

AMENDMENT No. 2 TO INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVAL FOR THE SOUTH WESTERN CYPRESS REGION

The current amending instrument constitutes amendments to the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval for the South Western Cypress region (IFOA).

Reasons for amendments

1. Amendments to the non-licence terms.

1.1. Increase the volume of logs by 43,500m³ (3,000m³/year for 14.5 years) to the area of the region north of the Mitchell highway.

This amendment is to address the difference between supply areas for wood supply agreement holders and the boundaries between the Brigalow-Nandewar and South Western Cypress IFOA regions. The equivalent volume of logs has been deducted from the Brigalow –Nandewar region so there is no overall change in the total volume of timber between both regions.

1.2. Increase the allowable annual volume of timber products other than logs and residue to 5,000m³ per year.

This amendment is to increase the annual cap on volumes of timber products other than logs and residue specified in clause 5(2)b from 1,500m³ per year to 5,000m³ per year to address concerns raised by industry that the lower cap placed an unreasonable constraint on timber businesses developing other markets for timber products apart from logs and residue.

1.3. Removal the 6,000m³ annual cap on volumes of residue timber.

This amendment is to remove the annual cap on volumes of residue timber specified in clause 5(2)c, provided that harvesting is conducted in accordance with clause 32G which specifies the silviculture, stand pre-conditions and outcome required at the end of an operation. The amendment is made to address concerns raised by industry that the cap placed an unnecessary additional constraint on timber businesses developing other markets for residue, given the IFOA already mitigates environmental impacts through clause 32G.

1.4. Addition of volume of 25 000 m³ of logs (5,000 m³ per year over the 5 year period) from Western Lands Leases in the region commencing 1 July 2013 with a review requirement for any further volumes from these lands

This amendment is to allow a volume of 5,000m³ per year for a 5 year period to recognise the occasional use of Western Lands Leases for production of logs in the region that were not previously recognised in the IFOA. The 5 year timeframe and review requirements are in recognition that these lands have not yet formally been assessed for wood volumes or environmental impacts and that any longer term wood supply will require this assessment.

2. Amendments to the Threatened Species Licence

2.1. Allow for the Environmentally Significant Area surrounding a tree identified as habitat for hollow dependent threatened species to be removed in some circumstances.

These amendments allow for the Environmentally Significant Area surrounding a tree identified as 'habitat for hollow dependent threatened species' (clause 170 and Part 3.6) to be removed in some circumstances where:

- the compartment has a high density of large habitat trees and it is within 60m of another large habitat tree, or;
- where it is within 60m of another Environmentally Significant Area protection zone, or;
- where it falls within an existing log dump.

The amendments also clarify that a stump with a diameter greater than 81cm does not require an Environmentally Significant Area.

These amendments are made to address concerns raised by industry that in areas with a high density of large trees, overlapping buffer areas impact on the ability to move through the forest,

limiting access to parts and increasing transport costs. Use of existing log dumps minimises disturbance. It was not intended for stumps to qualify as large trees.

2.2. Clarifies that dead trees must not be felled for the purposes of producing a timber product of any kind.

This amendment adds clarification 'for the purposes of producing a timber product of any kind' to existing condition of clause 207(2) that dead trees must not be felled in a timber operation. This is to reflect the operational reality that small dead tree stems may inadvertently be knocked down as part of standard harvesting operations in the region.