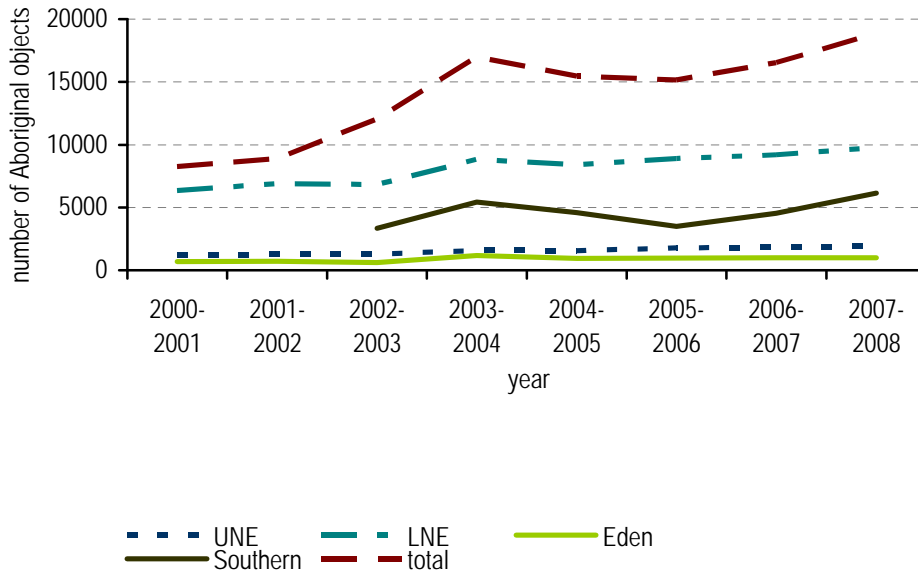
DECC's Aboriginal sites awareness training program was developed in 2007. Training was delivered to six government and non-government partners. Results showed improved understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage, increased knowledge of regulatory requirements, enhanced abilities in identifying and managing Aboriginal sites, and improved skills in working effectively with Aboriginal people (page 95, Chapter 4: Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

The Aboriginal sites decision support tool (ASDST) models the distribution of Aboriginal sites, including camp sites, rock art, and scarred trees. The information can be used to identify the preservation status of Aboriginal sites, their representation in existing conservation mechanisms and the context for conservation strategies prepared with Aboriginal communities. In 2007–2008, ASDST was used in initiatives such as the Great Eastern Ranges Cultural Values Project and regional assessments of the Cathedral Rock NP, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and Crown lands (page 100, Chapter 4: Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

The Pandanus People in South West Rocks carry out restoration projects such as removing weeds from, and planting trees and shrubs in, Arakoon SCA and Hat Head NP. In 2007–2008, they established a nursery for propagating native plants with DECC staff, and sold the plants to other planting programs to assist with the sustainability of the nursery (page 100, Chapter 4: Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

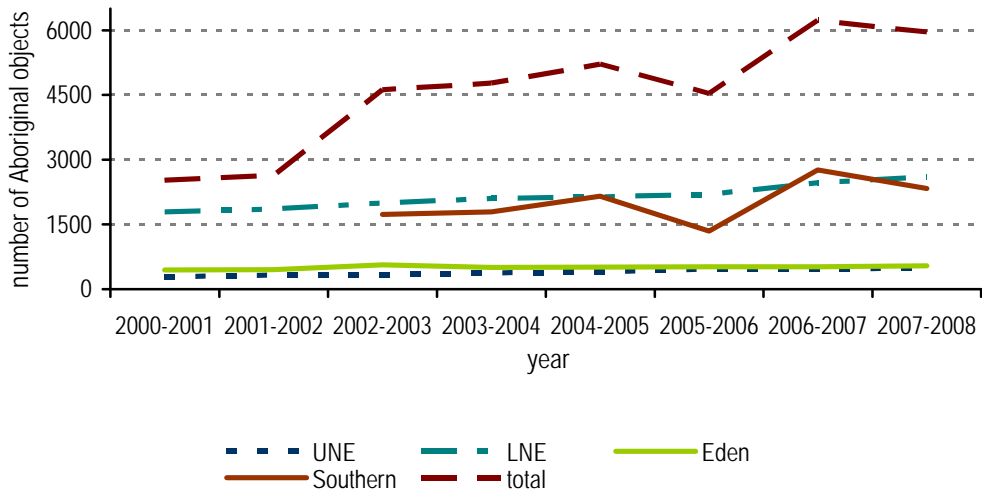
The Pambula River Cultural Landscape Project, which involves the Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and DECC, began in March 2008 and involves surveying all the midden sites and developing a management plan. The estimated completion date is the end of 2009 (page 100, Chapter 4: Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Figure 2-6C: Numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded off the DECC estate – all regions (2007–2008)



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

Figure 2-6D: Numbers of Aboriginal objects recorded on the DECC estate – all regions (2007–2008)



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

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 DECC 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.

Forests NSW contributes to the AHIMS, which records Aboriginal sites found (Table 2-6D). In 2007–2008, Forests NSW did not report on the number of additional aboriginal sites identified in State forests. No sites of Aboriginal significance were reported as destroyed²² during 2007–2008.

DECC historic (non-Indigenous) cultural heritage

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

A total of 6 326 historic items and places was recorded on-park across all of the regions (Table 2-6E and Figure 2-6E). There has been an increase in the total number of historic places recorded across all the regions since 2007²³, when 4813 sites were recorded.

Table 2-6E: Total numbers of historic places recorded in national parks and reserves within the regions (current to June 2008)

Number of historic places recorded on-park	Region				
	UNE	LNE	Eden	Southern	Total
	771	1950	276	2344	6326

Source: PWG of DECC

DECC has one of the largest holdings of historic heritage sites in NSW. Each year, DECC manages major planning, works and maintenance projects to ensure that significant heritage is conserved. In 2007–2008, the Heritage Assets Maintenance Program (HAMP) allocated over \$2.06 million to 58 projects at 40 locations (not just in FA regions), comprising 20 heritage planning projects and 36 heritage works projects.

These projects included:

- A significant upgrade of the East Kunderang Homestead (located within the LNE region), which was completed in April 2008. The renovations included two refurbished bathrooms, a separate toilet, kitchen/dining renovations (\$142 000) and a water supply upgrade (\$10 000). The building is still available for visitor accommodation.
- The upgrade and refurbishment of Karamea Homestead on the banks of Barnard River in the LNE region, which was completed in June 2008 at a cost of \$290 000. The homestead is available for visitor accommodation.
- The completion of the reconstruction of the original lock-up (circa 1892) at the police station precinct in Dalmorton village in Guy Fawkes River SCA in the UNE region. This project, costing \$50 000, included replacing bearers and walls using recycled tallowood.

²² The destruction of sites requires licence approval from DECC and consultation with the relevant local Aboriginal land council.

²³ Current to December 2007.

The following major heritage management plans relevant to the LNE region were endorsed under the *Heritage Act 1977* during the 2007–2008 reporting period:

- An archaeological landscape management plan for Lake Innes Historic Site, endorsed in October 2007.
- A conservation management plan for the Old Great North Road, endorsed in December 2007. This site was submitted to the Commonwealth Government to form part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage nomination.

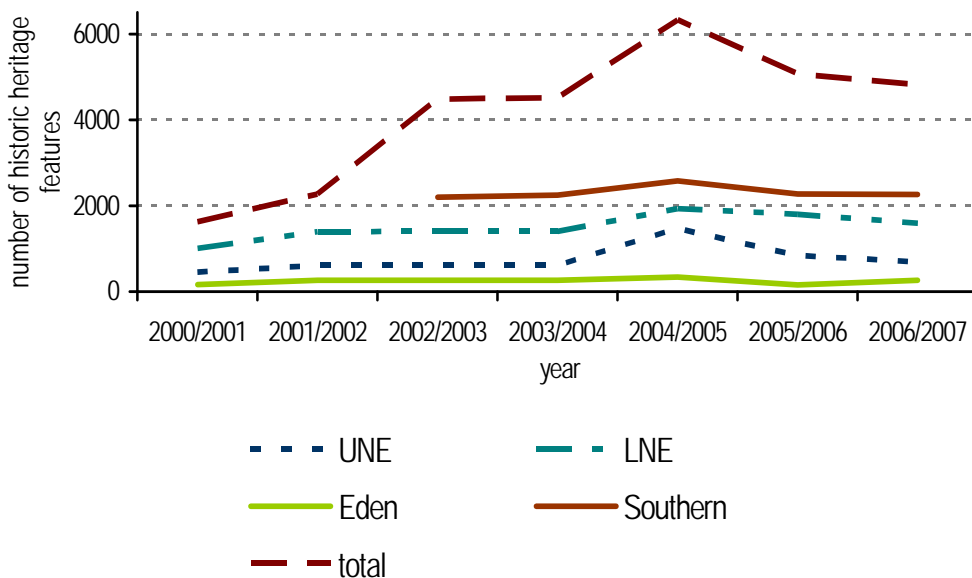
The Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS) contains information on over 9 000 historic heritage sites (with around two thirds of these being located in FA regions), moveable heritage collections, reports and DECC's statutory permit delegations under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

HHIMS data is being used to assist in the spread and mapping of DECC assets through the Asset Management System (AMS). Data matching between HHIMS and the AMS is under way across the state.

DECC data/information sources, references, further reading

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 this indicator was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. A SoP survey did not occur in the 2007–2008 reporting year.

Figure 2-6E: Numbers of historic cultural heritage objects recorded on parks – all regions



Source: PWG data (HHIMS). Compiled by RACU

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 3366 ha, with a further 28 708 ha zoned mainly for aesthetic value.

Criterion 7 – Legal, institutional and economic frameworks

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 statewide 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

In the 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 reporting years the SoP qualitative survey data were introduced as the main 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 SoP qualitative survey is not available for reporting in the 2007–2008 reporting year.

Additions and changes to legal framework

Legislation

The extent to which the legal frameworks in PWG provide for aspects of ecologically sustainable forest management has not changed from the previous reporting period.

The table in Appendix 4 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 Appendix 7, page 195 of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

New and amending regulations reported on by DECC but not necessarily administered by PWG that may support the conservation and sustainable management of forests include:

- *Native Vegetation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2008*
- *Native Vegetation Amendment (Private Native Forestry) Regulation 2007*
- *Native Vegetation Amendment (Private Native Forestry – Transitional) Regulation 2007*

Management policies, guidelines and codes of practice

The PR Act and Code provide a framework for sustainable plantation establishment and operation. The environmental standards included in the Code relate to aspects that include soil and water and Aboriginal sites and relics. Biodiversity is protected by the requirement to retain certain native vegetation and manage it for biodiversity outcomes.

The PR Act and Code provide certainty for harvesting, which was previously provided under the *Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995*. Plantations certified under the Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act are deemed to be authorised under the Plantations and Reafforestation Act.

A statutory review of the Act and Code started in January 2005. As required, a report to Parliament on the outcomes of the review was filed in December 2005. During 2006 and 2007 inter-agency working groups developed amendments to the Act and Code based on the recommendations in the report. An Industry Reference Group was consulted on the proposed amendments. It is intended to place the proposed amendments on public exhibition, providing an opportunity for comment by the broader community. An Amendment Bill will then be introduced into Parliament.

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 (see tables in the 2006–2007 Annual Report).

Forests NSW and PWG also considered whether the existing legal framework provided for best practice for a number of forest activities. 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 and 2006–2007 reporting years, management policies are reported on under Criterion 7.2. This is to align reporting with the national *State of the Forests 2008* reporting requirements.

Legal framework and Aboriginal interests

The extent to which facets of Indigenous participation in ecologically sustainable forest management is provided for in the legal frameworks for nature conservation reserves in NSW has not changed from the previous reporting period.

As at 30 June 2008, co-management arrangements in the regions included:

In the UNE region:

- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with the Bundjalung people of Byron Bay (Arakwal) for Arakwal NP and a proposed Ti Tree Lake Aboriginal Area near Cape Byron; and with the Githabul people for ten parks in the Kyogle area. (DECC *Annual Report 2007–08*).
- In November 2007, the Federal Court recognised the Githabul people's native title rights to over 112 000 ha of public lands, including DECC estate and state forests in the Kyogle, Woodenbong and Tenterfield areas of NSW. This is the largest determination of native title in NSW, and means the Githabul people are legally entitled to access and camp in the areas; fish, hunt and gather animal and plant resources for personal use; take and use water for personal use; access the area for spiritual purposes and access sites of spiritual significance; and protect places of importance from physical harm. The rights are non-exclusive, meaning that the wider community will still be able to access these areas.
- In the UNE, 30 782 ha of State forest tenure was recognised with Native Title with the Githabul people, and Forests NSW entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with Aboriginal people over a total of 53 279 ha of land. Under the agreement, 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. The Githabul NPs Management Committee, whose role is to advise DECC on the care, control and management of the 10 parks, was appointed in November 2007.

- The Githabul People's non-exclusive native title rights and interests have been recognised in nine national parks and 13 state forests in northern New South Wales. The parks are: Border Ranges National Park, Captains Creek Nature Reserve, Koreelah National Park, Mount Clunie National Park, Mount Nothofagus National Park, part of Richmond Range National Park, Tooloom National Park, Toonumbar National Park and Yabbra National Park. The State forests are: Bald Knob, Beaury, Bookookoorara, Donaldson, Edinburgh Castle, Koreelah, Mount Lindesay, Richmond Range, South Toonumbar, Toonumbar, Unumgar, Woodenbong, and Yabbra State Forest.
- Non-exclusive rights were also recognised over the Dairy Flat Travelling Stock Reserve through agreement with the Casino Rural Lands Protection Board.

In the LNE region:

- Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed for parks in the Central Coast–Hunter Range Region.
- DECC is also working with the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council to cooperatively manage lands at Seal Rocks.
- The Worimi Board of Management met for the first time in March 2008. The board, with a majority of Worimi registered Aboriginal owners, has the care, control and management of Worimi NP, Worimi RP and Worimi SCA.

In the Southern and Eden regions:

- The Biamanga Board of Management, which is responsible for the care, control and management of Biamanga NP, and the Gulaga Board of Management, which is responsible for the care, control and management of Gulaga NP, met for the first time in August 2007. The members of both Boards are mainly Yuin registered Aboriginal owners.

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 the level of Aboriginal community consultation and input into decision making for Parks in each FA was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. A SoP survey did not take place in the 2007–2008 reporting year so this data is not available.

Public participation

Public participation in the extent to which the legal frameworks provide for aspects of ecologically sustainable forest management (of nature conservation reserves) has not changed from the previous reporting period for either DECC or Forests NSW estate.

DECC

Participation in the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees is described in the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08* – Chapter 4, Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands (page 88) and Appendix 5: Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees (pages 134–139). During the 2007–2008 reporting period, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council (the Council) considered and made recommendations on 24 draft plans of management covering 33 parks. Significant plans reviewed included those for Jenolan KCR and Conjola NP in the Southern region and Guy Fawkes River NP, NR and SCA in the UNE region.

The Council also provided comment on climate change, carbon trading, the Commercial Tour Operators Review and the proposal to add up to 520 beds to existing leaseholders' properties in Perisher Valley, Kosciuszko NP in the Southern region.

Participation in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee is described in the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08* – Chapter 4, Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management (page 98) and Appendix 5: Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees (page 134). Increasing Aboriginal participation in reserve management is described in the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08* – Chapter 4, Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management (page 98–100).

Some other initiatives DECC made in 2007–2008 to facilitate Aboriginal participation included (information obtained from page 110 of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*, Chapter 2: Internal and external connections):

- developing an Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework to ensure that DECC's policies and programs affecting Aboriginal communities are developed in an environment of positive Aboriginal community engagement
- holding an Aboriginal Co-management Conference, which included representatives from all Aboriginal co-management committees
- launching LandAlive (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/landalive), funded by the Environmental Trust, which seeks to work with Aboriginal landowners, including Local Aboriginal Land Councils, to help them consider options for managing their lands, including the BioBanking Scheme.

The community participates in policy formulation through the various consultative bodies described elsewhere in this annual report. DECC also seeks public submissions when developing and reviewing policies, plans and programs. DECC's website regularly features calls for public comment and describes how to make submissions on its proposals.

Additional information in relation to public participation in the management of the reserve system during 2007–2008 can be found by referring to Appendix 5: Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees (pages 183–192) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

Forests NSW

Forests NSW staff attended 176 forums relating to cultural management with FA areas. Specific figures on public participation in forums are contained within Table 2-7A:

Data/information sources, references, further reading

Information was sourced from the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

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

Appendix 4 lists the responsibilities of the PWG of DECC for forests and major non-legislative policies of relevance to the group. The policies listed are major publicly available policies that are specifically relevant to reserve management. Policies for information technology, human resources, occupational health and safety, or finance management, have not been included in the list, except where they specifically relate to park management (e.g. safety issues associated with using aircraft in park management).

The extent to which the non-legislative policy frameworks in PWG provide for aspects of ecologically sustainable forest management has not changed from the previous reporting period.

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. During 2007–2008, ESFM plans were finalised for all Non Forest Agreement areas as well as Planted Forest Operations Branch Regions. The ten key strategy areas of Forests NSW ESFM plans are described in the 2006–2007 Annual Implementation Report. These are natural heritage, Aboriginal cultural heritage, non-Aboriginal cultural heritage, nature conservation, forest health, sustainable timber supply, economic development, social development, forestry operations, and consultation, monitoring and reporting.

DECC public education and awareness

In 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 this indicator was reported on for all regions using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. A SoP survey did not take place in the 2007–2008 reporting year.

The Discovery program and volunteer programs are a couple of ways in which PWG seeks to raise public education and awareness. More information on these can be found under the relevant headings below.

The Healthy Parks Healthy People program also continued in 2007–2008. This program promotes the physical, social and mental health benefits of spending time in parks and reserves. Contact with nature and recreation in national parks can reduce the stresses of living in an urban environment and enhance community cohesion, health and wellbeing. During 2007–2008, DECC promoted the Healthy Parks Healthy People program in its free visitor guides and on the website (*DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

In April, DECC participated in NSW Seniors Week, a statewide community event that celebrated its 50th year in 2008. DECC offered a free entry day to national parks to NSW Seniors Cardholders on 9 April and hosted a range of events for seniors throughout the week (*DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

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 2007–2008, considerable consultation with stakeholders occurs through various forums (Table 2-7A) and for specific purposes. A number of programs took place during the year aimed at addressing issues associated with recreational use of the forests for different purposes, while continuing to provide a great venue for recreational uses as responsible off-road riding.

Table 2-7A: Forests NSW records of the number of forums attended by Forests NSW staff as an indicator of public participation in Forests NSW ESFM (2007–2008).

Community forum categories	UNE	LNE	STH	Eden
Catchment management	12	1	4	4
Community bushfire management	24	66	40	18
Community / school / education	5	4	22	4
Conservation / environmental	2	0	2	2
Cultural management	100	70	4	2
Feral animals / noxious weed control	0	19	16	7
Flora and fauna management	12	0	4	0
Forestry / forest practices	11	3	2	11
Industry / stakeholders	5	8	24	8
Local emergency management	5	0	4	0
Local government	5	7	9	0
Other	0	0	2	1
Recreation / tourism	2	5	4	0
Regional planning / RFA	5	1	3	1
Total	188	184	140	58

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 Technical and Further Education NSW (TAFE NSW) 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 resource packs for teachers, and offer education publications for sale. Forests NSW hosts a kids' and schools' website 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* (NPW Act), the *Wilderness Act 1987*, TSC Act, *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 parks.

The Discovery program continues to attract more participants across the state. In 2007–2008, more than 177 135 people attended a guided activity during the year, which is an increase of more than 9000 participants from the previous year, mostly in the Discovery for Schools program (page 84, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*). Page 83 of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08* (Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves) reports that approximately 80 000 students took part in cultural and environmental educational activities through this program during the reporting period.

The level of satisfaction of surveyed participants in Discovery programs remains high at 97%, demonstrating that the program remains engaging and enjoyable.

During the year, DECC also developed Discovery partnerships with other government agencies and environmental education providers, including city councils, catchment management authorities, environmental education centres, local tourism agencies, universities and Aboriginal corporations, to combine resources and coordinate the delivery of programs.

Volunteers

DECC

For information in relation to volunteers and the results achieved for the projects that were undertaken during 2007–2008 refer to page 83, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

In 2007–2008, DECC continued its partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia. Volunteers contributed more than 570 volunteer days in parks to plant 760 plants, weed 23.6 ha of land and repair or construct 16.8 km of walking track. They also spent 15 days monitoring and surveying.

Examples of volunteer projects in 2007–2008 include:

- In the LNE region, volunteer bushcare groups on the north coast removed weeds in Bouddi and Brisbane Water NPs and Wambina, Wamberal Lagoon, Cockle Bay and Rileys Island NRs.
- Also in the LNE region, 80 students from Minmi Public School planted 800 plants in Blue Gum Hills RP and painted three totems with themes reminiscent of the area's mining heritage.

In the Southern region, the Friends of Bundanoon completed track work in the Bundanoon area of Morton NP and conducted a threatened bird survey in Barren Grounds NR. The group of ten volunteers put in nearly 500 hours of work over the year. One volunteer won a Seniors Week Achievement Award in 2008 for her contribution as a long-term volunteer.

In 2008, DECC recognised the valuable contribution of volunteers by investing additional resources in volunteering and continuing its review of volunteering.

A DECC officer was seconded to work in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Volunteering Unit. DECC appointed a Volunteer Coordinator to facilitate the state-wide implementation of volunteer programs in parks, and commissioned outside organisations to undertake an economic evaluation of volunteer programs and review volunteering activities, including the safety of volunteers (page 83, Chapter 4: Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

Forests NSW

Forests NSW recognises the invaluable role of community staff volunteers who donate their time and efforts to assisting Forests NSW in undertaking various activities, particularly at Cumberland and Strickland State forests, both of which are outside FA boundaries and therefore not reported here. The table 2-7B shows volunteer activity across Forests NSW regions (the data have not been compiled for FA regions). As a Public Trading Enterprise Forests NSW sponsored, donated or waived fees in relation to a sum of \$122 375 during the reporting period.

Table 2-7B: Volunteers and volunteer work at within selected Forests NSW regions (2007–2008).

Category	Numbers	Central Region	Hume Region	Monaro Region
		LNE	Southern	Southern
Community volunteering	Days	0	2	45
	Days	0	12	60
	Programs	0	2	2
Staff volunteering	Days	12	2	0
	Participants	6	6	0
	Programs	3	2	0
Grand Total		21	26	107

* Volunteers across Forests NSW regions not FA regions.

Source: Forests NSW data

Electronic services delivery

DECC

In February 2008, DECC finished integrating many separate websites into a new integrated site that includes climate change and natural resource information. An important feature of the new site will be the content management system that will be available to staff in branches and regions so they can directly change and update content. This will help ensure that the website is current and will improve efficiency.

DECC has many staff located outside metropolitan areas. The internal intranet site, known as DECCnet, is an important way to communicate with staff and provide them with tools and resources to do their work. With the formation of DECC, development work was undertaken in 2007–2008 to start creating a new integrated site for all staff. This work will be a priority for completion in 2008–2009. It will benefit from using the same technology employed on the DECC website (page 109, Chapter 2: Internal and external connections, *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*).

For additional information relevant to this indicator refer to Appendix 10 (pages 211–213) Statement of Affairs of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*. This information is specifically in relation to DECC's statement of affairs, which is a requirement under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

During 2007–2008 DECC published a number of documents in a number of formats, including print and online. For a comprehensive list of these publications refer to Appendix 14 (pages 221–233), Publications and Appendix 15 (pages 234–242), Papers published and presented in the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

Forests NSW

Forests NSW publications are available from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Forests NSW.

DECC park management framework and planning, assessment and policy review

An environmental management system for park management is being delivered through the Park Management Program (PMP). The PMP is intended to cover all areas of Parks and Wildlife Division (PWD) operations on park and to provide the tools to make better decisions and improve coordination across DECC to make it easier for staff to access information to guide park management decisions and allow for adaptive management.

Many of the components of the Park Management Framework are already in place. They include, for example, the Plan of Management Manual (2003) and Fire Management Manuals, which are regularly updated.

Achievements in 2007–2008 included:

- The Park Management Policy Manual is a single electronic document that provides summaries and links to all relevant documents (DECC and others) related to park management. It is regularly updated to ensure accurate information is available to staff. During 2007–2008, the Park Management Policy Manual became an active online resource available to staff through the department's intranet.
- The Park Operating Procedures Manual is the companion document to the Park Management Policy Manual. Its purpose is to provide consistent and high quality procedural guidance to staff. It achieves this by serving as a central node that brings together adopted DECC procedural documents as well as documents from other sources that may provide useful advice on procedural best practice. The Park Operating Procedures Manual was drafted during 2007–2008 with the intent to finalise and release the document in late 2008.
- The Park Facilities Manual provides a set of planning and design guidelines that implement excellence in sustainable management of visitor facilities. It is helping to ensure facilities across NSW parks are increasingly standardised. The manual provides a coordinated set of standards

applicable to parks across NSW, and developed from principles established and trialled under the Guidelines for Park Facilities (1985) and the Northern Branch Draft Facilities Manual (2004). The Park Facilities Manual was released in December 2007.

- 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. This system is a major information source for determining long-term asset strategies and assist in determining DECC's on-going minor works requirements. The AMS has been under development for a number of years. In 2006 it was reviewed with a view to addressing issues raised in field trials and allow the system to be linked to the PMP. The AMS was distributed for application across parks in NSW in 2008.
- PWG plans at a range of scales to achieve its management objectives. A Park Planning Guide is planned for development under the PMP to structure these plans under an agreed planning hierarchy and ensure consistency and accuracy. This component is under development and to date most emphasis has involved the development of specific planning capabilities at different scales.
- DECC has also developed Branch Visitor Management Plans (BVMP) as a key action under *Living Parks – Sustainable Visitation Strategy* (2006). BVMPs identify initiatives that will enhance visitor opportunities and regional tourism in the short to medium term. These plans are being finalised and will be distributed in late 2008.

Forests NSW management framework and planning, assessment and policy review

During 2007–2008, Forests NSW maintained an Environmental Management System (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. Criteria 1 requires that an Environmental Management System be in place. Forests NSW meets this first criteria through compliance with ISO 14001:2004. Details on how Forests NSW meets the remaining criteria can be found by navigating to the Forest Management Certification page on: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

DECC park management planning

Information on achievements within the Park Management Planning program in 2007–2008 can be found by referring to the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*, specifically:

- pages 75–79 Chapter 4: Improve the condition of natural resources
- pages 89–90 Chapter 4: Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation
- pages 91–92 Chapter 4: Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands.

Forests NSW management planning

Indicators and further information on the implementation of Forests NSW ESFM plans at a corporate level are provided in the *SEEing Report 2007–2008. Social Environmental and Economic Report*, published by Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW.

DECC conservation compliance audit

The following conservation compliance audits (relevant to the FA regions) were part of the 2007–2008 Plan of Management Self Audit Program. (The date in parentheses is the year of adoption.)

- Cathedral Rock NP (2002) (LNE and UNE)
- Demon NR (1999) (UNE)
- Lake Innes NR (1999) (LNE)
- Lion Island NR and Spectacle Island NR (plan also covers Ku-ring-gai Chase NP and Long Island NR, which are located outside the FA regions) (2002) (LNE)
- Minjary NP (2004) (Southern)
- Munmorah SCA (plan also covers Bird Island NR which is located outside the FA regions) (2005) (LNE)
- Murramarang NP (plan Also covers Belowla Island NR, Brush Island NR and Tollgate Islands NR, which are located outside the FA regions) (1997) (Southern)
- Nadgee NR (2003) (Eden)
- Towarri NP, Cedar Brush NR and Wingen Maid NR (2004) (LNE)
- Tweed Heads Historic Site and Ukerabagh NR (1999) (UNE)
- Yuraygir NP and Yuraygir SCA (2003) (UNE).

Plantations authorised under the PR Act

DPI Departmental officers carry out audits of authorised plantations based on the provisions of the Plantations Code and any conditions attached to the authorisation. Officers have received formal training in environmental auditing and hold recognised audit qualifications.

The Act contains enforcement provisions. To date no enforcement action has been taken. However, many corrective action requests have been issued as a result of audits, sometimes at significant cost to the plantation owner. DPI will soon have the capacity to issue penalty infringement notices for relevant offences under either the Act or Code.

Regional plantation officers provide information and extension services when making site inspections. This advice is aimed at ensuring compliance with the Plantations Code, rather than at sustainable forest management.

Forests NSW program of environmental audits

During 2007–2008 Forests NSW was audited against the Australian Forestry Standard {AS 4708 (Int)–2003} and against the environmental management system standard ISO 14001:2004. Summary reports for AFS audits are available on request from Forests NSW.

In addition to the external voluntary and mandatory 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 Native Forest Management System (NFMS) overview, which was displayed for public comment in September 2000. However, the NFMS has now evolved into an Environmental Management System (EMS) to

cover all forest operations, i.e. includes planted forests and areas west of the divide that are not part of any FAs. One of the cornerstones of the Forests NSW EMS is its four-tiered audit system.

All forestry operations are audited consistent with 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, firstly to confirm the field supervisors are implementing T1, and secondly to assess the supervisor's application of specifications. There is following 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 by the Management Audit and Review Branch that 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 statutory requirements such as *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 system (NCIR). The incidents are recorded throughout all tiers. NCIRs are monitored at a regional and corporate level to ensure each issue is resolved and 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 nine months. Regulating authorities also carry out regular audits to check on compliance associated with the IFOA as discussed in the next section of this milestone. During 2007–2008, Forests NSW was audited on two occasions against the Australian Forestry Standard {AS 4708 (Int)–2003} and twice against the environmental management system standard ISO 14001:2004. 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. The auditors also visited the corporate offices in Cumberland State forest during each audit.

Non-compliance issues that are identified in audit processes are rectified as appropriate and management systems improved to minimise future occurrences. Depending on the type of breaches, and the frequency, contractors are disciplined. The penalty is based on the severity of the breach ranging from warning letters, Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs), suspension to termination. Contractors and operators are trained on all aspects of the operations to minimise compliance issues.

Results of both internal and external regulators' auditing are contained in milestone 31. Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) audit outcomes are available on request.

Reporting

Forests NSW continues to publicly report at a statewide 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 timeframes 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

DECC

Reporting on the number of staff directly employed within the reporting area, categories of training and numbers trained in each category is not possible in detail for DECC in the 2007–2008 reporting year.

Updated figures to June 2008 on employees by classification for DECC staff, the location of staff (Regional or Metropolitan) is provided in Appendix 6 (pages 193–194) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*. Information on the DECC Learning and Development Framework, Aboriginal Cadetship Program, Fire Management Training and other staff training and development programs is provided in pages 115–118 (in Chapter 5: Skilled people and smart systems) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

Forests NSW

Forests NSW has published information for staff training and development, as well as number of staff directly employed by Forests NSW in the Forests NSW *SEEing Report 2007–2008. Social Environmental and Economic Report*. Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW. However, reporting on the categories of training and numbers trained in each category for each of the Forest Agreement areas is not possible for Forests NSW, as reporting boundaries do not match Forest Agreement boundaries.

Forestry regulation

Information on native vegetation compliance and enforcement activities for the 2007–2008 reporting period is provided on page 65 (Chapter 4: Improve the condition of natural resources) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

Information on the compliance of Forests NSW with the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) Threatened Species and Environment Protection Licences for the 2007–2008 reporting period is contained within Chapter 3 of this report.

Enforcement of laws, regulations and guidelines

This indicator was reported on for all regions in 2004–2005 and 2006–2007 using data from the SoP qualitative assessment so as to align the two reporting processes. A SoP survey did not take place in 2007–2008 and no other data was collated for this indicator relevant to PWG lands. As a consequence, reporting on this indicator for DECC estate did not occur during the reporting period.

Prosecutions and infringements

The details of prosecutions completed under conservation legislation (for native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage), the proportion that were successful and the resulting value of fines awarded in the 2007–2008 reporting period are provided on pages 64–65 (Chapter 4: Improve the condition of natural resources) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*. Pages 200–202 (Appendix 8: Infringements and prosecutions) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08* list infringements and prosecutions under parks, wildlife threatened species, Aboriginal heritage and native vegetation legislation completed during the 2007–2008 reporting period.

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 SoP 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 SoP program is the largest and most comprehensive of its type in the world. The information is used to assist in operational planning within parks, as well as assisting a variety of reporting needs. SoP was implemented in early 2004 with the first public report released in 2005. Further review, refinement and system development has taken place since then. Subsequent assessments were made in 2005 and September 2007.

Auditing of plantations under the PR Act by plantation officers does not aim to monitor changes in the conservation and sustainable management of forests — only auditing against the Plantations Code.

Forests NSW uses a number of tools and systems to monitor conservation and sustainable management of forests. FRAMES is a statewide (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.

As stated in the previous report, 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)* (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.

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.

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

DECC

As in previous years, PWG continues to take part in specific local project-based research, as well as supporting the work of other divisions, agencies and institutions in this area, but does not have a primary responsibility for research within DECC. It is therefore not possible to identify forest-related research that may be take place.

Details of DECC's involvement during the 2007–2008 reporting period with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Strategy and specific research projects that may be relevant to the ESFM Criteria and Indicators can be found by referring to:

- pages 63–66 (Chapter 4: Improve the condition of natural resources)
- pages 75–80 (Chapter 4: Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*
- a list of 2007–2008 DECC publications can be found on pages 221–233 (Appendix 14: Publications) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*
- DECC papers that were published and presented in 2007–2008 are listed on pages 234–242 (Appendix 15: Papers published and presented) of the *DECC Annual Report 2007–08*.

Forests NSW

Progress on Forests NSW research and development aimed at improving forest management and delivery of forest goods and services can be found in the Science and Research and Forests NSW *Research and Development Annual Report 2007–08*:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications/forest-research-ar2

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 policies, and the most recent Summary of Affairs, can be found on the Forests NSW website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests).

Code of Practice for Private Native Forestry

The NSW Government introduced the Private Native Forestry (PNF) Code of Practice (the Code) on 1 August 2007 under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. The Code of Practice requires that private forestry operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes. Previously, forestry on private land was largely unregulated, often resulting in poor silviculture and poor environmental outcomes. The Code establishes sustainable practices as the new norm for all private native forestry operations.

3 Compliance with integrated forestry operations approvals

Introduction

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

Amendment Number 4 to the IFOA for the Upper North East Region was granted on 22 November 2007 and includes amendments to the terms of the licence under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. New conditions for the protection of Hastings River Mouse (HRM) have been inserted into the Threatened Species Licence for 31 compartments within six State forests. The new conditions identify areas of land that are to be set aside as ‘exclusion zones’ (where logging is prohibited) for the protection of the species in the listed compartments and removes the requirement for pre-logging and pre-roading surveys in relation to HRM. They operate for a period of two years during which time the original conditions for the species concerned are suspended, while management of the species is considered.

Additionally consequential amendments were made to the ‘non-licence’ terms.

Environment Protection Licence and Threatened Species Licence

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 chief 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 its 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 compliance with licence conditions and other relevant legislative requirements, DECC has developed an active audit program of Forests NSW 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 licence conditions 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.

Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, DECC made 12 audits of Forests NSW pre-operational planning and operations in forest regions covered by an IFOA. As a result of these audits Forests NSW was issued with four penalty notices, three clean-up notice and 12 warning letters, required to carry out remedial work at 28 sites, and seek expert soil conservation advice for eight sites.

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

Upper North East (UNE) region

In the UNE region, EPL coverage applied to 31 separate forestry operations, there were 124 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage and TSL applied to 155 forestry operations. DECC made two proactive audits, and two reactive audit as a result of community complaints.

The audits identified a total of 139 non-compliances with licence conditions, 122 non-compliances related to the EPL requirements and included:

- failure to mark roads on maps
- insufficient soil stabilisation measures
- waste left at logging sites
- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures
- administration errors, for example incorrect or incomplete planning documents.

DECC identified 17 non-compliances with TSL conditions, including:

- insufficient pre-logging and pre-roading surveys for threatened species
- failure to prepare sufficient pre-logging and pre-roading reports
- damaged recruitment and 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 remedial work be carried out at twelve locations.

Lower North East (LNE) region

In the LNE region DECC made four audits. EPL applied to 25 forestry operations, there were 208 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage and TSL applied to 233 forestry operations.

The audits identified 88 non-compliances of EPL best practice conditions including:

- water flow issues with road drainage
- waste left at logging sites
- trees felled within protection zone
- incorrect marking up drainage lines and filter strips
- a culvert pipe blockage
- repeated instances of administration errors, for example incorrect or incomplete planning documents
- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures including drainage feature crossings and road drainage structures.

DECC identified 41 non-compliances against TSL, which included:

- no/insufficient submission of TSL non-compliances
- harvesting machinery entering area of rainforest
- insufficient retention of Riparian Habitat Protection Zones
- damaged recruitment and habitat trees
- insufficient or incomplete surveys for threatened species.

As a result of these 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 carry out remedial work at 10 sites and seek expert soil conservation advice on four occasions. DECC issued Forests NSW with two clean-up notices and two penalty notices for audits made between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007.

Forests NSW was also required to make one engineering assessment for LNE region.

Southern region (South Coast sub-region)

EPL coverage applied to 63 Forests NSW operations in the Southern region, there were 14 operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage and TSL applied to 77 forestry operations.

DECC made two proactive audits of Forests NSW operational and planning activities, and one reactive audit as a result of community complaints. These audits identified 52 non-compliances with the EPL including:

- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures, including snig track and extraction track drainage structures, as well as drainage feature crossings and road drainage structures
- insufficient soil stabilisation measures
- repeated instances of administration errors, for example incorrect or incomplete planning documents.

DECC identified 108 non-compliances with TSL:

- incorrect or insufficient pre-logging and pre-roading surveys for threatened species including insufficient targeted survey planning and operation
- insufficient exclusion of forestry activities from areas of rainforest
- insufficient implementation of exclusion zones for streams and ridge and headwater habitat
- debris accumulated around tree.

As a result of this audit, DECC provided feedback and sent three warning letters to Forests NSW regarding non-compliance with licence conditions. Forests NSW was required to carry out remedial work at six sites and seek expert soil conservation advice on two occasions.

A clean-up notice was also issued as well as a non-compliance for section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

Tumut sub-region

EPL applied to 22 forestry operations and TSL applied to 23 forestry operations in the Tumut sub-region. There was one operation where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage. DECC made no audits and received no community complaints.

Eden region

EPL applied to 104 forestry operations and TSL applied to 104 forestry operations in the Eden region. There were no operations where harvesting occurred without EPL coverage.

DECC undertook three audits within the region and identified a total of 108 non-compliances with licence conditions. Of these, 49 non-compliances were with EPL and included:

- machinery entering filter strips
- insufficient maintenance of existing log dams or gully stuffers
- insufficient soil stabilisation measures
- waste left at logging sites
- incorrect or insufficient drainage structures

- repeated instances of administration errors, for example incorrect or incomplete planning documents
- failure to comply with section 120 of the *Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997*.

DECC identified 51 non-compliances with the TSL, which included:

- no/insufficient submission of TSL non-compliances
- harvesting machinery entering stream exclusion zone
- insufficient wetland protection
- insufficient pre-logging and pre-roading surveys for threatened species
- damaged recruitment and habitat trees;

DECC received two community complaints.

As a result of these audits, DECC provided feedback to Forests NSW and issued three warning letters about non-compliance with EPL and TSL. Forests NSW was required by DECC to carry out remedial work at four sites and seek expert soil conservation advice at two sites.

Fisheries licences

DPI–Fisheries did not report any breaches of Fisheries Licences in any region during 2007–2008.

Non-licence terms

DECC oversees the implementation of, and investigates complaints in relation to, non-licence terms²⁴ 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 2007–2008 and included those made in relation to:

- publicly available documents
- annual logging reports
- regeneration assessments
- clause 21 – principal purpose
- harvest planning
- enforcement
- timber volumes.

In 2007–2008, 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.

²⁴ The non-licence terms are the conditions in the IFOA in addition to the terms of the licences. They include description of forestry operations, duration, and area that the IFOA applies.

Compliance by Forests NSW included:

- Running 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 52 staff and contractors trained in 2007–2008.
- 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 2007 report on past logging has been provided for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions and the 2007–2008 report has been provided for the Southern Region.
- Provision of an Annual Report on Forest Products Operations for South Coast and Tumut sub-regions of the Southern region for 2007–2008, as required by the IFOAs.
- Continued preparation of Forests NSW 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.
- Development and submission of a draft model grazing plan to RACU. Forests NSW submitted an initial model plan to the Environment Protection and Regulation Group. Forests NSW is 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 six 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. The plans were approved early in the reporting period.
- Preparation of a plan (or plans) by Forests NSW that specifies 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 were approved in July 2007.
- Preparation of a road and fire trail management plan (or plans) by Forests NSW that contains specified matters in relation to ancillary road construction. A final draft for the road management plans for Southern (including Eden Forest Agreement) and North East (UNE) were prepared in December 2006. A final draft for the Central Regions (LNE) Road Management Plan was prepared in September 2007. The plans are based on draft model yet to be approved by RACU.

Forests NSW internal compliance program

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 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

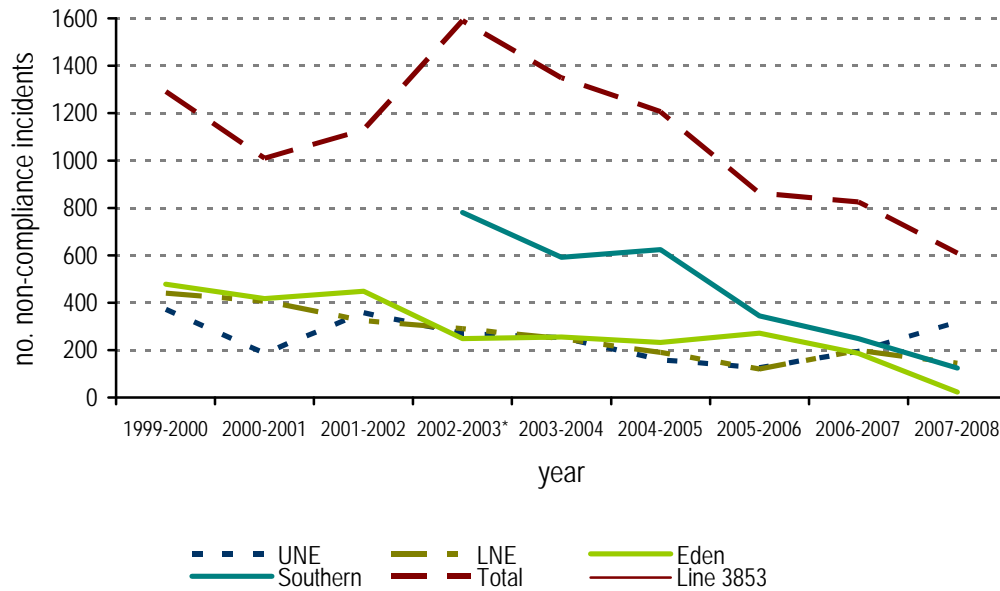
During 2007–2008, Forests NSW staff filled out 2 683 compliance sheets under the four-tier audit system across all regions. Among the 230 000 or more potential compliance issues identified and assessed under Tier one audits, 610 incidents of non-compliance were identified.

The incidents across all regions represent a 25% decrease in non-compliance incidents when compared with the 2006–2007 figures (see Figure 3-1A). The number of incidents fell in the LNE, Southern, and particularly Eden, regions during the reporting period, while an increase was recorded in UNE.

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 (48%), flora and fauna (34%) and other issues such as safety (29%).

DPI–Fisheries did not provide information for the Annual Implementation Report 2007–2008, and 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 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 EMS by an external EMS certification company. As discussed in Chapter 1, Forests NSW has achieved accreditation of its EMS under the ISO 14001:2004 standard.

DECC References and bibliography

(FNSW references are listed in footnotes and as website text links).

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Appendix 1 Individual milestone progress

Discussion of milestones is also contained in Chapter 1.

Definitions of milestones status

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 five-year review or on an 'as needed' basis)

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
MANAGING THE FORESTS				
Environmental Management System				
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.1.1 Att. 3 Att. 4 Preparation of SFNSW EMS – Native Forest Management System.	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Forests NSW 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 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 distributed 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 from the internal audits that were made in 2004–2005. The findings of these reports formed the 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 planted and native forests. The ISO 14001 accreditation covers both native and plantation operations.</p> <p>It has taken longer than expected to complete the EMS 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 ha of native forest and half a million ha 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 by providing an independent perspective. Regular external audits carried out by NCSI assess not only Forests NSW management systems and compliance with applicable licences, but also its 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 has helped Forests NSW to continually improve its practices and allowed the organisation to demonstrate it is a responsible forest custodian.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2003	30 June	Sthn	2.1.1 Att. 2 & 3 Att. 6(2c)	Complete and implement SFNSW EMS.	In progress
2003	31 December	Sthn	2.1.1	A further part of the EMS will be prepared to cover the planted forest component.	Complete Refer to milestone above.
2004	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.1.2 Att. 3	Preparation of NPWS Environmental Management Systems.	<p>In progress</p> <p>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 will provide the tools to make better decisions and also improve coordination across DECC to make it easier for staff to access information to guide park management. Many of the components of the Park Management Framework are already in place. These components include, for example, the Plan of Management Manual (2003) and Fire Management Manuals, which are regularly updated.</p> <p>Achievements in 2007–2008 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Park Management Policy Manual is a single electronic document that provides summaries and links to all relevant documents (DECC and others) related to park management. It is regularly updated to ensure accurate information is available to staff. During 2007–2008, the Park Management Policy Manual became an active online resource available to staff through DECC's intranet. • The Park Operating Procedures Manual is the companion document to the Park Management Policy Manual. Its purpose is to provide consistent and high quality procedural guidance to staff. It achieves this by serving as a central node that brings together adopted DECC procedural documents as well as documents from other sources that may provide useful advice on procedural best practice. The Park Operating Procedures Manual was drafted during 2007–2008 with the intent of finalising and releasing the document in late 2008. • The Park Facilities Manual provides a set of planning and design guidelines that implement excellence in sustainable management of visitor facilities. It is helping to ensure facilities across NSW parks are increasingly standardised. The manual provides a coordinated set of standards applicable to parks across NSW, and developed from principles established and trialled under the Guidelines for Park Facilities (1985) and the Northern Branch Draft Facilities Manual (2004). The Park Facilities Manual was released in December 2007. • 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. This system is a major information source for determining long-term asset strategies and assist in determining DECC's on-going minor works requirements. The AMS has been under development for a number of years. In 2006, it was reviewed with a view to addressing issues raised in field trials and so the system could be connected to the PMP. The AMS was distributed for application across parks in NSW in 2008.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWG does planning at a range of scales to achieve its management objectives. A Park Planning Guide is planned for development under the PMP to structure these plans under an agreed planning hierarchy and ensure consistency and accuracy. This component is under development and to date most emphasis has involved the development of specific planning capabilities at different scales. In 2008 for example, Regional Operations Plans were developed across the state. Regional Operations Plans consider all planning document for parks within a Region and identify and prioritise actions that are required for implementation in the coming financial year. In this way, PWG is ensuring that all proposed actions are being systematically considered and addressed. DECC has also developed Branch Visitor Management Plans (BVMP) as a central action under Living Parks – Sustainable Visitation Strategy (2006). BVMPs identify initiatives that will enhance visitor opportunities and regional tourism in the short to medium term. They are being finalised and will be distributed in late 2008.
2004	30 April	Sthn	2.1.2 Att. 6(2b)	Development and implementation of EMS by NPWS.	In progress 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.	Continuing 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 statewide capacity-building initiatives directed at particular staff classifications.

PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

Plans of management for the NPWS estate

2005	1 January	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> .	<p>Continuing</p> <p>Of the 387 reserves in the UNE and LNE regions, plans of management have been adopted for 146 by the NSW Minister for the Environment. A further 64 draft plans have been publicly exhibited, 25 draft plans have been finalised and 64 draft plans are in preparation. The increase in the total number of reserves since the last reporting period reflects the addition of new reserves in 2007–2008. Additions for 2007–2008 include those as a result of Lower Hunter Regional Strategy – <i>National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006</i>, they also include amalgamations and revocation/renaming of park areas. Hexham Swamp and Kooragang Nature reserves were merged into Hunter Estuary National Park.</p> <p>Of the 18 reserves in the Eden region, 12 have had plans of management adopted by the NSW Minister for the Environment. A further three draft plans have been publicly exhibited, one draft plan has been finalised and two draft plans are in preparation.</p>
2006	31 January	Sthn	2.3.2	Preparation of plans of management for dedicated reserves under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	<p>Continuing</p> <p>Of the 125 reserves in the Southern region, 40 have had plans of management adopted by the NSW Minister for the Environment. A further 49 draft plans have been publicly exhibited. Fifteen draft plans have been finalised and 13 are in preparation.</p>
1999	31 March	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.1 Att. 8	Release and adoption of NSW Biodiversity Strategy.	Completed

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.1 Att. 6(2d)	Implementation of NSW Biodiversity Strategy.	Implemented	
Regional ESFM plans					
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.1	Preparation of Regional ESFM plans, subject to public exhibition and consultation.	Completed Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions were finalised in August 2005 and are available at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm . Regional ESFM Plans were placed on public display in early to mid-2005. In addition to Forest Agreement areas, Forests NSW finalised ESFM plans for its remaining Planted and Native Forest Regions during 2007–2008.
2002	31 August	Sthn	2.2.1, 4.3 Att. 6(1) & 2(a)	Preparation of Regional ESFM plans.	Completed 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: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm . Regional ESFM Plans were placed on public display in early to mid-2005. In addition, ESFM strategic plans for the planted forest regions of Hume and Monaro were finalised during 2007–2008.
Annually		UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.6	Reporting on progress on meeting targets in Regional ESFM plans.	Continuing No progress to report.
Annually		Sthn	2.2.6	Progress in meeting the targets in the Regional ESFM plans must be reported annually through Regional ESFM reports.	Continuing Refer to milestone reporting above.
2002	30 June	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.	Concluded While no formal agreement or working group has been formed, this milestone is considered concluded. Discussions are occurring between Forests NSW regions and between Forests NSW and DECC and arrangements are being implemented to deal with any management issues such as fire or feral animal control.
Flora reserves					
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.2	Preparation of working plans for flora reserves to be incorporated into the Regional ESFM plans.	In progress Forest NSW ESFM plans for the UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern 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. A summary is provided in Table 4.1. 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, will be progressively completed and will be consistent with a model plan. A draft of this model plan has been prepared for consultation.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2002	31 August	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).	<p>In progress</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Informal reserves					
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.3.3	Preparation of working plans for informal reserves and areas managed by prescription on State forests to be included in the Regional ESFM plans.	<p>Completed</p> <p>A model plan for informal reserves is under development as an ESFM supplementary plan. Forests NSW has in place the Managing our Forests Sustainably: Forest Management Zoning in NSW State Forests, Operational Circular 99/10 (State forests of NSW (1999)), which provides detail on areas that are managed by prescriptions (i.e. Forest Management Zones (FMZs) 3B and 4). The document outlines management guidelines and activities permissible in each zone. It is referred to in regional ESFM plans, and can be found at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/268063/managing-our-forests-sustainablyforest-mgt-zoning-in-nsw-state-forests.pdf</p>
2002	31 August	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.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
Larger, more significant exclusion areas of rainforest, high conservation value old growth forest, and other prescriptive exclusions					
2001	30 June	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>No reporting required</p> <p>Any 'large/significant exclusion areas of rainforest, HCVOG and other prescriptive exclusion areas' are now included in the informal reserve network as part of the Special Management Zones under section 21A of the <i>Forestry Act 1976</i> and are classified as either FMZ 2 or 3a.</p>
2002	31 December	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>See above milestone</p>
2002	1 January	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>See above milestone</p>
2002	31 August	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>See above milestone</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
Creation of special management zones					
1999	1 October	UNE, LNE, 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>Completed</p> <p>The <i>National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002</i> declared special management zones in the UNE region (136 224 ha) and LNE region (126 366 ha), under section 21A of the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i>.</p> <p>The <i>National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003</i> declared special management zones in the UNE region (12 753 ha) and LNE region (8101 ha), under section 21A of the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i>.</p> <p>In the Eden region, the <i>National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2005</i> provided for approximately 2620 ha to be dedicated as SMZ under section 21A of the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i>. The Forests NSW CEO approved these SMZs during 2006–2007.</p>
2002	31 August	Sthn	2.3.1	Creation of special management zones in State forests.	<p>In progress</p> <p>In the Southern region, the <i>National Park Estate (Reservation) Act 2005</i> provided for around 7550 ha in the Tumut 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>
Forest Management Zoning					
1999	1 October	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>Completed</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: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm</p>
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE	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>Completed</p> <p>FMZ maps have been attached to Regional ESFM plans for UNE and LNE. Regional ESFM Plans and FMZ maps can be found at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm</p>
2002	31 August	Sthn	2.2.2	Provision of mapped FMZ in all State forests attached to the Regional ESFM plans.	<p>Completed</p> <p>FMZ maps have been attached to Regional ESFM plans for the South Coast and Tumut sub-regions of Southern region. Regional ESFM Plans and FMZ maps can be found at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm</p>
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	Att. 8	Implement the Forest Management Zoning System.	<p>Implemented</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>: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/268063/managing-our-forests-sustainably-forest-mgt-zoning-in-nsw-state-forests.pdf</p> <p>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, LNE	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.	Completed Acquisitions are ongoing. DECC received a Treasury commitment of \$1.5 million/year for five years (2001–2002 to 2005–2006) to purchase leasehold and freehold lands as required by the UNE and LNE forest agreements. As allocated funding has now been expended, no further reporting will occur. Lease purchases will continue but will be considered as part of DECC's normal acquisition program.
Ongoing	As soon as practical	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.16.2 6.16.1 (E)	Any areas for which leases are purchased must be incorporated by gazettal into the NPWS estate as soon as practicable.	No reporting required DECC received a Treasury commitment of \$1.5 million/year for five years (2001–2002 to 2005–2006) to purchase leasehold and freehold lands as required by the UNE and LNE Forest Agreements. As allocated funding has now been expended, no further reporting will occur. Lease purchases will continue but will be considered as part of DECC's normal acquisition program. In the absence of dedicated funding for the Eden and Southern regions, purchase of leases have been, and continue to be, made as part of DECC's normal acquisition funding and procedures.
1999	31 August	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.16.2 6.16.1 (E)	Preparation of procedures for purchasing leases on land.	No reporting required Standard DECC acquisition procedures have been used for the voluntary acquisition of leases as they have been offered and as funds have become available.
2001	1 April	Eden	6.16.1	Pursue the voluntary purchase of any leases on State forest tenure that have been revoked.	No reporting required In the absence of dedicated funding for the Eden and Southern regions, purchase of leases have been, and continue to be, made as part of DECC's normal acquisition funding and procedures.
Aquatic reserves					
Ongoing	As required	UNE, LNE, 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.	Continuing No aquatic reserves were declared under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Ongoing	As required	Sthn	2.3.4	Minister for Fisheries may declare aquatic reserves.	Continuing No aquatic reserves were declared under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Upgrading of FMZ areas/mineral and petroleum interests/additional conservation areas				
1999	1 December	UNE, LNE	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, and entitled 'Procedure for dealing with lands for further consideration for reservation'.	No reporting required 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, and entitled 'Procedure for dealing with lands for further consideration for reservation'.
1999	1 December	UNE, LNE	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.	In progress No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year.
2000	30 June	UNE, LNE	6.16.2 NPWS and SFNSW, in consultation with the Department of Mineral Resources, to complete negotiations on the FMZ category for State forests with mineral and lease interests.	Continuing An FMZ assessment (made 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 by Forests NSW. Additional areas affected by the Government's 2002 decision to expand protection of old-growth forest on State forests will also be assessed in future reviews.
2000	30 June	UNE, LNE	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.	In progress No further progress on this milestone has occurred this year. Standard DECC procedures for the purchase of leases apply to all purchases and involve referral to other government agencies such as DPI and the Department of Lands. Procedures for an approach to purchasing leases have not been developed with NSW Farmers because lessees make voluntary approaches to DECC. Therefore, there are often associated constraints on the information DECC can provide to third parties in such cases, due to confidentiality provisions.
Ongoing	Every five years or as required	UNE, LNE	2.3.3 Review of mineral and petroleum objections over FMZ 2 and FMZ 3 lands every five years or as required and land may be added to the dedicated reserve system.	Continuing An FMZ assessment (made as part of the Government's Action for the Environment Statement 2001) was completed in 2002 and, with the agreement of Department of Mineral Resources (now known as DPI Minerals), 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). A further 34 059 ha of FMZ 1, 2, and 3a (10 411 ha of which are covered by lease) have been agreed to by Forests NSW, but not by DPI Minerals. The review process is continuing as required and is concentrating on those FMZ2 and FMZ3 lands previously agreed to by Forests NSW. 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. Discussions between DECC and DPI regarding another review of Mineral Resources objections over FMZs and upgrading of FMZs in the UNE and LNE regions is planned for 2009.
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, 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.	Continuing Consultation occurs as required.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2007	30 April and every five-year review	Sthn	2.3.3	Review of mineral and petroleum objections over FMZ 2 and FMZ 3 lands.	Continuing A review of mineral objections and upgrading of FMZ 2 and FMZ 3 lands in Southern region is yet to occur but is planned to be part of 2009 discussions. These discussions will also consider the FURCON lands that are yet to be transferred.
Crown reserves					
1999	30 September	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.3.3	MoU regarding the management of Crown reserves.	Completed A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the management of Crown reserves was signed on 26 March 2001 between the Director's General of NPWS (now part of DECCW) and the then Department of Mineral Resources (now part of I&I NSW).
1999	30 September	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.3.3	Formation of a management committee regarding the management of Crown reserves.	No reporting required Refer to milestone above.
2002	30 June	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.	No reporting required
Ongoing	Every five years	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.3.3	NPWS and DMR to review Crown reserves every five 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.	No reporting required The Memoranda of Understanding for both Crown Reserves and SCAs contain provisions for five-yearly reviews. In the case of SCAs, the review is also a statutory requirement of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (clause 47M), requiring the Minister administering the Act to provide reasons why and SCA could not be reclassified as a national park or nature reserve. The review takes place in consultation with the Minister administering the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> . The NPWS (now DECC) and the Department of Mineral Resources (now part of the Department of Primary Industries) were involved in a review of Crown Reserves in 2003 that resulted in the reclassification of most Crown Reserves to SCAs (see below). Consequently, a further review of Crown reserves has not occurred, as only two Crown reserves remain and are pending reclassification as SCAs. Therefore this action is considered no longer required and is reported on an 'as needed' basis. The first five-year review of SCAs was completed in 2008. The review found that ten parcels of land – six SCAs and parts of four others – should be reclassified as national park (8) or nature reserve (2).
2007	30 April and each five-year period	Sthn	2.3.3	Undertaking of a review of Crown Reserves every five years.	No reporting required See above
2002	1 January	Eden	2.3.3	Preparation of plans of management for Crown reserves adjacent to land dedicated or reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	No reporting required All Crown reserves in Eden have been re-categorised as State conservation areas. Plans of management for SCAs are included in the figures reported for the milestones under plans of management for the NPWS estate.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2005	1 January	UNE, LNE	2.3.3	Preparation of plans of management for Crown reserves adjacent to land dedicated or reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	No reporting required All Crown reserves in UNE and LNE have been re-categorised as State conservation areas. Plans of management for SCAs are included in the figures reported for the milestones under plans of management for the NPWS estate.
2006	31 January	Sthn	2.3.3	Preparation of plans of management for Crown reserves.	In progress In late 2002, all but six Crown reserves in the Southern region were reclassified as State conservation areas (SCAs). Four were subsequently reclassified as SCAs on 1 April 2005. Plans of management for SCAs are included in the figures reported for the milestones under plans of management for the NPWS estate.. Re-categorisation of the remaining two Crown reserves as SCAs – Mullengandra and Woomargama (both in the Tumut sub-region) – will occur but is pending resolution of issues about 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. Plans of management for SCAs are included in the figures reported for the milestones under plans of management for the NPWS estate.

Crown land

2003	1 January	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.	In progress After 9000 ha were 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 came into force from 1 July 2007. Negotiations between DECC and the Department of Lands over the remaining areas proposed for reservation continue.
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COOPERATIVE APPROACHES FOR THREATENED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Assessment of species

1999	30 June	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.	Implemented 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, which 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.	Continuing The <i>Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998</i> (section 31) provides that an IFOA may be amended, suspended or revoked at any time jointly by Ministers who have granted the approval. An amendment of the approval extends to an amendment of the terms of any relevant licences provided by the approval. Current versions of the IFOAs and licences are provided on the DECC website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/agreementsIFOAs.htm

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					Additionally, 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.	Implemented 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.	Implemented 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, which includes the exchange and assessment of new information by DECC, 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.	Implemented DECC has put in place a process for species requiring site-specific conditions that are listed in the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) (condition 1.2 of Appendix B in the IFOAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions, and condition 1.2 of Appendices B and C of the IFOA for the Southern region). IFOAs also have a non-licence condition that provides for taking new information into account (clause 49 of the IFOAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions and clause 64 for the Southern region).
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.	Implemented 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 delistings 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.	Implemented Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing		Sthn	2.4.5.1	Review IFOA for changes to schedules on Threatened Species Licence.	Implemented 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.	Implemented Implemented by a process in the IFOAs covering species requiring site-specific conditions and proposed new listings in the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (conditions 1.2 and 1.3 of the Threatened Species Licences in appendix B of the IFOA for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions and Appendices B and C in the IFOA for the Southern Region).

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.3	Implement stated process where an important new record was discovered in an area.	Implemented Section 1.2 of the TSL is being applied when a new listing occurs or when a species are detected without a species specific prescription within the TSL, for example for the gang gang cockatoo.
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.	Implemented 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.	Implemented 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).
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.4.1	Details the process to be followed when a species new to science is found.	Implemented 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.	Implemented The stated process is implemented if required.
Ongoing	Sthn	2.4.5.2	Conservation requirements must be developed and implemented for species new to science and IFOA must be reviewed.	Implemented 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).
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, 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.	Implemented 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.	Implemented Refer to milestone above.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
Management and recovery planning					
1999	31 December	UNE, LNE	2.4.3	Refinement of models to identify Hastings River mouse habitat.	<p>In progress</p> <p>A NSW and National Recovery Plan for the Hastings River mouse was finalised and published in April 2005 (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/recoveryplanHastingsrivmouseDec04.pdf). Actions within the plan, including refinement of habitat models, are subject to budgetary constraints as noted in the plan.</p> <p>An amendment to the UNE IFOA (Amendment 4) was signed on 22 November 2007 as an outcome of the recovery plan. This amendment varied the Threatened Species Licence Condition relating to Hastings River mouse for specified compartments within six State forests for two years. The Threatened Species Licence conditions provide for a review of licence conditions where the application of conditions results in 20% or more of the net logging area of the compartment being unavailable. The amendment provided for protection of habitat around a record as well as providing for habitat connectivity and modification of harvesting in other parts of the compartments.</p>
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.3	Continued implementation of joint management plans, such as Pine Creek Koala Management Plan.	<p>Implemented</p> <p>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 because a large portion of the former Pine Creek State Forest has now been added to the Bongil Bongil National Park.</p> <p>It is unlikely that continued implementation of the Pine Creek Koala Management Plan in the remaining portion of Pine Creek State Forest is appropriate. A review of the koala Threatened Species Licence conditions in the UNE IFOA will take place, including consideration to apply standard koala species specific conditions in lieu of the Pine Creek Koala Management Plan prescriptions.</p> <p>Cooperation and implementation of management actions routinely occurs in the management of threatened species during processes such as IFOAs and PAS. This milestone is considered to be concluded as these other processes are implementing management actions.</p>
Pest, weed and feral animal control					
1999	All	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.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Baiting continues in accordance with PWG regional pest management strategies.</p>
2005	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.4.2	Preparation of grazing management plans, predator and feral control plans and threatened flora species management plans.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Grazing management plans – In progress. Predator and feral control plans – Completed. Specific Threatened flora species management plans – Continuing.</p>
2006	31 July	Sthn	2.4.3	Preparation of grazing management plans and feral and introduced predator control plans.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.12 2.11 (E)	Cooperative programs in addressing noxious weed control, feral animal control and other matters relating to forest health.	<p>Completed</p> <p>DECC and Forests NSW have long-running cooperative programs with a variety of landholders, land management agencies and interest groups to manage 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).</p> <p>DECC 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 Actions Statements. New Regional Pest Management DECC's website presents a range of information on agency pest, weed and forest health programs. Some examples follow.</p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>The bell miner associated dieback (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; a major research investigation aimed at unravelling factors that may contribute to BMAD continues.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Cooperative wild dog/fox management plans have been developed between DECC, Forests NSW, the Rural Lands and Protection Board and the community: the Bombala and Far South Coast Community Wild Dog Control Plan and the Wadbilliga Wild Dog Control Plan.</p> <p>Weed management is integrated into Forests NSW Regional ESFM plans, which were published in 2005. A model plan for weed management was approved and regional plans based on the model were finalised for Central and Southern during early 2007–2008, while 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 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 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>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 1916</i>. Other measures in State forests to control feral animals include active tracking, baiting and trapping programs 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 were finalised in early 2007–2008.</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>Complete</p> <p>The South Western Slopes Regional Pest Management Strategy 2008–2011 completed and adopted; wild dog plans: a five-year Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plan is being implemented in the Brindabella and Wee Jasper Valleys, a three-year Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plan is being implemented in the Burrinjuck area, a five-year Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plan is being implemented in the Adaminaby/Yaouk area, a two-year Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plan is being implemented in the Goobragandra / Blowering locality of Kosciuszko NP, a two-year Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plan is being implemented in the East Gilmore Valley (includes Wereboldera SCA), a three-year Cooperative Wild Dog Control Plan is being implemented in the Hume area (includes Woomargama NP).</p> <p>On the South Western Slopes, specific control programs for feral pigs were implemented with the assistance of neighbouring landholders on the following reserves; Black Andrew; Brindabella NP; Kosciuszko NP; Tinderry NR; and Woomargama NP and RS.</p> <p>Weed control programs in the South Western Slopes took place in targeted catchments, along roads, high visitation/recreation areas and areas where certain threatened species are vulnerable from weed invasion. Volunteer groups (e.g. Talbingo and District Bushwalking Group and the Oldfields Caretaker Group) are encouraged to assist in weed control. Snowy Hydro Limited and the SWS 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 weeds in Kosciuszko NP. The SWS Region is a member of the Riverina Highlands Weeds Working Group that is concentrating on the coordinated removal of black willow and the implementation of a Riverina Highlands Regional Blackberry Plan. SWS Region is also a member of the Eastern Riverina Weeds Advisory Group and the Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committee that both act as an open forum for local councils and state government agencies to discuss weed management issues and spread information. Participation and representation in the following: Australian Alps Natural Heritage Working Group, Deer Workshop Coordinating Committee, the Wild Dog Working Group, Riverina Highlands Weeds Working Group, the Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group, the Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants and the NPWS Southern Directorate Pest Management Working Group. Weed management is integrated into Forests NSW Regional ESFM Plans, which were published in 2005. A model plan for weed management is approved and regional plans based on the model were finalised for Central and Southern during early 2007–008, while 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 2006–011. The supplementary plans contain the details of the objectives, strategies, actions and cooperative arrangements with other government agencies, land managers and neighbouring land owners, to control 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 about the control of noxious animals and weeds. As a result of attending these meetings, Forests NSW annually contributes to cooperative control programs</p>
2007	30 April	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.	<p>Implemented – for DECC</p> <p>DECC reserve plans of management identify priority pest and weed problems and the need for actions, which are in turn addressed by statewide threat abatement plans or regional pest management strategies.</p> <p>As discussed in the revised regional ESFM plans, Forests NSW regions have each developed weed management plans and pest animal management plans. These regional plans are based on approved model plans to ensure consistency, and include details of the objectives, strategies and cooperative arrangements to manage priority pest animals and weeds within each Forests NSW region.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
PRIVATE LAND				
Regional Native Vegetation Committee				
1999	30 June	Eden	2.8.1	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Regional Native Vegetation committee has been established. It held its first meeting in October 2000.</p>
2000	1 January	UNE, LNE	2.9.1	<p>Completed</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
2002	30 June	Sthn	2.9	<p>Completed</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
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.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Four catchment action plans were finalised in 2007–2008 (Hawkesbury–Nepean, Murray, Murrumbidgee, and Lower Murray–Darling). An assessment report for the Sydney Metropolitan catchment was being finalised.</p> <p>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.</p>
Identification of lands of conservation priority				
2000	1 January	UNE, LNE	2.9.1	<p>In progress</p> <p>Forest ecosystems are included in the CAR reserve system as part of the PWG's acquisition program; they are identified in a Statement of Conservation Significance completed for each new parcel of private land acquired and are also included in Crown land transfers that may occur.</p> <p>Eighteen REV (rare endangered and vulnerable) forest ecosystems have been nominated for EEC on a priority basis as part of the Private Native Forestry (PNF) code. Seventeen of these have been assessed. Of these: three are already encompassed within existing EEC; three are not eligible for nomination because they do not meet listing criteria, eight have been nominated; three are yet to be nominated. One preliminary determination has been made and three final (or proposed final) determinations have been made.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2002	30 June	Sthn	2.9	Identification of forest ecosystems on private land that are of conservation priority for inclusion in the CAR reserve system.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Priority forest ecosystems for voluntary protection on private land are identified in Attachment 2, Table 1, 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>Completed</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>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"> provide a mechanism for landholders to adopt an integrated approach and appropriate strategies for the management of native vegetation on their land 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 provide incentives for landholders to appropriately manage native vegetation on their land. <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 four years to fund conservation activities.</p>
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.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Private native forestry and plantations				
2007	30 April	Sthn	Att. 6(3) point 3 Codes of practice for private plantations and private native forests will be in place within five years. The State will also provide advice regarding marketing and pricing.	<p>Completed – native forest</p> <p>The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice came into effect on 1 August 2007 under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>. With the introduction of the Code, all harvesting of native forests for the purposes of private native forestry requires approval through a property vegetation plan (which can last for up to 15 years), an existing consent under the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> or the <i>Soil Conservation Act 1938</i>, or consent under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>. The Code granted Biodiversity Certification under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>.</p> <p>Limited advice about marketing 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 (though 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>Completed – plantations</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. During 2006 and 2007, inter-agency working groups developed amendments to the Act and code based on the recommendations in the Report. An Industry Reference Group was consulted on the proposed amendments.</p> <p>It is intended to place the proposed amendments on public exhibition, providing an opportunity for comment by the broader community. An Amendment Bill will then be introduced into Parliament.</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.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>The development of the regulatory framework highlighted in the milestone above will ensure a more efficient integrated approval process.</p>

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> .	<p>Implemented</p> <p>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</i> are deemed to be authorised under the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act</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. During 2006 and 2007, inter-agency working groups developed amendments to the Act and code based on the recommendations in the report. An Industry Reference Group was consulted on the proposed amendments.</p> <p>It is intended to place the proposed amendments on public exhibition, providing an opportunity for comment by the broader community.</p> <p>An amendment Bill will then be introduced into Parliament.</p>
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> .	<p>Implemented</p> <p>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 review of the Act and code, although it is proposed that some additional items will be required to be shown on plantation plans.</p>
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.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>The <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> establishes a different regime that does not include regional vegetation management committees. CMAs have subsumed their role.</p>
Ongoing		Sthn	Att. 6(3)	Improve administrative arrangements and cooperation and coordination by State agencies to facilitate the timber industry using private forest resources.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>No further progress to report.</p>
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.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>No further progress to report.</p>
Ongoing		Sthn	Att. 6(4)	Undertake 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.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>No further progress to report.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
World Heritage and wilderness					
2000	1 January	UNE, LNE	2.5	Public exhibition of wilderness assessment report for the UNE and LNE regions.	Completed The Northern Wilderness Assessment Report was publicly exhibited in mid-2001.
2002	31 December	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.	Completed
Ongoing		UNE, LNE	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.	Completed
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE	2.7	Review of CERRA World Heritage Areas to identify any additional rainforest to be included.	In progress CERRA is now referred to as the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia A list of proposed extensions to Gondwana Rainforest was internally reviewed by DECC and the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee.
2002	1 April	UNE, LNE, 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.	In progress UNE/LNE 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 continues 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.) Deferred Eden No further studies are currently planned.
2004	30 April	Sthn	2.7	Studies of the dedicated reserve system to identify World Heritage values.	In progress The Australian Wilderness Coast (Bermagui to Mallacoota) was listed as a landscape of national significance. 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.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Cultural heritage				
1999	1 October	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8 2.7 (E)	Cultural heritage management guidelines for SFNSW to be attached to the IFOA. Completed Cultural heritage guidelines have been attached to the LNE, UNE and Eden IFOAs.
2002	30 June	Sthn	2.8	SFNSW cultural heritage management guidelines should be attached to the IFOA. Completed Cultural heritage guidelines have been attached to the Southern IFOA.
1999	1 April	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). Completed 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 statewide guidelines is also consistent with the principles contained in the above-mentioned reports.
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.8 2.7 (E)	Finalisation of SFNSW policy on Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage. Completed Forests NSW has completed policies for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage and they are included in the ESFM Plans. They state that: 'Forests NSW will protect and manage aboriginal and non aboriginal cultural heritage values on State forests in cooperation with the community'. The ESFM Plans are located at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/management/esfm Forests NSW state-wide Aboriginal Cultural Heritage management policy has been incorporated into Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Policy and guidelines for due diligence and documentation of minimum standards to assess impacts, locate and manage Aboriginal sites and places; and processes to address issues relevant to Aboriginal people was prepared by Forests NSW in consultation with DPI Aboriginal Liaison and Cultural Heritage Unit during March 2006 and approved 9 May 2006, (Unpublished) Forests NSW, Sydney.
2002	31 August	Sthn	2.8	Finalisation of policy on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage (SFNSW). Completed 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. Implemented 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 2007– 2008. Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW. 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.	Implemented Cultural values are managed according to DECC's legislative responsibilities and existing statewide 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 these 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. The document contains policy and guidelines for due diligence and documentation of minimum standards to assess impacts, locate and manage Aboriginal sites and places; and processes to address issues relevant to Aboriginal people. It was prepared by Forests NSW in consultation with DPI Aboriginal Liaison and Cultural Heritage Unit during March 2006 and approved 9 May 2006, (Unpublished) Forests NSW, Sydney.
Ongoing		Sthn	2.8	Apply cultural heritage management guidelines when managing cultural heritage.	Implemented 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.	Implemented Aboriginal cultural awareness training continues to be included as a corporate priority to ensure all DECC staff understand and are familiar with the needs of Aboriginal staff, individuals and communities. A new cultural awareness training package began implementation in 2007 and all DECC staff are required to attend this training as courses become available to them. Feedback from participants indicates that Aboriginal cultural awareness training continues to be highly valued throughout DECC.
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.	Implemented – for DECC DECC started to use a new Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS) in August 2002. It allows field staff and consultants to add or amend information related to heritage items they manage and also incorporates necessary technology such as GIS into the database. The system is regularly updated to include items required to be on the DECC 170 register, including items of State significance. The system was updated as necessary during the reporting year. Implemented – Forests NSW 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 Forests NSW GIS system. Potential buffers around significant sites are incorporated into the FMZ system. This is an ongoing commitment as part of Forests NSW requirement to consider heritage sites as part of the planning process.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
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.	<p>In progress</p> <p>The integration of natural and cultural values in the landscape is one of DECC's goals and identifying and assessing a landscape's cultural heritage values is vital to effectively managing it. To help DECC staff (and consultants and contractors DECC employs) manage the department's cultural heritage responsibilities strategic, information, community consultation and other policies form part of a broader package aimed at better integrating cultural heritage into DECC conservation objectives and operations. The draft Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Policy is an example of this work. DECC management processes for natural and cultural heritage are taking a landscape approach through management planning and impact assessment.</p> <p>Draft Cultural Landscape Management guidelines have been prepared that will assist PWG staff and others in adopting this approach. DECC has also produced a document, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regional Studies: An Illustrative Approach, and manages a whole-of-government initiative — the Aboriginal Heritage Mapping and Assessment Priorities program. The latter program is intended to integrate government data and foster a uniform approach to regional assessment and mapping of Aboriginal heritage values. DECC is also introducing Aboriginal regional assessment techniques and approaches. These include Value Interest Priority mapping that can involve the Aboriginal community in broad scale multi-value assessment.</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural heritage processes for consents and permits are being reviewed, in part to ensure a landscape approach is adopted. The review is ongoing and is considering improved landscape planning processes. This takes the emphasis away from individual consents and permits and would result in area-based permits. Legislative improvements are being investigated that will underpin the administrative improvements that have already been made.</p>
2005	31 August	Sthn	2.8 NPWS to review processes for Aboriginal cultural heritage management.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
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> .	<p>Deferred</p> <p>Part 4A ('Aboriginal Land') of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> provides for the return of DECC lands to Aboriginal ownership. These lands are then leased back to the Government for joint management by the Aboriginal owners and DECC as park. Parks that can be returned to Aboriginal ownership are listed in Schedule 14 of the Act. Seven areas of land are already listed and under the provisions of the Act further parks can be nominated for addition to the schedule. Further background to lease-back agreements is available through the DECC website at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/comanagement/Lease-backAgreement.htm .</p> <p>There has been no widespread preliminary assessment of parks to date to assess whether they could be added to Schedule 14. However, DECC continues to proceed with the return to Aboriginal ownership of those reserves already listed on Schedule 14 and to respond to further nominations as they occur. One such nomination has been received for Tooloom, Toonumbar and Yabbra National Parks in the UNE. A cultural significance assessment report of the lands commissioned by DECC was completed in May 2006. A Government decision on the nomination is pending.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2006	31 December	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> .	<p>Deferred</p> <p>Part 4A ('Aboriginal Land') of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> provides for the return of DECC lands to Aboriginal ownership. These lands are then leased back to the Government for joint management by the Aboriginal owners and DECC as park. Parks that can be returned to Aboriginal ownership are listed in Schedule 14 of the Act. Seven areas of land are already listed and under the provisions of the Act, further parks can be nominated for addition to the schedule. Further background to lease-back agreements is available through the DECC website at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/comanagement/Lease-backAgreement.htm.</p> <p>There has been no widespread preliminary assessment of parks to date to assess whether they could be added to Schedule 14. However, DECC continues to proceed with the return to Aboriginal ownership of those reserves already listed on Schedule 14 and to respond to further nominations as they occur. Of those parks in FA regions already listed on Schedule 14, lease negotiations for the return of Biamanga (in the Eden region) and Gulaga (in the Southern region) National Parks to their Aboriginal owners have been completed and the leases signed in May 2006.</p>
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).	<p>Completed</p> <p>DECC began to use a new Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) in June 2001 after two rounds of statewide consultation in December 2000 and June 2001. Newly discovered Aboriginal sites/artefacts are regularly registered on AHIMS.</p>
Ongoing		Sthn	2.8	Preparation of an information management system for Aboriginal heritage, including maintenance of Aboriginal Sites Register.	<p>Completed</p> <p>DECC started using a new Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System in June 2001 after two rounds of statewide consultation in December 2000 and June 2001. Forests NSW contribute to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System.</p>
2006	31 December	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.	<p>Creation of a zone – Implemented</p> <p>Forest NSW protects Aboriginal cultural heritage in accordance with legislative requirements, ESFM plans, and triggers within Forests NSW GIS system (based on records obtained from the AHIMS database and Forests NSW site database) and 'Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management' (Forests NSW 2006b). Areas of indigenous cultural heritage value are identified as Special Value areas within any of the Forest Management Zones. This is detailed in the operational circular 99/10, <i>Managing our forests sustainably: Forest Management Zoning in NSW State Forests</i> published in 2000.</p> <p>Scattered artefacts are afforded a 10 m buffer. Protection of others, such as a grinding stone site, is determined by the Local Aboriginal Land Council or local elders. In all cases these are in areas excluded from harvesting and roading and therefore protected.</p> <p>Additionally, the <i>National Park and Wildlife Act 1974</i>, provides protection for Aboriginal objects.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
ABORIGINAL INTERESTS				
Aboriginal involvement in forest management				
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, 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>In progress</p> <p>DECC is developing a policy for Aboriginal partnerships in park management, which is expected to be complete in 2009. With other initiatives, such as DECC's Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework (completed in 2007), the policy will form DECC's strategy for providing Aboriginal communities and stakeholders a greater participatory role in park management.</p> <p>Despite this, Aboriginal communities are already involved in park management. Existing joint management arrangements are a case in point. Also draft reserve plans of management are generally referred to relevant Aboriginal organisations and National Parks plans of management are generally referred to relevant Aboriginal organisations and National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees, which include Aboriginal representatives, for comment. DECC also continues to consult with Aboriginal communities on the preparation of threatened species, recovery plans (a statutory requirement of the <i>Threatened Species Act 1995</i>) and to help recover other species where there is a known cultural association. In some instances major development proposals are referred to Aboriginal organisations for comment.</p> <p>Further reporting on Aboriginal involvement in reserve and cultural heritage management can be found in DECC's annual reports available at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoware/reports.htm</p> <p>Further information on Aboriginal communities' involvement in threatened species recovery plans and management is available at: www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas_recovery_strategies.aspx (under 'Aboriginal liaison and/or interpretation').</p> <p>The Bega and Eurobodalla Aboriginal heritage studies are continuing. These studies are overseen by two steering committees, comprised mostly of Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern ESFM plans include policy statements that commit Forests NSW to ensuring Aboriginal communities are involved in managing State forests, and corporate '<i>Operational Guidelines for Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage on State forests</i>', which include consultative arrangements that Forests NSW regions will use to engage with local Aboriginal communities for forest activities, when communication with the community could be expected, site protection and a review of how well these consultative arrangements worked over the previous period. The guidelines were developed in consultation with NPWS and the NSW Heritage Office and draw on the Protective Mechanisms for Cultural Heritage report prepared on behalf of the Cultural Heritage Working Group, as part of the NSW Comprehensive Regional Assessments.</p> <p>To achieve this, Forests NSW makes a commitment with Aboriginal people to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ appropriate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Awareness training for Forests NSW staff ▪ involvement in any further development of policy concerning the management of Aboriginal values and interests in State forests ▪ identification and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and resources ▪ access to land for cultural purposes which may include hunting and gathering ▪ identification of culturally appropriate co-management and commercial joint venture opportunities, and ▪ identification of Aboriginal employment opportunities in cultural and natural resource management activities.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
2003	30 June	Sthn	5.1.3	<p>Preparation of a strategy to ensure that Aboriginal communities and stakeholders are given a greater participatory role in forest management.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>DECC is developing a policy for Aboriginal partnerships in park management, which is expected to be complete in 2009. With other initiatives, such as DECC's Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework (completed in 2007), the policy will form DECC's strategy for providing Aboriginal communities and stakeholders a greater participatory role in park management.</p> <p>Despite this, Aboriginal communities are already involved in park management. Existing joint management arrangements are a case in point. Also draft reserve plans of management are generally referred to relevant Aboriginal organisations and National Parks plans of management are generally referred to relevant Aboriginal organisations and National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees, which include Aboriginal representatives, for comment. DECC also continues to consult with Aboriginal communities on the preparation of threatened species, recovery plans (a statutory requirement of the <i>Threatened Species Act 1995</i>) and to help recover other species where there is a known cultural association. In some instances major development proposals are referred to Aboriginal organisations for comment.</p> <p>Further reporting on Aboriginal involvement in reserve and cultural heritage management can be found in DECC's annual reports available at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whowere/reports.htm</p> <p>Further information on Aboriginal communities' involvement in threatened species recovery plans and management is available at: www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas_recovery_strategies.aspx (under 'Aboriginal liaison and/or interpretation').</p> <p>The UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern ESFM plans include policy statements that commit Forests NSW to ensuring Aboriginal communities are involved in managing State forests, and corporate '<i>Operational Guidelines for Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage on State forests</i>', which include consultative arrangements that Forests NSW regions will use to engage with local Aboriginal communities on forest activities, when communication with the community could be expected, site protection and a review of how well these consultative arrangements worked over the previous period. The guidelines were developed in consultation with NPWS and the NSW Heritage Office and draw on the Protective Mechanisms for Cultural Heritage report prepared on behalf of the Cultural Heritage Working Group, as part of the NSW Comprehensive Regional Assessments.</p> <p>To achieve this, Forests NSW makes a commitment with Aboriginal people to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ appropriate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Awareness training for Forests NSW staff ▪ involvement in any further development of policy concerning the management of Aboriginal values and interests in State forests ▪ identification and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and resources ▪ access to land for cultural purposes which may include hunting and gathering ▪ identification of culturally appropriate comanagement and commercial joint venture opportunities, and ▪ identification of Aboriginal employment opportunities in cultural and natural resource management activities.
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.3	<p>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.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management were developed in consultation with Aboriginal communities And provide Policy and guidelines for due diligence and documentation of minimum standards to assess impacts, locate and manage Aboriginal sites and places; and processes to address issues relevant to Aboriginal people. These guidelines were finalised in May 2006. The overarching policy is found in the ESFM plan.</p>
2003	30 June	Sthn	5.1.3	<p>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.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Co-management and joint venture arrangements				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.1	SFNSW and NPWS must progressively negotiate joint management arrangements and joint ventures with local Aboriginal communities.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>DECC undertakes numerous joint ventures with Aboriginal communities. These occur across the landscape and all areas of the agency (including Culture and Heritage Division), although most ventures related specifically to forest management would be led by PWG. Joint ventures also occur through DECC's engagement with catchment management authorities. Joint management arrangements are usually complemented by employment and economic development ventures. During 2007–2008, DECC was engaged in approximately 40 research and heritage projects in collaboration with Aboriginal community groups. Other examples of ventures across the State include the Aboriginal Discovery Ranger Program, associated Aboriginal Discovery activities and NAIDOC week events. DECC assists Aboriginal communities to make connections with government services that contribute to protecting country via the Protecting Our Places (POP) grants program under the Environmental. The Aboriginal Education Program, Healing, Learning, Sharing, aims to engage with Aboriginal communities in a culturally appropriate manner and working in partnership with government and non-government organisations and other stakeholders help to promote a healthier, cleaner, sustainable environment for all to share. The program has been piloted in four priority areas: metropolitan Sydney, Moree, Narooma and Bourke and helps communities to identify local environmental issues and projects. Examples of other local joint ventures follow.</p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>An Arakwal cultural centre for Byron Bay has been supported and will be developed as external budgetary circumstances allow. There have also been cultural heritage surveys done 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 the planning and development of facilities, interpretation/education and also the development of increased awareness in the broader community of the cultural context of park areas.</p> <p>The Pandanus People in South West Rocks engage in restoration projects such as removing weeds from, and planting trees and shrubs in, Arakoon State Conservation Area and Hat Head National Park. In 2007–2008, they established a nursery for propagating native plants with DECC staff, and sold the plants to other planting programs to help make the nursery sustainable.</p> <p>DECC has allocated \$31 208 to Ngypmie Aboriginal Corporation to implement a water savings project on the Central Coast. The corporation will build a windmill and dam to provide more than a million litres of water a year for the Glen Centre Farm at Chittawat Bay. The project will also install pipes to deliver the water from the dam to where it is needed and save energy and emissions by using the new windmill to pump the water. The water collected will be used for livestock and horticultural projects as part of an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Nine projects involving Aboriginal communities are in progress or have been completed: (1) Mapping of Aboriginal Pathways on the Far South Coast; (2) Bega Oral History Stage 3, combining historical and oral history into one document; (3) Bega Oral History Stage 4, presentation of information gathered in Stage 3 (begun); (4) Eurobodalla Stage 1 Aboriginal History, an annotated bibliography of cultural heritage research; (5) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 2 Aboriginal History of Eurobodalla (completed); (6) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 3 understanding and managing Aboriginal cultural heritage (completed) (7) Eurobodalla Oral History Stage 4 Mapping and Access Protocols for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information (begun); (8) Southern Region Catchment Management Authority have completed the project, 'Indigenous links to the Potoroo'; and (9) DECC in conjunction with Forests NSW and the Southern Region Catchment Management Authority have begun a new project, 'Indigenous links to the Koala in the Far South Coast region'.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					<p>The Eurobodalla Heritage Study is a joint program between DECC, Eurobodalla Shire Council and Batemans Bay, Bodalla, Cobowra, Merrimans, Mogo and Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Councils. Stage 4 incorporates the information obtained during previous stages into council planning. An oral history booklet was launched in June 2008.</p> <p>The Pambula River Cultural Landscape Project, which involved the Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and DECC, began in March 2008 and involves surveying all the midden sites and developing a management plan. The estimated completion date is the end of 2009.</p> <p>Further information on joint ventures between DECC and Aboriginal communities, including the Aboriginal Discovery program, can also be found in annual reports available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whowearereports.htm</p> <p>Forests NSW</p> <p>Two co-management agreements for Eden were in place during 2006–2007 within Wallagaraugh (3 081 ha) and Letts Mountain (906 ha) 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.</p> <p>In addition, two co-management agreements are in place in LNE, for Keepa Keepa Cultural Place in Heaton SF, where an additional 764 ha was placed under the scope of the co-management agreement, and Warre Warren Aboriginal Place.</p> <p>The NSW Government and the Githabul people entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement, which includes 13 State forests in UNE Region, in February 2007.</p>
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE	5.1.1	Examination of any State forest that could be considered for co-management and joint venture arrangements.	<p>In Progress</p> <p>The NSW Government and the Githabul people entered into an ILUA, which includes 13 State forests in the UNE Region, in February 2007</p>
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.1	Where further analysis indicates the feasibility of other ventures, a project plan must be developed for implementation.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>No new ventures requiring project plans were initiated during 2007–2008.</p>
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.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>Forests NSW</p> <p>Although several ventures are in progress, no formal venture arrangements were entered into in 2007–2008.</p> <p>DECC</p> <p>Continuing. See negotiation of 'joint management arrangements and joint ventures with local Aboriginal communities' above.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2006	31 December	Sthn	5.1.1	SFNSW and NPWS must progressively negotiate joint management arrangements and joint ventures with local Aboriginal communities.	<p>Continuing</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 2007–2008.</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>Continuing</p> <p>See milestone above.</p>
Ongoing		Sthn	5.1.1	Ventures likely to generate mutual benefits to the Aboriginal, as well as the wider, community must also be considered.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>Forests NSW</p> <p>No new venture arrangements were considered in 2007–2008.</p> <p>DECC</p> <p>During 2006–2007, DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch continued to participate in the Aboriginal Discovery Ranger Program and run associated Aboriginal Discovery activities and take part in NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) Week events.</p> <p>For example, DECC South West Slopes Region held various Discovery and NAIDOC events in Kosciuszko NP during the Easter and Christmas periods and NAIDOC week, and held 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>Continuing</p> <p>No new ventures requiring project plans were initiated during 2007–2008.</p>
2006	31 December	Sthn	5.1.4.1	Where consideration has identified venture, project plans must be developed for their implementation.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>No new ventures requiring project plans were initiated during 2007–2008.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2004	31 December	Sthn	5.1.1	SFNSW will examine any State forest that could be considered for co-management or joint venture arrangements.	In progress No progress to report.
Cooperative management arrangements					
2006	31 December	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.	In progress Snowy Mountains Region engaged a consultant to meet with traditional owners and provide recommendations on options for co-management of Kosciuszko National Park. A report has been completed but no outcomes have been announced as yet. In 2007–2008 the Aboriginal Management Committee (see milestone 334) continued to work toward cooperative involvement of the Aboriginal community in park management issues. A Cultural Heritage Coordinator facilitates community participation in committee matters. Forests NSW regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW commitment to co-management and joint management arrangements with Aboriginal communities. No new co-management or joint venture arrangements were considered in 2007–2008.
2006	31 December	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.	Continuing DECC Southern Region organised and participated in two women's, one youth and one family cultural camps. The region held various Discovery and NAIDOC events in Kosciuszko NP during the Easter and Christmas periods and NAIDOC week and numerous Discovery events with schools, community groups and local festivals and fairs over the year. Over 1650 adults and 2050 children participated or attended these events; 165 adults and 430 children attended NAIDOC week celebrations. A new Aboriginal Discovery Cultural tour was developed called Wiradjuri Wonders focusing on bush tucker, bush craft and traditional pathways through Nth Kosciuszko NP. For Forests NSW there are no new joint ventures to report for 2007–2008.
2006	31 December	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.	In progress 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	31 December	Sthn	5.1.4.5	Aboriginal communities consider it a 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.	In progress A Plan of Management for Kosciuszko National Park was completed in June 2006 in consultation with the Aboriginal Management. 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	31 December	Sthn	5.1.4.3	<p>Complete</p> <p>No further progress to report this year. However, in 2004–2005, Forests NSW in cooperation with the Tumut/Brungle Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local Tumut Community Development Employment Project organised the construction of an outdoor natural amphitheatre in the Tumut sub-region. This venue is now be used by Aboriginal communities and the general Tumut community to promote cultural events in a natural setting.</p>
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	5.1.1	<p>No reporting required</p> <p>To contribute to the key objectives of the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Policy (<i>Two Ways Together</i>) to develop committed partnerships between Aboriginal people and the Government, and to improve the social, economic, cultural and emotional well-being of Aboriginal people, DECC led the development of a Cultural Resource Use Framework, which was signed off by government agency CEOs in November 2006. <i>Two ways together</i> aims to improve the lives of Aboriginal people and their communities by developing committed partnerships between Aboriginal people and the NSW Government, and to improve the social, economic, cultural and emotional well being of Aboriginal people. Information on Two Ways Together is available at: www.daa.nsw.gov.au/policies/policy.html</p> <p>The Cultural Resource Use Framework applies to all NSW Government lands and requires agencies (including DECC and Forests NSW) to develop operational guidelines. This work is also linked to the access policy called 'On Country', which was developed under Two Ways Together and is making access agreements for lands and waters in New South Wales. It is available at: www.daa.nsw.gov.au/publications/64.html</p> <p>Pending the development of the operational guidelines referred to above. 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, for example the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) Plan of Management attempts to address this (in part) for KNP Eden</p> <p>Regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW' 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 five-year period to allow for traditional hunting rights in Walcha State forests. In addition, Guiwan Elders have also been issued with a permit for five years for traditional hunting in Walcha State forests. The Bhartoo 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>
2003	31 December	Sthn	5.1.1	<p>In progress</p> <p>To contribute to the key objectives of the NSW Governments Department of Aboriginal Affairs Policy — '<i>Aboriginal Affairs Plan, Two Ways Together</i>' (called <i>Two Ways Together</i> and is a 10-year plan — 2003–2012), DECC led the development of a Cultural Resource Use Framework, which was signed off by government agency CEOs in November 2006. <i>Two ways together</i> aims to improve the lives of Aboriginal people and their communities by developing committed partnerships between Aboriginal people and the NSW Government, and to improve the social, economic, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people. Information on Two Ways Together is available at: www.daa.nsw.gov.au/policies/policy.html</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				<p>The Cultural Resource Use Framework applies to all NSW Government lands and requires agencies (including DECC and Forests NSW) to develop operational guidelines. This work is also linked to the access policy called 'On Country', which was developed under Two Ways Together and is making access agreements for lands and waters in New South Wales. It is available at: www.daa.nsw.gov.au/publications/64.html</p> <p>The South Western Slopes Region of the Parks and Wildlife Group organised and participated in two women's, one youth and one family cultural camp. The region held various Discovery and NAIDOC events in Kosciuszko NP during the Easter and Christmas periods and NAIDOC week and numerous Discovery events with schools, community groups and local festivals and fairs over the year. Over 1650 adults and 2050 children participated or attended these events; 165 adults and 430 children attended NAIDOC week celebrations. A new Aboriginal Discovery Cultural tour was developed called Wiradjuri Wonders focusing on bush tucker, bush craft and traditional pathways through Nth Kosciuszko NP.</p> <p>Regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW' 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 2007–2008, one Aboriginal group was issued with a commercial firewood collection licence.</p>
Employment and training opportunities				
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE	5.1.2 Preparation of a joint strategy to facilitate an employment and development program for Aboriginal people..	<p>No Reporting Required</p> <p>A joint DECC and Forests NSW strategy has not been developed. However, DECC and Forests NSW have each continued to implement related initiatives.</p> <p>DECC's initiatives include an Aboriginal Employment Strategy to facilitate employment and development opportunities for Aboriginal people. In 2006–2007, 7.5% of the DECC workforce identified since (2004–2005) equates to around 300 people. This increased to 8% in 2007–2008, (representing a 2% increase since 2004–2005) and equates to around 300 people. This figure is above the NSW Government benchmark of 2% Indigenous employment. Additionally, DECC employs contract and casual Aboriginal staff for work that includes the Discovery Ranger program, research projects and land management activities (e.g. weed control), amongst others. Joint management and ventures have also provided additional employment and industry development and economic opportunities.</p> <p>In 2008, DECC established an additional seven Aboriginal cadetships making a total of 17. Through the Aboriginal cadetship program, cadets participate in full-time study and 12 weeks of practical work experience each year to complete their undergraduate degree, with guaranteed employment on successful completion.</p> <p>DECC has also entered a partnership arrangement with the Western Institute of TAFE to provide Aboriginal traineeships, which will lead to the nationally recognised qualification of Certificate II in conservation and land management. The traineeships are for 12 months and allow trainees to combine full-time practical work with structured training sessions throughout the year. The 2008 intake comprises 11 new trainees in trainee field officer and trainee interpretive assistant positions. DECC's recruitment of trainees complements the Aboriginal cadetship program.</p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>Aboriginal employment as a result of funding provided for management of additions to the reserve system has been implemented. In addition to positions created during 2005-06 (seven permanent Aboriginal positions) and the identification of an existing position as an Aboriginal position, further positions have been created following the finalisation of agreements with the Githabul and Worimi peoples. Approximately 12% of staff employed in DECC's Parks and Wildlife Group Northern Branch identify as Aboriginal.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				<p>Eden</p> <p>Five Aboriginal staff have been 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 (since appointed as a ranger).</p> <p>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"> • increase the representation of Aboriginal people to 2% or more of the NSW DPI workforce by 31 December 2008 • increase career opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW DPI • increase Aboriginal representation in departmental decision-making processes • implement a support network for NSW DPI Aboriginal employees • ensure there is strong commitment throughout NSW DPI to implement the strategy. <p>Forests NSW' commitment to Aboriginal employment opportunities is also demonstrated in the ESFM plans.</p> <p>As part of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy a cadetship was recruited to and started at Southern Cross University located within LNE.</p>
2003	30 June	Sthn	5.1.2 Preparation of an employment and economic opportunities program with Aboriginal people.	<p>In progress</p> <p>DECC's initiatives include an Aboriginal Employment Strategy to facilitate employment and development opportunities for Aboriginal people. In 2006–2007, 7.5% of the DECC workforce identified since (2004–2005) equates to around 300 people. This increased to 8% in 2007–2008 (representing a 2% increase since 2004–2005) and equates to around 300 people. This figure is above the NSW Government benchmark of 2% Indigenous employment. Additionally, DECC employs contract and casual Aboriginal staff for work that includes the Discovery Ranger program, research projects and land management activities (e.g. weed control), amongst others. Joint management and ventures have also provided additional employment and industry development and economic opportunities.</p> <p>In 2008, DECC established an additional seven Aboriginal cadetships making a total of 17. Through the Aboriginal cadetship program, cadets participate in full-time study and 12 weeks of practical work experience each year to complete their undergraduate degree, with guaranteed employment on successful completion.</p> <p>Southern</p> <p>In the South West Slopes area of Parks and Wildlife Group an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger position that was created and filled in 2006–2007 continues. An Aboriginal liaison officer (administrative grade) that was created and filled in 2006–2007 to facilitate Aboriginal working group meetings and community involvement continues. A female Aboriginal interpretive trainee position that was recruited in 2007–2008 continues.</p> <p>In the Snowy Mountains Region of the Parks and Wildlife Group of DECC, a full-time Aboriginal education and liaison officer has been recruited and is running an Aboriginal cadet ranger program. Recruitment has just been completed for the employment of two Aboriginal trainee field officers. An Aboriginal cadet ranger has now graduated and an Aboriginal trainee clerical officer began in January 2009. There are three Aboriginal Discovery Rangers.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					<p>An Aboriginal trainee clerical officer was employed in January 2009. An Aboriginal Discovery Ranger position in South West Slopes that was created and filled in 2006–2007 continues. An Aboriginal liaison officer (admin grade) was that was created and filled in 2006–2007 to facilitate Aboriginal working group meetings and community involvement continued in 2007–2008. A female Aboriginal interpretive trainee position was recruited in 2007–2008 and continued in 2008–2009.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Five Aboriginal staff have been 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 (since appointed as a ranger).</p> <p>Forests NSW contributed towards 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 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"> • increase the representation of Aboriginal people to 2% or more of the NSW DPI workforce by 31 December 2008 • increase career opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW DPI • increase Aboriginal representation in departmental decision-making processes • implement a support network for NSW DPI Aboriginal employees • ensure there is strong commitment throughout NSW DPI to implement the strategy. <p>Forests NSW' commitment to Aboriginal employment opportunities is also demonstrated in the ESFM plans.</p> <p>Forests NSW currently have two Aboriginal staff who are employed in the Southern region. One staff member is employed in the Cultural Heritage Coordinator role and the other is employed as a field worker in an operations field crew.</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>Implemented</p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>Employment as part of the original funding package has been implemented. Additionally, during 2007–2008 following the finalisation of agreements with the Githabul and Worimi peoples, a further 13 full-time permanent Aboriginal identified positions have been created and funded (4 for Githabul and 9 for Woromi), with a number of revenue-based temporary and casual Aboriginal identified positions.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>Five Aboriginal staff have been 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 (since appointed as a ranger).</p>
2005	31 December	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.	<p>In progress</p> <p>The business plan for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre was completed and agreement was reached with Tumut Shire Council on a suitable site for the development.</p> <p>The project has not progressed in the past year due in part to a secondment of the Forests NSW Aboriginal Coordinator based in Tumut and a loss of momentum for the project within the Aboriginal community. In addition four business partnerships were entered into with Aboriginal groups in Southern region. These aim to provide economic benefit to the participants.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2005	31 December	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.	In progress Refer to the 'Preparation of an employment and economic opportunities program with Aboriginal people' milestone.
2005	31 December	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.	In progress Southern In the South West Slopes area of Parks and Wildlife Group an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger position that was created and filled in 2006–2007 continues. An Aboriginal liaison officer (administrative grade) that was created and filled in 2006–2007 to facilitate Aboriginal working group meetings and community involvement continues. A female Aboriginal interpretive trainee position that was recruited in 2007–2008 continues. In the Snowy Mountains Region of the Parks and Wildlife Group of DECC, a full-time Aboriginal education and liaison officer has been recruited and is running an Aboriginal cadet ranger program. Recruitment has just been completed for the employment of two Aboriginal trainee field officers. An Aboriginal cadet ranger has now graduated and an Aboriginal trainee clerical officer began in January 2009. There are three Aboriginal Discovery Rangers. An Aboriginal trainee clerical officer was employed in January 2009.
Aboriginal Management Committee for the Southern region					
2003	31 December	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 on State forests and national parks, respectively.	Completed DECC (PWG) South West Slopes Region established an Aboriginal Working Committee in 2004–2005. In 2007–2008 the committee continued to meet at regular intervals and work toward cooperative involvement of the Aboriginal community in park management issues. An Aboriginal liaison officer (admin grade) that was created and filled in 2006–2007 to facilitate Aboriginal working group meetings and community involvement continued in 2007–2008. Deferred Forests NSW considers that other arrangements have met the objectives of the milestone. Forests NSW considers the committee is not needed as it has MOUs with various individual local Aboriginal Land Councils or elder groups for consultation and for carrying out pre-operational surveys for Aboriginal heritage. Forests NSW considers this arrangement has been working very well because the Aboriginal communities are being engaged at the local level.
2003	31 December	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.	Completed
2003	31 December	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.	Completed 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 Kosciuszko NP POM a MOU is being developed in consultation with the Aboriginal Community. Drafting of the MOU continued during 2007–2008.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2005	31 December	Sthn	5.1.4.5	Create a provision for two Aboriginal representatives to sit on the South West Slopes Regional Advisory Committee.	Completed Three Aboriginal representatives were appointed to the DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South West Slopes Regional Advisory Committee in 2003–2004.

MANAGING FOR OTHER FOREST VALUES AND USES

Occupation permits in State forests

1999	1 July	UE, LNE, Eden	2.3.3	Formation of Occupation Permit Taskforce. (The taskforce will also consider issues in the Eden region.)	Completed A taskforce of representatives from the NPWS, Forests NSW and NSW Farmers was formed in November 2000. There are no occupation permits or permissive occupancies in Eden requiring consideration.
2000	1 July	UNE, LNE	2.3.3	Phasing out of occupation permits.	In progress DECC has had discussions with Forests NSW and an approach was agreed whereby Forests NSW would write to occupation permit holders asking them to advise as to how they would exclude stock from the FMZ 1 and 2 lands. Depending on the response, the occupation permit would either be renewed or revoked. The issue is still awaiting resolution.
2002	31 December	Sthn	2.3.3	Consideration of the Southern region by the Occupation Permit and Permissive Occupancy Taskforce.	Completed A steering group chaired by NPWS with representatives from DLWC, NSW Farmers, Forests NSW and NPWS met several times over 2001–2002 to oversee the phase-out of occupation permits and permissive occupancies. The phase-out, which affected about 120 people, was completed over 18 months 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.	Completed Refer to milestone above.

Roads and trails

2000	1 January	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.13.4 2.12.4 (E)	Preparation of an MoU on joint roads and trails maintenance and access arrangements.	MOUs in the Upper North East, Lower North East, Eden and Southern regions have not been completed and are not a priority, as local discussions have been very successful to date in resolving road issues as the need arises. Deferred– UNE/LNE Dedication of national parks and nature reserves over lands that were previously State forest highlighted the requirement for a cooperative approach to maintenance of roads and trails of mutual interest to both NPWS and Forests NSW. A draft was prepared in 2000 but has not been finalised. Discussions between the two agencies have been occurring at the local (operational) level on a case-by-case basis as the need arises. The process of local discussions has been very successful to date in meeting the desired outcome so that finalisation of an MOU is not a priority.
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Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					<p>No reporting required – Eden</p> <p>Joint roads, access and maintenance arrangements have been agreed to. A draft MOU has been prepared.</p> <p>Discussions between the two agencies have been occurring at the local (operational) level on a case-by-case basis as the need arises. The process of local discussions has been very successful to date in meeting the desired outcome so that finalisation of an MOU is not a priority.</p> <p>No reporting required – Southern</p> <p>Forests NSW and DECC had begun discussions on the development of the MOU for the Southern region in 2004, including a set of actions and operational protocols, but a formal MOU has not been drafted.</p> <p>Discussions between the two agencies have been occurring at the local (operational) level on a case-by-case basis as the need arises. For example, there have been some negotiations regarding access arrangements to reserves in DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) South Coast region and Forests NSW have proposed workshops to discuss best management practices for fish passage on roads passing over or through forest streams.</p> <p>The process of local discussions has been very successful to date in meeting the desired outcome so that finalisation of an MOU is not a priority.</p>
2002	31 December	Sthn	2.13.4	MoU on the use of roads and trails maintenance and access arrangements.	<p>No reporting required</p> <p>Forests NSW and NPWS had begun discussions on the development of the MOU for the Southern region but a formal MOU has not been drafted.</p> <p>Local discussions between the two agencies have been occurring at the local (operational) level on a case-by-case basis as the need arises. This process has been very successful to date in meeting the desired outcome so that a MOU is currently considered unnecessary.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Fire management				
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.10 2.9 (E) Preparation of a joint arrangement with District Fire Committees for the prevention, detection and suppression of bush fires.	<p>Implemented</p> <p>DECC and Forests NSW ensure an integrated approach to fire management (including prevention, mitigation and suppression) is achieved at a state level through their participation in the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee, which is established by the <i>NSW Rural Fires Act 1997</i>. The committee is responsible for statewide planning in relation to bush fire prevention and coordinated bush fire fighting, and for advising the NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner on bush fire prevention, mitigation and coordinated bush fire suppression.</p> <p>District Bush Fire Management Committees are responsible for implementing Bush Fire Coordinating Committee policy at the local level in a collaborative and cooperative way with other constituent members. The committees provide a forum for cooperative and coordinated fire and fuel management and community involvement. They are responsible for the completion of Bushfire Risk Management Plans and an Operations Coordination Plan. These plans are approved by the Commissioner for the NSW Rural Fire Service following consideration being given to a variety of landscape values. Both Forests NSW and DECC, and other land managers, are represented on the committees and have statutory obligations for fire management under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>The Bushfire Risk Management Plan is a strategic plan that encompasses all land tenures including: private lands; DECC reserves; and state forest areas on a local government area basis. The plan identifies community, environmental, cultural and economic assets at risk from fire, provides strategies to mitigate the risk being formulated at the landscape level and sets out a five-year program to mitigate these risks. It is implemented via an annual works program.</p> <p>The Operations Coordination Plan contains information about staff contact details for all fire agencies, as well as relevant community organisations and resources that are available for fire suppression activities. These plans also contain maps of the District Bush Fire Management Committee area, as well as details of fire roads, fire lookout towers and other fire-related infrastructure.</p> <p>The Rural Fire service makes periodic audits of annual works programs as part of its monitoring process to gauge compliance with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>Given the dispersed and fragmented nature of lands managed by both Forests NSW and DECC across the landscape, suppression of fires often necessitates a cooperative approach by all fire authorities and results in integration of resources, fire and local knowledge and suppression costs.</p> <p>Full integration of fire suppression activities is achieved during fires that are declared as fire emergencies pursuant to Section 44, <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>. Under these circumstances fires are managed at the landscape level without regard to tenure, with the Rural Fires Service Commissioner taking charge of all fire operations and the resources of all government agencies involved in the suppression effort.</p>
Ongoing	Sthn	2.10	Continuing participation in District Fire Management Committees for the prevention, detection and suppression of bush fires.	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2007	30 April	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.	<p>Implemented</p> <p>DECC addresses bush fire management in several ways.</p> <p>DECC fire management plans for reserves are consistent with bush fire risk management plans but have a greater level of detail. They are prepared for reserves where such detail is necessary and a specific document is warranted. Such plans are subject to extensive public consultation and are considered by the District Bush Fire Management Committees.</p> <p>Where this level of detail is not required, provisions are incorporated directly into management plans for reserves.</p> <p>ESFM principles are incorporated into bush fire risk management plans and reserve fire management plans (prepared at the individual reserve level). These address the provisions outlined, and are important for risk management, threatened species management and recovery planning.</p> <p>Details of DECC draft of final fire management plans can be viewed at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/ParkAndFireManagementPlansByCategory.htm</p> <p>Revised regional ESFM plans identify Forests NSW fire management commitments. Forests NSW 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 be supplemented by regional fuel management plans and fuel management programs.</p>
Recreation and tourism					
2001	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.13.1 2.12.1 (E)	Preparation of joint regional recreation and tourism plans.	<p>DECC has developed a statewide strategy for sustainable visitation (Living Parks), which was completed in 2005 and publicly launched in early 2006 (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/LivingParks.htm). Living Parks specified the development of Branch Visitation Management Plans, which will guide regional recreation and tourism planning on DECC estate. A framework for the development of these plans was completed in 2005–2006 and the plans were completed in 2008, setting out the internal arrangements within DECC for visitation management.</p> <p>Deferred</p> <p>UNE/LNE</p> <p>A joint DECC and Forests NSW plan has not been prepared and is not considered necessary in light of agency-specific initiatives.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				<p>Completed – Eden</p> <p>A <i>Far South Coast Nature Tourism and Recreation Plan</i> was completed in May 2004, involving Forests NSW, DEC, Eurobodalla Tourism, Sapphire Coast Tourism, Ummurra Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Tours and Department of Lands. This plan included the Eden region and some of the forests within the Southern region (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/FscEscarpmentRelatedinfo.htm)</p> <p>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, <i>Living, working, playing...forests 2005–2009</i> (see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications/living), continues to guide recreational use of State forests.</p>
2003	31 August	Sthn	2.13.1 Preparation of joint regional recreation and tourism plans.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Some areas within the Southern region are included in a <i>Far South Coast Nature Tourism and Recreation Plan</i>.</p> <p>Additionally, a draft inter-departmental Nature Tourism Strategy (<i>Nature and Tourism</i>) was prepared by the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Regional Tourism Task Force. DECC (Parks and Wildlife Division) 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 in the Southern Highlands, part Southern Tablelands and Shoalhaven areas. The strategy has not yet been finalised but DECC is working towards implementation for its reserves through Plans of Management</p> <p>DECC has developed a statewide strategy for sustainable visitation (Living Parks), which was completed in 2005 and publicly launched in early 2006 (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/LivingParks.htm). Living Parks specified the development of Branch Visitation Management Plans, which will guide regional recreation and tourism planning on DECC estate. A framework for the development of these plans was completed in 2005–2006, and the plans were completed in 2008, and set out the internal arrangements within DECC for visitation management.</p> <p>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, <i>Living, working, playing ... forests 2005–2009</i> (see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications/living) continues to guide recreational use of State forests.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Carbon sequestration opportunities				
2004	1 April	UNE	2.13.2 Carrying out a revegetation project that includes carbon sequestration opportunities.	Deferred Legal constraints have been identified that will require legislative change to enable carbon sequestration opportunities on reserves to be realised. DECC continues to monitor the development by the Australian Government of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme to identify any possible future opportunities to participate through the ecological restoration of degraded land in the national parks system. DECC's participation in the scheme will require government endorsement, a statewide project to identify and prioritise suitable land in the national parks system and a policy framework. The main aim of revegetating the degraded land in the national parks system will be the improvement of biodiversity, with carbon sequestration being a secondary aim.
Plantation areas within national parks				
2001	30 June	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.	No reporting required The time limit for undertaking this activity has expired. Two areas within national parks were identified where harvesting would have benefited rehabilitation and harvesting/rehabilitation plans were prepared. However, Forests NSW decided not to proceed and was informed by DECC that rehabilitation of those and other plantations would occur as part of normal reserve management operations. NPWS will rehabilitate plantations as part of its ongoing management of the reserves.
Ongoing	Within six months of harvest	UNE, LNE	6.16.1 Rehabilitation works on plantation areas within national parks must be completed within six months of harvest completion.	No reporting required 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.	No reporting required Refer to milestone above.
MANAGING TIMBER SUPPLY				
Supply arrangements				
1999	1 March	UNE, LNE	3.2 Amendment of wood supply agreement with Boral.	Completed Amended wood supply agreement was signed on 5 March 1999.
1999	31 December	UNE, 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.	In progress 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.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE	3.2	Wood supply agreement arrangements for processing thinnings.	Completed No new agreements have been entered into.
2000	1 April	Eden	3.2	Amendment of wood supply agreement with Harris Daishowa Australia.	Completed The wood supply agreement was signed on 5 March 1999 and amended on 29 September 1999.
2000	31 December	UNE, LNE	3.2	Additional volumes supplied under a transitional 'top-up' arrangement over two years to assist industry adjustments to terminate by 31 December 2000.	Completed Forests NSW made arrangements for additional wood supply volumes over two years. These arrangements were terminated on 31 December 2000.
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	3.4 4.3	Consultation on timber supply arrangements must occur through the development of plans of operation.	Continuing Consultation with industry is accepted practice as part of developing an annual plan of operations.
1999	30 June	UNE, LNE	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 30 June 1999. This is not to hinder the overall purpose of the Private Property Supplementation Program to supplement the SFNSW timber supply.	In progress 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	30 June	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.	In progress No progress to report.
Resource availability and sustainable yield					
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, 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.	In progress No progress to report.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
Ongoing	Within next five years	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>In progress</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>Biometrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth models have been updated for all areas using recent Permanent Growth Plot (PGP) measure data. • Models have also been simplified to improve rigorousness with respect to implementation and testing. • Further data were collected and analysed to improve the recovery factors, volume functions, taper functions, height/diameter functions and tree product apportionment equations biometrics. <p>Growth and yield simulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRAMES has been adapted to report species level yield trends. • Changes have been made to the modelled product mix to provide more realistic and flexible product categories. • The simulation tool has been integrated with the inventory and Woodstock wood flow model systems to improve efficiency and user-friendliness. • 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. • Silvicultural and harvesting assumptions have been updated as a result of silviculture studies in the North Coast region. • 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. <p>Area management</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>Estate models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • The model has been modified to ensure that only appropriate silvicultural intensities are applied to defined management areas. <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 additional plot measurements.	<p>In progress</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 were reported in the 2006–2007 FA report.</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 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 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.</p> <p>Because of the organisational shift from Spectrum and StandSim²⁵ to Woodstock for yield-scheduling analysis, the outputs from REDEN are formatted so they can be incorporated into the Woodstock package.</p> <p>The initial analysis from REDEN and Woodstock focused on short-term timber availability issues, notably the current 20-year planning horizon. After the preliminary results were refined and evaluated, 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, the current focus is on sensitivity analysis of the outputs.</p> <p>After REDEN was developed, 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 using this data for EDEN. Forests NSW will continue to review the utility of these and other tools for informing future management decisions.</p>
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>In progress</p> <p>Some planning for additional inventory plots began 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>

²⁵ STANDSIM was used as the scheduling tool in the Eden RFA.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					<p>The region has remeasured all areas where harvesting has occurred as at 30 June 2006.</p> <p>Forests NSW has been reviewing its logging history to determine areas for taking further inventory in 2007.</p> <p>As part of remeasurement, PGPs have been converted to a new plot size. All new PGPs will also 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. The data has been 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>Continuing</p> <p>The results of resource inventory and annual monitoring of actual and predicted timber volumes have been incorporated into FRAMES modelling and review of sustainable yield of timber products.</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>Continuing</p> <p>UNE and 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 additional enhancements to report.</p>
2006	31 December	Sthn	Att. 6(7)	Establishment of an ongoing FRAMES development program to include the listed elements.	In progress
2006	31 December	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.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Refer to milestones above.</p>
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	3.5	SFNSW consulting with NPWS and PlanningNSW on the terms and conduct of the FRAMES assessment.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>No formal consultation has taken place this year.</p>
2002	30 September	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.	<p>In progress</p> <p>No formal consultation has taken place this year.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2007	1 March	UNE, LNE	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.	Complete
FRAMES monitoring and processes					
2004	1 April	UNE, LNE	3.5	SFNSW, NPWS and PlanningNSW will consult on appropriate spatial scales for reporting actual yields against FRAMES estimates.	In progress 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.	Continuing Formal consultation in relation to this milestone is yet to take place.
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.	Continuing 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.
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).	Continuing Refer to milestone above.
Annually		UNE, LNE	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.	Continuing The 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 term of the FAs and longer term planning horizons. Tracking the performance of FRAMES is a difficult task. Early comparisons of actual and predicted yield were completed for the North Coast. These comparisons were incorporated in the extensive independent review of FRAMES entitled ‘ <i>Review of Projected Timber Yields for the NSW North Coast</i> ’ completed by Professor Vanclay from Southern Cross University in 2002; on the DPI Forests website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/268064/vanclay-report-review-projected-timber-yields-nsw-north-coast.pdf The actual versus predicted comparisons illustrated a range of technical issues (e.g. sampling intensity) that have hindered any real analysis of predicted yield below the whole-of-forest-estate level, which defines the RFA outcomes. Fundamentally these relate to FRAMES being a strategic planning tool 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 region level). The NSW FA requirement to monitor timber off-take and compare it against FRAMES predictions was addressed in the Vanclay review.
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.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.

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.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.
Annually		UNE, LNE, 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.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.
Annually		Sthn	3.5	Monitoring and review of FRAMES performance to include assessment of progressive 20-year supply.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.
2006	31 December	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.	Complete In 2002 Professor Vanclay of Southern Cross University undertook an independent review of the FRAMES system and processes on the North Coast, and reported its findings in <i>Review of Projected Timber Yields for the NSW North Coast (2002)</i> . Because FRAMES is a state-wide system used by all regions, an independent review of enhanced FRAMES has not been commissioned in Southern Region. It is noted in attachment 6 (6c) of the Southern FA that site-specific silvicultural regimes occur the South Coast and Tumut subregions, and that the FRAMES models will reflect these site-specific silvicultural regimes. A review of sustainable yield and associated appropriate FRAMES models specific to the Southern region will occur and will be subject to an independent assessment (see milestone below).
2007	30 April and each five-year review	Sthn	Att. 6(8) point 2	Review sustainable yield every five 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.	In progress A review of sustainable yield and associated appropriate FRAMES models specific to the Southern region will occur and will be subject to an independent assessment. No progress to report in 2007-2008.
2007	30 April and each five-year review	Sthn	Att. 6(8) point 3	Complete and publish independent audits of sustainable yield in time for each subsequent five-year review.	In progress No progress to report. See above milestone.
2007	30 April	Sthn	Att. 6(6c) point 2	The FRAMES models will reflect the site-specific silvicultural regimes applied in the Southern Region.	In progress The permanent growth plot system was redesigned in 2000–01 to reflect changes in silvicultural practices. This involved changing the plot size from 0.1, 0.3 and 0.6 ha to 0.2 and 0.4 ha to better capture the variability in the forests and improve data for modelling mortality and recruitment. Plot coverage has also been increased through establishing 270 new plots across the NSW FA regions. Newly established plots in the new format were measured along with a large number of existing permanent growth plots in the new format. While improvements to current growth models are based on data from the older plot format, when data becomes available from the new plots the models will be reviewed and if necessary updated. In the Eden region, Forests NSW in conjunction with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) have

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					carried out other experiments to measure forest response to thinning regimes. These have also been used to refine biometric models in that locality.
Production of timber products					
Annually		UNE, LNE, Eden	3.5	A report on the annual production of timber products other than the production of quota sawlogs.	Continuing 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.	Continuing Information on the annual production of timber products other than quota sawlogs is contained within this report.
Timber supply arrangements and management and charcoal production					
2002	30 September	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.	No reporting required 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 to the baseline data.	No reporting required Milestone no longer required.
Annually		Sthn	3.3.2	If monitoring each year indicates a change in these parameters (i.e. amount of species, 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.	No reporting required 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 from either as part of the 200 000 tonnes of residue timber or thinnings) and the total quantity (tonnes) of thinnings.	No reporting required Milestone no longer required.

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress	
Silvicultural practices					
1999	1 December	UNE, LNE	2.2.4	Preparation of eco field guides.	Completed Eco field guides for the Upper North East and Lower North East regions have been published and can be purchased through Forests NSW.
2002	31 August	Sthn	2.2.4 4.3	Prepare and publish eco field guides for the Southern region.	Completed – South Coast sub-region In progress – 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.
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.4 Att. 6	Preparation of SFNSW Forest Practices Code: Part 5 – Wildlife Management in Native Forests.	In progress No progress to report.
2002	30 June	Sthn	2.2.4 Att. 4	SFNSW Forest Practices Code: Part 5 – Wildlife Management in Native Forests.	In progress No progress to report.
2001 Ongoing (Sthn)	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	2.2.8 Att. 6(2c) (S)	Native forests silvicultural regimes must be implemented in State forests.	Implemented Forests NSW has published a Native Forests Silvicultural Manual (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/268055/forests-nsw-native-forest-silviculture-manual.pdf) 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	1 April	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.	In progress 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 2007–2008 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.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2003	30 September	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, report area harvested and silvicultural types and consult on ecosystem management.	In progress 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.	Implemented 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 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 underwent external audits against ISO 14001:2004 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.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.
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.	Continuing 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 <i>SEEing Report 2007–2008. Social Environmental and Economic Report</i> . Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW contains details of compliance at a statewide level.
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.3	Harvesting plans to be prepared for all logging operations and forest products conducted under a timber licence.	Completed Harvesting plans are prepared for all logging operations 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.	Completed Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	2.2.7	Notification by SFNSW on 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.	Implemented 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	Implemented

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				operations to NPWS, EPA, NSWF and DoP, as outlined in IFOA arrangements.	Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	No less than two months before commencement of forest agreement	UNE LNE 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.	Continuing This process was not required during 2007–2008.
Ongoing	Two months before activities begin	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.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.
2002	31 December	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.	Implemented DECC assesses compliance with the Environment Protection Licences and Threatened Species Licences, which form part of the IFOAs. See the <i>Compliance with the IFOAs</i> section of this report for further information. Forests NSW has defined its audit procedure in <i>Forest Practices Circular (FPC) 2006/17: Monitoring and Audit Manual</i> Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW. Forests NSW publicly reports, at a statewide 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 timeframes within the final documents or as for Forests NSW standard operating procedures. DPI–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. Information on TSL, EPL and Fisheries Licence compliance is provided in Chapter 3. Forests NSW internal compliance results are also provided in Chapter 3.
2007	30 April and each five-year review	Sthn	Att. 6(2n)	Undertaking audits of compliance at first and subsequent five-yearly reviews.	In progress During 2007–08 Forests NSW was audited on two occasions against the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708 (Int)—2003) and twice against the environmental management system standard ISO 14001. Regions audited against the Australian Forestry Standard were Northern (UNE and LNE) and Monaro (Southern and Eden) planted forest regions, as were Native Forest Regions Central (LNE) and Southern (Southern and Eden). The auditors also visited the corporate offices in Cumberland State forest during each audit. ESFM plans and schedules had not been finalised, which was identified as an issue but subsequently achieved to the auditors' satisfaction. Another issue related to the Adverse Impacts Identification Register and Procedure, which is part of the environmental management system. Social and economic aspects had not been included and this has since been addressed. A number of minor issues (referred to as non-conformances) and observations were also reported and summary reports are available on request from Forests NSW.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS					
STAFF TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY INITIATIVES					
Staff training					
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	2.1.1 3.6 (E)	SFNSW field staff and contractors must receive appropriate competency-based training. 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.	No reporting required 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.
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.	No reporting required Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing		UNE, LNE, Eden	2.1.2	NPWS field staff and contractors must receive appropriate competency-based training.	Continuing 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 statewide 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.	Continuing Staff in DECC (Parks and Wildlife Group) Southern Branch have attended new Aboriginal cultural awareness training courses as available.
Employment and industry initiatives					
Ongoing	Subject to funding	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	3.6 Att. 10 Att. 8 (S)	Employ a range of initiatives to facilitate employment, subject to funding.	Implemented <i>DECC</i> 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

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					<p>relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage is addressed elsewhere in this table.</p> <p>Eden</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Southern</p> <p>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).</p> <p><i>Forests NSW</i></p> <p>Forests NSW supports initiatives to facilitate industry development and employment through active membership in a number of industry umbrella groups, such as the Forest & Wood Products Australia.</p> <p>Forests NSW initiatives during 2007–2008 include the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Agreements finalised in 1999 and 2000 reduced the area of native forest available for harvest. Forests NSW reintroduced a hardwood plantation program in 1994. These hardwood plantations will play an important role in supplementing the wood supply from native forests. Currently, Forest NSW manages over 50 000 ha of eucalypt plantations, with approximately 26 000 ha in the post-1994 estate. Agreement was reached during the year for the sale of 150 000 tonnes of pulpwood to be harvested in late 2008 from these post-1994 plantations in the Dorrigo area. This is the first commercial thinning operation in the post-1994 plantations and represents a vital component of Forests NSW strategy for maintaining a sustainable hardwood timber supply. • Forests NSW initiated a review of pricing for hardwood log products during 2006 to address industry pricing concerns. A number of findings and key recommendations have been incorporated into a draft pricing plan, which will be finalised in 2008-09. Consultation with industry will be essential for implementing review outcomes, which need to be consistent with the existing provisions of customer wood supply agreements. • Until recently timber was sold as it stood in the forests, with the mills responsible for harvesting and transport. To exercise greater control over operations, Forests NSW increasingly sells timber delivered to the mill door. Progress was made in implementing this change in south coast and tableland forest areas during the year. • Forests NSW issued a call for Expressions of Interest for companies to submit firm proposals to invest in re-establishing forestry plantations upon Forests NSW managed land. This represents a new business model for Forests NSW. The aim is to have projects approved and under way by December 2008. This model will reduce the substantial financial burden on Forests NSW of re-establishing plantations.
Industry initiatives					
2004	1 April	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.	<p>In progress</p> <p>In 2007–2008, timber supplementation through the purchase of timber rights from private property occurred. All logging operations were authorised under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>.</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					No private property supplementation through the purchase of land occurred.
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.	Continuing In 2007–2008 timber supplementation through the purchase of timber rights from private property occurred. As only timber rights were purchased, logging operations were authorised under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> . No private land was purchased.
Ongoing	Subject to funding	UNE, LNE, Eden	3.6	Extension of FISAP to fund various initiatives in the UNE, LNE and Eden regions.	Completed
2006	30 June	Sthn	3.6	FISAP applies in the Southern region and will be available to fund initiatives until 20 June 2006.	Completed FISAP payments under this initiative concluded in 2006–2007.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Complaint handling

2000	1 January	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.15	Devise and implement a coordinated complaint handling and response system.	Implemented A coordinated complaint handling protocol was developed and implemented in 2001.
2002	30 June	Sthn	6.15	Devise and implement a coordinated complaint handling and response system for the IFOA.	Implemented Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	When making an amendment	Sthn	6.2	Public participation is required when making a forest agreement or when an amendment or revocation occurs.	Continuing No amendments to the Southern Forest Agreement occurred during 2007–2008.

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.	Continuing 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. DECC's public and educational programs 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. 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.
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Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				<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 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(2)	<p>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>	<p>Continuing</p> <p><i>DECC</i></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. DECC's public and educational programs 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><i>Forests NSW</i></p> <p>Forests NSW have continued to participate and provide awareness to the community regarding ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM) practices as a result of finalising ESFM Plans. Forests NSW publicly exhibited ESFM Plans in 2000 as a first step in seeking greater involvement from stakeholders. As a result of input from the public and regulatory agencies the ESFM Plans have been progressively refined and completed in 2005 (see milestone 2.3). This process is part of the strategy for public education regarding the principles of ESFM.</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>The reporting on indicators in the Seeing Report mimic indicators contained in the MIG process. Forests NSW also contributes at the national and international levels on reporting and review of the MIG indicators. Reporting also occurs on ESFM indicators in the annual forest agreement implementation reports, see: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/monitoring.htm and the ESFM criteria and indicators are being revised, as discussed in Chapter 6.</p> <p>Forests NSW 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</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				NSW staff attendance helps to raise public awareness and understanding of ESFM practices.
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden	Att. 8	Continuing to develop the public consultation and public reporting mechanisms through the introduction of new partnerships (for example the International Model Forest Network).	Continuing No progress to report.
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.	Continuing No progress to report.
Ongoing	Sthn	Att. 6(2f)	Improving the coordination and effective use of resources allocated to research for ESFM in New South Wales.	Continuing No progress to report.

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

Access to information

1999	As soon as possible	UNE, LNE, Eden	1.6	Granting of an IFOA on, or as soon as possible after, the making of the agreement.	Completed 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. Links to the IFOAs and amendments are provided at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/agreementsIFOAs.htm
2002	ASAP	Sthn	1.6.1 Att. 6(1) & (2a)	Granting of an IFOA for the Southern region.	Completed 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	Within seven days of signing	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.10	Furnishing of the Agreement (and IFOA) to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament; and to be laid before Parliament within 15 sitting days of receipt.	Completed 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	Within seven days of signing	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.	Completed The forest agreement and IFOA for the Southern region were furnished to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament in May 2002.
Ongoing	When making or	Sthn	6.2	Public participation is required when making a forest agreement or when an amendment or revocation	Continuing

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
	amending			occurs.	Public consultation occurred during the making of the forest agreements. No amendments to the agreements have been made to date.
1999	1 April	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.	Completed Public notice of the making of the forest agreements was given in March 1999, and for the IFOA in December 1999.
2002	Within seven days of signing	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.	Completed Public notice of the making of the forest agreement and IFOA was given as required.
1999	1 December	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	Determining a method to provide all research reports to the public.	Completed Project reports can be viewed through a link on the DECC website (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/index.htm) and the Australian Government's RFA website (www.rfa.gov.au). Additional plans and reports are available on Forests NSW and DECCW websites.
1999	1 April	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.	Completed 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. IFOAs were signed on 21 December 1999 and deposited at PlanningNSW's head office in Sydney and regional offices in Newcastle, Grafton and Queanbeyan; State Forests of NSW (now Forests NSW) regional offices in Walcha, Taree, Casino, Eden and Coffs Harbour; and NPWS regional offices in Glen Innes, Alstonville, Merimbula, Armidale and Port Macquarie.
2002	Within seven days after signing	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.	Continuing The Southern Forest Agreement and IFOA were made available at various DIPNR [the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources], NPWS and Forests NSW offices within Southern region. They were also made available for public inspection at DIPNR head office in Sydney.
1999	1 May	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.11	Copies of documents made available on the Internet by means of the website of the Department of Planning.	Completed The NSW forest agreements and IFOAs were made available on the RACAC website (now www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/index.htm) in March 1999 and April 2000 respectively. The site also has links to the Commonwealth Government's RFA website (www.daff.gov.au/rfa), which contains project reports carried out as part of the CRA/RFAs for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions.
2002	As soon as practicable after documents	Sthn	6.11	Copies of documents made available on the Internet by means of the website of the Department of Planning.	Completed The NSW forest agreement and IFOA were made available on the RACAC website (now www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/index.htm) in 2003. The site also has links to the Commonwealth Government's RFA

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
	made public				website (www.daff.gov.au/rfa), which contains project reports carried out as part of the CRA/RFAs for the Southern region.
2002	30 June	Sthn	2.11.3	All project reports relevant to the regional forest assessment must be made public.	Completed All CRA/RFA project reports have been published and are publicly available via the Commonwealth Government's RFA website www.daff.gov.au/rfa .
2002	Within six months of signing	Sthn	Att. 6(5)	Publish all FRAMES CRA reports for Southern.	Completed All FRAMES CRA reports for the Southern region have been completed and are publicly available.
Additional reporting mechanisms					
2000	1 April	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).	Complete 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	31 August	Sthn	4.2	Additional reporting and consultative mechanisms for NPWS, such as the State of the Parks report.	Complete Refer to milestone above.
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	4.3	Additional reporting mechanisms for SFNSW (e.g. plan of operations, regional ESFM plans).	Complete 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 three months by Forests NSW, as well as the DPI Forests NSW Research and Development Annual Report prepared each financial year.
2002	31 August	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.	Complete 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 silvicultural practices and contains the silvicultural specifications and guidelines required by the Forest Agreements and IFOAs.
Annually		UNE, LNE,	2.2.6	SFNSW reporting at statewide level through Environmental and Social Values Report.	Complete <i>Forests NSW SEEing Report 2007–2008. Social Environmental and Economic Report.</i> Forests NSW, Pennant Hills NSW, has been

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
	Eden Sthn			published for 2007–2008 and is available through the DPI website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications/forests-nsw-seeing-report-2007-08
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	4.5 Additional reporting mechanisms, such as committees, by other agencies.	<p>Continuing</p> <p><i>DECC</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>DPI</i></p> <p>Limited information about plantation authorisations under the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> is contained in DPI annual reports.</p> <p>The <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> requires a public register to be kept of all plantation authorisations. The public register contains information on location, catchment management authority regions, LGAs, date of authorisation, authorised plantation area, area of native vegetation authorised to be cleared, and area of native vegetation that must be retained.</p> <p>A Profile of Plantation Authorisations is also available from the DPI website.</p> <p><i>Forests NSW</i></p> <p>Forests NSW has regional/corporate reporting and consultative mechanisms for considering forest management, including the annual plan of operations (supplied to regulators), public exhibited documents, like the ESFM Plans, and regional plans that have incorporated public comments. The Research Division's annual report and Forests NSW financial report is produced each financial year, see: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications</p> <p>Forests NSW is represented on a range of international, national, state and local groups related to forests and forest management, including the National Forestry and Forests Products Committee and its associated subcommittees, the National and International Montreal Process Working Group that sets the benchmark for sustainability reporting, the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, NSW Bushfires Coordinating Committee and Greening Australia (among others).</p> <p>Forests NSW has published a Native Forests Silvicultural Manual that complements its field guides and training programs. The manual documents the basis for Forests NSW silvicultural practices and contains the silvicultural specifications and guidelines required by the forest agreements and IFOAs. Although the Coastal and Tableland areas north of Sydney are divided into two regions for the purposes of the IFOAs, the specifications for silvicultural purposes are identical.</p> <p>For reporting on sustainability, Forests NSW produces an annual sustainability report (Seeing Report) that informs performance on sustainability for both planted and native forests, see: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/corporate-publications.</p> <p>Sustaining all forest values now and into the future is a day-to-day challenge for responsible forest managers across the globe, with Forests NSW taking its role both as a leader in sustainable forest management and reporting to the community very seriously. The Seeing Report provides a report against four key result areas of the business:</p> <p>Social: building partnerships and generating economic and social benefits within the community, especially for rural and regional</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				<p>communities; developing and valuing our staff (indicators 1 to 10).</p> <p>Environmental: ecologically sustainable management of native and planted forests to protect and enhance environmental and conservation values, minimising our ecological footprint to help meet the demands of future markets for environmental services (Indicators 11 to 21).</p> <p>Economic: ensuring an adequate return to the government and community from the marketing of a range of values and products from native forests and plantations; developing innovative products, services and mechanisms to promote investment in new planted forests and the environmental values of forests (indicators 22 to 24).</p> <p>Sustainability: managing State forests for the long term and to retain opportunities and resources for future generations to meet their needs and expectations, while providing for the present (indicators 25 to 31).</p> <p>The Seeing Report for the last 10 years is evidence of this commitment and is produced as part of an integrated set of documents. The set includes the Forests NSW Annual Report and a facts and figures booklet. The report is recognised nationally and internationally for its openness and transparency and that it is externally verified.</p>
ESFM CRITERIA AND INDICATORS				
Monitoring				
Ongoing	UNE, LNE, Eden, Sthn	2.11.2 2.10.2 (E) Att. 7 (S)	Monitoring of ESFM criteria and indicators.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>DECC continues to monitor and report annually on its progress towards achieving ESFM through the criteria and indicators.</p> <p>Forests NSW 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 SEEng 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.</p>
Reporting				
Annually	UNE, LNE, Eden Sthn	2.11.2 2.10.2 (E) Att. 9	Reporting on indicators to contribute to annual report to Parliament.	<p>Continuing</p> <p>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.</p>

Due date	Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Trial and assessment				
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 five-year review.	<p>Completed</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 five-year review of the forest agreements.</p> <p>An assessment of the ESFM criteria and indicators will be part of the first five-year review of the forest agreements and IFOAs. The review will incorporate those for the Southern region to ensure consistency and compatibility among regions. However, improving and developing monitoring and reporting processes for the criteria and indicators by all participating agencies has been ongoing since 1999–2000.</p>
2002	30 September	Sthn	2.11.2 Preparation of an evaluation framework for the criteria and indicators.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
2004	1 April	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.	<p>In progress</p> <p>The ESFM criteria and indicators will be assessed as part of the first five-year review.</p>
2007	30 April	Sthn	2.11.2 Review of indicators.	<p>In progress</p> <p>Refer to milestone above.</p>
Data management				
1999	1 October	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.13 Lodgement of all archival copies of data.	<p>Completed</p> <p>All archival copies of data for the UNE, LNE and Eden regions have been lodged.</p>
2002	30 June	Sthn	6.13 Lodgement of all archival copies of data.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Archival copies of data for the Southern region have been lodged.</p>
2000	1 April	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.13 Data management agreement.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Data management agreement finalised by State members of the CRA Data Management Group and endorsed by RACD of Planning</p>

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
					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	30 June	Sthn	6.13 Att. 6(2h)	Preparation of data management agreement.	Completed 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.	Complete In March 2001, the NSW Government launched the Community Access to Natural Resource Information (CANRI) website (www.canri.nsw.gov.au). 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 www.nratlas.nsw.gov.au/wmc/savedapps/nratlas .
Research					
1999	1 December	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.	Completed 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 Yabbra State forest (now Toonumbar National Park), and Coolangubra State forest (now part of the South East Forest National Park) in the Eden region.
2002	30 June	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.	Completed Only one research project area, situated in the Murramarang 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	1 January	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	Preparation of strategy to outline all monitoring and research to be undertaken.	Deferred 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).

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
2003	30 June	Sthn	2.11.3 Att. 7	A strategy for important research and monitoring (including ESFM indicators) must be prepared jointly by SFNSW and NPWS.	Deferred 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.	Continuing No further progress to report.
2004	1 March	UNE, LNE, Eden	2.11.3 2.10.3 (E)	Preparation of a compendium of forest research.	In progress Forests NSW publishes an annual report on its forest research activities, which includes a compilation of all publications and conference papers, published throughout the year. Forests NSW Annual Reports on research are available at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/research/forestry Forests NSW is a supporting member of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Forestry. The CRC for Forestry mission is to support a sustainable and vibrant Australian forestry industry through research, education, communication and collaboration. Other research relevant to NSW is provided through national organisations, including the CSIRO, Forest and Wood Products Australia, and the Joint Venture Agroforestry Program. It is available at: www.crcforestry.com.au/
2007	30 April	Sthn	2.11.3	A compendium of New South Wales forest research must be prepared.	In progress 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.	Deferred Operational research trial not implemented during 2007–2008.
2010	31 December	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.	Continuing The spatial forest event management system GeoMaster (NZ Forest Research) was set up for evaluation and testing with native forest operations; testing is now complete. Development of some form of a geodatabase continues and is being distributed as part of a structured GIS-tools development program.
2010	31 December	Sthn	Att. 6 (6b)	Develop, by the end of 2010, a model to predict recruitment and maintenance of habitat trees over time.	Continuing No further work on this model has occurred during 2007–2008.
2007	30 April	Sthn	Att. 6 (6c)	Determine, based on review, field-based sampling	In progress

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
				and principles of sustainability to determine the range of silvicultural regimes and prescriptions that can be appropriately applied to each stratum of forest type.	No progress to report.
REPORTING AND REVIEW					
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.	Continuing This year (2007–2008) is the ninth year 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.	Continuing This year (2007–2008) is the sixth year 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	As soon as practical after it is prepared	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.	Continuing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1999–2000 Forest Agreement Annual Report – UNE, LNE and Eden regions – tabled. • 2000–2001 Forest Agreement Annual Report – UNE, LNE and Eden regions – tabled. • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2001–2002 – UNE, LNE and Eden regions - tabled • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2002–2003 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions – tabled • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2003–2004 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions – tabled). • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2004–2005 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions -- tabled). • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2005–2006 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions – tabled). • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2006–2007 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions – tabled • Forest Agreement Implementation Report 2007–2008 – UNE, LNE, Eden and Southern regions – current report.
Review					
Ongoing	Every five-year review	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.	Continuing Part of the first five-year review.
2007	30 April 2007 and every five years	Sthn	6.8	Every five 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.	Continuing Refer to milestone above.

Due date		Region	FA section	Milestone	Progress
Ongoing	Every five-year review	UNE, LNE, Eden	6.8	Parties to ensure the public are given an opportunity to participate in the review (public notification and inspection).	No reporting required Refer to milestone above.
2005	31 December and every five years	Sthn	6.8	The public is to be given an opportunity to participate in the review of the agreement.	No reporting required Refer to milestone above.
Ongoing	12 months after each five-year review	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.	No reporting required Not required until 12 months after the review is complete.
2007	31 July and every five years	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.	No reporting required Refer to milestone above.

Notes: (E) Reference in Eden Region Forest Agreement; (S) Reference in Southern Region Forest Agreement

Appendix 2 Threatened flora and fauna species and populations recorded in new additions within UNE and LNE

Flora		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Acronychia littoralis</i>	Scented acronychia	E
<i>Angophora inopina</i>	Charmhaven apple	V
<i>Callistemon linearifolius</i>	Netted bottle brush	V
<i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	Leafless tongue orchid	V
<i>Diuris praecox</i>	Rough double rail	V
<i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i>	Heart-leaved stringybark	V
<i>Eucalyptus glaucina</i>	Slaty red gum	V
<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>decadens</i>	<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>decadens</i>	V
<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>parramattensis</i> – endangered population	<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>parramattensis</i> population in the Wyong and Lake Macquarie LGAs	EP
<i>Grevillea parviflora</i> subsp. <i>parviflora</i>	Small-flower grevillea	V
<i>Grevillea quadricauda</i>	Four-tailed grevillea	V
<i>Melaleuca biconvexa</i>	Biconvex paperbark	V
<i>Rulingia prostrata</i>	Dwarf kerrawang	E
<i>Rutidosia heterogama</i>	Heath wrinklewort	V
<i>Tetraloche juncea</i>	Black-eyed susan	V

Key:

- V: Species or subspecies listed as Vulnerable under Schedule 2 of the NSW TSC Act.
 E: Species or subspecies listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of the NSW TSC Act.
 EP: Population listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of the NSW TSC Act.

Fauna		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang cockatoo	V
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy black cockatoo	V
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared pied bat	V
<i>Chalinolobus nigrogriseus</i>	Hoary wattled bat	V
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	Little pied bat	V
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown tree creeper	V
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	Wallum froglet	V
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed quoll	V
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i> – endangered population	Emu population in the NSW North Coast Bioregion and Port Stephens LGA	EP
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked stork	E
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern false pipistrelle	V
<i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i>	Stephens' banded snake	V
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift parrot	E
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed kite	V
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned honeyeater (eastern subspecies)	V
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little bentwing-bat	V
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern bentwing-bat	V
<i>Mormopterus</i> Species 6	Hairy-nosed freetail bat	E
<i>Mormopterus beccarii</i>	Beccari's freetail-bat	V
<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	Eastern freetail-bat	V
<i>Myotis adversus</i>	Large-footed myotis	V
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise parrot	V
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking owl	V
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful owl	V
<i>Nyctophilus timoriensis</i>	Eastern long-eared bat	V
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	V
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied glider	V
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel glider	V
<i>Pezoporus wallicus wallicus</i>	Eastern ground parrot	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>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed flying-fox	V
<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	Wompoo fruit-dove	V

Fauna		
Scientific name	Common name	Legal status
<i>Pyrrholaemus saggitatus</i>	Speckled warbler	V
<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied sheath-tail-bat	V
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater broad-nosed bat	V
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond firetail	V
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked owl	V
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty owl	V
<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>	Regent honeyeater	E

Key:

- V: Species or subspecies listed as Vulnerable under Schedule 2 of the NSW *TSC Act*.
- E: Species or subspecies listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of the NSW *TSC Act*.
- EP: Population listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of the NSW *TSC Act*.

Appendix 3 PWG responsibilities and major policies (2007–2008)

Name of institutions	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 <i>NPW Act</i> so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve nature • conserve objects, places and features of cultural value • foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage and their conservation. <p>Each reserve category is managed in accordance with a range of principles specific to the reserve category, and these include variously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological function • protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes • protection of the ecological integrity of ecosystems for present and future generations • conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value • promotion of public appreciation and understanding of a reserve's natural and cultural heritage values • 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 • for lands reserved as Aboriginal areas, provision for the use of the reserve by Aboriginal people for cultural use • provision for appropriate research and monitoring. 	<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)</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 institutions	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>

Name of institutions	Responsibilities for forests (and tenure)	Major non-legislative policies relevant to PWG
		<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> <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 Training Activities Policy (May 08)</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 4 Main legislation relevant to sustainable forest management in New South Wales

There were no changes to legislation administered by PWG during the 2007–2008 reporting period.

Agency	Main legislation	Purpose	Tenure categories to which legislation applies
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	<i>Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003</i>	Establishes catchment management authorities and to 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 Licence 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 NSW	<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 an Environmental Protection Licence and reporting and management of contaminated sites.	
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	<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 <i>NPW Act</i> , which includes national parks, historic sites, state conservation areas, regional parks, nature reserves, karst conservation reserves, Aboriginal areas. TSC Act applies to all 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 Environment and Climate Change NSW	<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.
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000</i>	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> .	PWG managed lands (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 NSW	<i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995</i> <i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Amendment Act 1999 No 50</i>	An Act 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 NSW	<i>Forestry and National Park Estate Act 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 NSW	<i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> <i>Native Vegetation Regulation 2005</i>	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 NSW	<i>Soil Conservation Act 1938 No 10</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 (Cth)</i> .	
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, threatened fish species and to 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 co-ordinate prevention and suppression of bushfires.	

Agency	Main legislation	Purpose	Tenure categories to which legislation applies
	<i>Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1984</i>	<p>This Act revokes certain dedications of State forests and part of a timber reserve and reserves or dedicates these lands, and certain other Crown lands as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additions to four existing national parks (including Werrikimbe NP and Barrington Tops NP). • Addition to one existing nature reserve (Mount Seaview NR) and one new nature reserve. 	
Department of Environment & Climate Change	<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1983</i>		
Department of Environment & Climate Change	<p><i>Pesticides Act 1999</i></p> <p><i>Dangerous Goods Regulation 2005</i></p> <p><i>Radiation Control Act 1990</i></p> <p><i>Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985</i></p> <p><i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001</i></p> <p><i>Waste Recycling and Processing Corporation Act 2001</i></p>	To control the use of pesticides and other chemicals, including those used in forest and plantation management.	All