

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page consisting of a pattern of green hexagons. The pattern is partially obscured by a white, torn-paper-like diagonal shape that runs from the top right towards the bottom left.

Native Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities

Actions taken in 2014–15

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Contents

Introduction	1
Hollow-bearing and recruitment trees.....	1
Koalas	3
Threatened ecological communities	5
Road and snig track crossings.....	6
Road and snig track drainage.....	7
Streams and drainage features	7
Exclusion Zones	8
Forest structure.....	9
Forest health.....	9
Appendix 1 Proactive Compliance Report 2014–15	Error! Bookmark not defined.

List of tables

Table 1: Actions taken in 2014–15 to identify, retain and protect hollow-bearing and recruitment trees	1
Table 2: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect koalas and their habitat	3
Table 3: Actions taken in 2014–15 to improve identification and protection of threatened ecological communities	5
Table 5: Actions taken in 2014–15 to prevent soil erosion and water quality degradation resulting from road and snig track drainage	7
Table 6: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect streams and drainage features	7
Table 7: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect key Western and Coastal Exclusion Zones	8
Table 8: Actions taken in 2014–15 to maintain forest structure, including through basal area assessments	9
Table 9: Actions taken in 2014–15 to consider forest health issues in the regulatory framework, including Bell Miner Associated Dieback	9
Table A1: The EPA’s proactive compliance effort on private land in 2014–15.....	11

Introduction

In 2014–15, a range of actions were proposed for regulating native forestry activities on either the NSW Crown estate (Crown) or on private land, also known private native forestry (PNF). This is a report on the progress to date and the actions taken in 2014-15 against the native forestry compliance priorities.

Hollow-bearing and recruitment trees

Identification, retention and protection of adequate and appropriate trees for maintenance and replacement of arboreal tree hollow habitat

Progress and actions for this compliance priority are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Actions taken in 2014–15 to identify, retain and protect hollow-bearing and recruitment trees

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Progress and action taken in 2014–15
Crown	NSW Government to consider and update the future tree retention requirements during the consolidated coastal integrated forestry operations approvals (IFOA) remake.	2014–15	Develop adequate provisions to identify, retain and protect appropriate trees to maintain and replace arboreal tree hollow habitat.	The identification, protection and retention of habitat and recruit trees is an important part of a new IFOA draft currently being finalised. From July to September 2015 the NSW Government conducted an IFOA logging trial. A key component of the trial was the demonstration of a variety of proposed rules around the identification, retention and protection of hollow bearing and recruitment trees. The outcomes of this trial are being used to inform the final IFOA.
Crown	Assess compliance with the current hollow-bearing and recruitment tree retention requirements.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on crown forestry operations by compliance priority. Also, EPA audit reports on the forestry operations conducted by the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) can now be found on the EPA public register www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Progress and action taken in 2014–15
PNF	Deliver guidance note for identifying hollow-bearing and recruitment trees for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cypress and Western Hardwood PNF Code • River Red Gum PNF Code. 	2014–15	Achieve consistency in identifying hollow-bearing and recruitment trees.	Drafting of guidance notes has commenced. In 2014–15 the EPA’s focus has been on rolling out the PNF Guidance Note for coastal areas of NSW which was published last year.
PNF	Stakeholder field days to include information on identifying hollow-bearing and recruitment trees.	2014–15		No formal stakeholder days were held in 2014–15. The EPA continues to assess the compliance of logging operations with hollow-bearing and recruitment tree conditions in the PNF Code and engages with individual stakeholders as part of routine operational visits.
PNF	Assess compliance with the current hollow-bearing and recruitment tree retention requirements.	2014–15	Assess compliance. Raise awareness of hollow-bearing and recruitment tree retention requirements.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work done on private land by compliance priority.

Koalas

Protecting koalas and their habitat

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect koalas and their habitat

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
Crown	Consider and update the future koala requirements during the consolidated coastal IFOA remake.	2014–15	Develop adequate provisions to identify and protect koala habitat.	<p>The development of provisions to identify and protect Koala habitat as part of the IFOA remake continued to evolve during 2014–15. The following actions occurred this year.</p> <p>Commencement of an IFOA trial – a baseline retention rate of preferred koala feed trees will be trialled at some sites.</p> <p>Production of a baseline map of koala occurrence in NSW. The map identifies the probability of koala occurrence across NSW. The baseline map is to be used and refined as part of the regional work for private native forestry, and to prioritise fine scale koala mapping on the Crown forest estate.</p>
Crown	Prepare policy on koala habitat mapping and integrate into coastal IFOA remake.	2015–16	Integrate koala habitat mapping with the regulation of native forestry on the NSW crown estate.	Work in 2014–15 has been focussed on the production of a baseline map that identifies koala occurrence across NSW and finer scale regional refinement on both Crown and private lands. The outcomes of this work is informing the development of the koala provisions in the IFOA.
Crown	Assess compliance with IFOA requirements relating to protecting koalas and their habitat.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	<p>See Appendix 1 of this report which summarises compliance work on crown forestry operations by compliance priority.</p> <p>Audit reports on FCNSW forestry operations can now also be found on the EPA public register www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/</p>

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
PNF	Stakeholder consultation on proposed approach to improving the way koala habitat is identified and protected on private land.	2015–16	Improve way to identify and protect koala habitat for forestry activities in NSW.	<p>The Government's current focus is on reviewing the Coastal IFOAs. Upon completion of the review of the IFOAs, the EPA will comprehensively review the PNF Code. Consultation with stakeholders around options to improve the identification and protection of koala habitat will form a part of this broader review.</p> <p>In 2014–15 a baseline map that identifies koala occurrence across NSW and on both Private and Crown lands has been produced. This baseline map will inform the review of the PNF regulatory framework.</p>
PNF	Prepare policy on koala habitat mapping and if required, update the PNF regulatory framework.	2015–16	Integrate koala habitat mapping with the regulation of PNF.	<p>Work in 2014–15 has been focused on the production of a baseline map that identifies koala occurrence across NSW and on both Private and Crown lands. The outcomes of this work will inform any policy development and potential changes to the PNF regulatory framework.</p> <p>The integration of Koala habitat mapping will be considered during the review of the PNF regulatory framework. The review of PNF regulations will commence once the review of coastal IFOAs have been completed</p>
PNF	Assess compliance with Code requirements relating to protecting koalas and their habitat.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work done on private land by compliance priority in 2014-15.

Threatened ecological communities

Improved identification and protection

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Actions taken in 2014–15 to improve identification and protection of threatened ecological communities

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
Crown	Assess compliance with the threatened ecological communities (TEC) requirements in the Western IFOA regions for active operations.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on crown forestry operations by compliance priority. Audit reports on FCNSW forestry operations can now also be found on the EPA public register www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/
Crown	Map priority TECs in state forests in coastal NSW. Ongoing collection of field data followed by high resolution mapping of priority TECs within the Project Study Area (inclusive of current Lower North East, Upper North East, Southern and Eden IFOA regions). Begin a review of existing identification and guidance materials for priority TECs, and produce consolidated field guide keys consistent with final determinations.	2014–15 to 2015–16	Improve the identification and protection of priority TECs.	The TEC mapping project focuses on identifying the extent of 25 priority TECs that occur in State Forests in the coastal and tableland areas of NSW. Mapping is well progressed for twelve TECs with mapping of a further eleven TECs yet to commence. Mapping of two priority TECs has been completed in the southern tablelands forests and these maps are in the process of being validated and endorsed before being publically released.

Road and snig track crossings

Protection of water quality and in-stream habitat degradation resulting from inadequate road and snig track crossing location, design, construction, operation and maintenance

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect water quality and in-stream habitat degradation resulting from road and snig track crossings.

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
PNF and Crown	Deliver best management practices (BMP) guidance note/s for road and snig track crossings on private land and the NSW Crown estate.	2014-15	Achieve consistency in the application of BMP at road and snig track crossings.	In 2014–15 the focus of the EPAs work has been on progressing the IFOA remake for coastal NSW. The remade IFOA will have outcomes based conditions for road and snig track crossings and will be supported by guidance notes. The need for, and timing of delivery of, any BMP guidance notes will be considered within the IFOA remake framework and the revised timeframe for delivery. In the interim the EPA has resources available for contractors and landholders involved in logging operations on private land through the PNF information hub . These resources include Code of Practice Field Guides and a technical video series that cover best practice in the construction and maintenance of common drainage feature crossings.
PNF and Crown	Stakeholder field days.	2015–16	Present BMP guidance note/s and demonstrate application in the field.	No formal stakeholder days were held in 2014–15 as BMPs are yet to be produced (see above). The EPA continues to assess the compliance of logging operations with road and snig track crossing conditions in the PNF Code and the IFOAs and engages with individual stakeholders as part of routine operational visits.
Crown	Assess compliance of the road and snig track crossing IFOA requirements.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on crown forestry operations by compliance priority. FCNSW forestry operations audit reports can now also be found on the EPA public register www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/
PNF	Assess compliance of the road and snig track crossing Code requirements.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on crown forestry operations by compliance priority.

Road and snig track drainage

Prevention of soil erosion and water quality degradation resulting from road and snig track drainage establishment and maintenance.

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Actions taken in 2014–15 to prevent soil erosion and water quality degradation resulting from road and snig track drainage

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
PNF	Assess compliance of the road and snig track drainage requirements on private land.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on private land for 2014–15.
PNF	Deliver BMP guidance note/s for road and snig track drainage on private land.	2015–16	Achieve consistency in applying BMP relating to road and snig track drainage.	The need and timing of delivery of any best management practice guidance will be considered for Crown within the context of the IFOA remake. In the interim, the EPA has resources available for contractors and landholders involved in logging operations on private land through the PNF information hub . These resources include Code of Practice Field Guides and a technical video series that cover best practice in the construction and maintenance of common snig and road drainage structures.

Streams and drainage features

Protecting streams and drainage features

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect streams and drainage features

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
PNF	Assess compliance of Code requirements relating to exclusion zones and buffers for streams and drainage features on private land.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on private land for 2014-15.

Exclusion zones

Protecting key Exclusion Zones in:

(a) Western – Forest Management Zones and Threatened Species Protection Zones

(b) Coastal – Mapped Rainforest, Rocky Outcrops, Riparian Protection Zones and Threatened Species Exclusion Zones.

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority to protect key Western and Coastal Exclusion Zones are described in Table 7 below

Table 7: Actions taken in 2014–15 to protect key Western and Coastal Exclusion Zones

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
a) Western				
Crown	Assess compliance with the exclusion zone requirements in the Western Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) regions for active operations.	2014–15	Assess compliance with IFOA requirements relating to Forest Management Zones and Threatened Species Protection Zones.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on Crown for 2014–15.
b) Coastal				
Crown	Assess compliance with the exclusion zone requirements in the relevant coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) regions for active operations.	2014–15	Assess compliance with IFOA requirements relating to Mapped Rainforest, Rocky Outcrops, Riparian Protection Zones and Threatened Species Exclusion Zones.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on Crown for 2014–15.

Forest structure

Maintaining forest structure, including through basal area assessments

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 9 below.

Table 8: Actions taken in 2014–15 to maintain forest structure, including through basal area assessments

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
Crown	Assess compliance with the basal area requirements and other forest structure tree retention requirements.	2014–15	Assess compliance.	Appendix 1 of this report summarises compliance work on crown forestry operations by compliance priority. Audit reports on FCNSW forestry operations can now also be found on the EPA public register www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/

Forest health

Forest health issues in the regulatory framework, including Bell Miner Associated Dieback

Progress and actions taken for this compliance priority are described in Table 10 below.

Table 9: Actions taken in 2014–15 to consider forest health issues in the regulatory framework, including Bell Miner Associated Dieback

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Action taken in 2014–15
Crown	Observations on Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) made during compliance activities.	2014–15	Improve the knowledge base on the occurrence of BMAD in forests.	No new BMAD observations were passed on to FCNSW or the BMAD Working Group in 2014–15.

Appendix 1 Proactive Compliance Report 2014–15

In 2014–15, the EPA delivered a comprehensive proactive compliance program that targeted native forestry compliance priorities.

Compliance work under this program was delivered using different regulatory tools:

- Regulatory engagement and extension – the EPA engaged with a range of native forestry operators to promote an understanding of the requirements and the expected environmental outcomes for private native forestry or Crown forestry, and to promote voluntary compliance.
- Operational monitoring – the EPA monitored operations to assess levels of compliance with relevant legislation, licences and the PNF Code of Practice during a desktop review and site inspections.
- Audit – the EPA also audited native forestry operations, in accordance with the AS/NZS ISO 19011 standard, to assess levels of compliance with relevant legislation, licences and the PNF Code of Practice.
- Campaigns – the EPA delivered targeted compliance campaigns to highlight its expectations for key environmental compliance priority issues in particular geographic areas.

It should be noted that the compliance program discussed in this report does not include efforts in response to community concerns or complaints. This report provides specific information about the EPA's proactive compliance work.

Tables A1 and A2 provide information on the EPA's proactive compliance work in 2014–15. Table A1 gives an indication of the compliance priorities that the EPA focused on during work on private land and Table A2 gives information on the compliance priorities the EPA focused on during work on the NSW Crown estate.

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

Table A1: The EPA’s proactive compliance effort on private land in 2014–15

PNF Code Type of compliance activity	Hollow bearing and recruitment trees	Koalas	Drainage crossings	Road and snig track drainage	Streams and drainage features	Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken in 2014–15**
Northern Code	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken for that compliance priority	27	5	9	24	15	62**
Audits*	7	1	1	7	7	32
Operational monitoring*	13	1	5	15	6	21
Regulatory engagement and extension	13	4	6	5	5	9
Campaigns						
Southern Code						
Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken for that compliance priority						8**
Audits*						
Operational monitoring*						
Regulatory engagement and extension						8
Campaigns						
Cypress and Western Hardwood Code	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

PNF Code Type of compliance activity	Hollow bearing and recruitment trees	Koalas	Drainage crossings	Road and snig track drainage	Streams and drainage features	Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken in 2014–15**
Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken for that compliance priority	13	13	1		12	13**
Audits*	2	1			1	2
Operational monitoring*	2	3	1		2	3
Regulatory engagement and extension	10	10	1		10	10
Campaigns	✓	✓			✓	(13 inspections were part of the campaign)
River Red Gum Code	✓			✓	✓	
Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken for that compliance priority	5				6	14**
Audits*						2
Operational monitoring*	5			1	6	11
Regulatory engagement and extension	3				3	3
Campaigns						

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
Actions taken in 2014–15

PNF Code Type of compliance activity	Hollow bearing and recruitment trees	Koalas	Drainage crossings	Road and snig track drainage	Streams and drainage features	Total number of properties/operations where one or more site inspections were undertaken in 2014–15**
Total	On 45 properties compliance monitoring and/or regulatory extension was undertaken for hollow- bearing and recruitment trees.	On 18 properties compliance monitoring and/or regulatory extension was undertaken for koalas.	On 10 properties compliance monitoring and/or regulatory extension was undertaken for drainage crossings.	On 24 properties compliance monitoring and/or regulatory extension was undertaken for road and snig track drainage.	On 33 properties compliance monitoring and/or regulatory extension was undertaken for protection of streams and drainage features.	97 properties were inspected around the state in 2014–15.

*Number of operations where compliance was assessed for that issue.

**This number includes all inspections including for these compliance priorities, as well as those undertaken for assessing other Code requirements and on site advice by the EPA for the Code and other requirements.

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

Table A2: The EPA’s proactive compliance effort on the NSW public estate in 2014–15

IFOA region Type of compliance activity	Hollow bearing and recruitment trees	Koalas	Drainage crossings	Exclusion zones	Threatened ecological communities	Forest structure	Total
Upper North East	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Audits*	5	5	2	2			5
Operational monitoring*							
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns							
Audits*	5	5	2	2			5
Lower North East	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Audits*	6	4	1	6	2		6
Operational monitoring*							
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns							
Southern	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Audits*	5		1	5		3	5
Operational monitoring*				1			1
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns							
Eden	✓		✓	✓			
Audits*	2			2			2
Operational monitoring*	3		2	4			4
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns							

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

IFOA region Type of compliance activity	Hollow bearing and recruitment trees	Koalas	Drainage crossings	Exclusion zones	Threatened ecological communities	Forest structure	Total
River Red Gum	✓			✓			
Audits*	3			3			3
Operational monitoring*							
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns							
South West Cypress							
Audits*							0
Operational monitoring*							
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns							
Brigalow Nandewar		✓		✓		✓	
Audits*	3 large white cypress trees	2		3		3	3
Operational monitoring*							
Regulatory engagement and extension							
Campaigns		2		3		3	3 inspections were part of the campaign

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

IFOA region Type of compliance activity	Hollow bearing and recruitment trees	Koalas	Drainage crossings	Exclusion zones	Threatened ecological communities	Forest structure	Total
Total	<p>At 24 FCNSW operations compliance monitoring was undertaken for hollow-bearing and recruitment trees.</p> <p>At 3 FCNSW operations in the Brigalow-Nandewar region compliance monitoring was undertaken for large white cypress trees.</p>	At 11 FCNSW operations compliance monitoring was undertaken for koalas.	At 6 FCNSW operations compliance monitoring was undertaken for drainage feature crossings.	At 26 FCNSW operations compliance monitoring was undertaken for protection of exclusion zones.	At 2 FCNSW operations compliance monitoring was undertaken for endangered ecological communities.	At 6 FCNSW operations compliance monitoring was undertaken to assess basal area requirements.	The EPA monitored 29 FCNSW operations altogether for compliance (audits or inspections) in 2014/15.

*Number of operations where the assessment of compliance priority was undertaken using this compliance activity.

Non-compliance issues¹

The majority of Crown compliance monitoring audits and inspections resulted in voluntary action plans with FCNSW, noting that the higher risk matters identified through the proactive program were investigated (see Table A3 below).

In particular, the EPA requested that FCNSW implement voluntary actions to improve their environmental performance around the following identified issues:

- Inadequate selection of recruitment trees when compared to trees being harvested in the Eden, Southern, and Lower North East regions.
- Inadequate hollow-bearing and recruitment trees particularly in Lower North East, Southern and Eden regions. Tree crowns were damaged or there was excessive debris accumulated around the base of the retained trees.
- Inadequate selection of hollow bearing trees particularly in Southern and Eden regions.
- Not retaining enough recruitment trees particularly in Southern and Eden regions.
- Inadequate mark-up of hollow-bearing and recruitment trees during thinning operations in the Eden region.
- Inadequately protecting a number of landscape exclusion zones (including stream, rainforest and high conservation value old growth exclusion zones) in the Lower North East and Southern regions.
- Inadequate field boundary marking of rainforest, high conservation value old growth and stream exclusion zones in the Lower North East and Southern regions.
- Water pollution from road crossings in the Lower North East region.
- Failure to identify and damage to wombat burrows in the Lower North East region.
- The removal of white cypress trees from within protection zones in three State Forests in the Brigalow Nandewar IFOA region.
- Poor selection of white cypress trees retained compared with those trees being harvested in three State Forests in the Brigalow Nandewar IFOA region. Trees selected must have a diameter of more than 550mm or if these are not available then trees are to be selected from the cohort with the next largest diameters.

The EPA checks on the implementation of the action plans and whether there has been an improvement in environmental performance.

On private land some operational monitoring inspections and audits resulted in EPA officers either providing a warning or requesting corrective action (verbal and written requests) to improve environmental performance.

Issues that resulted in the EPA requesting corrective actions or issuing a warning included:

- Unstable crossings – Northern Code (one property).
- Not installing 5 and 30 approach drainage to crossings – Northern Code (one property) and Cypress and Western Hardwoods Code (one property).
- Lack of road and snig track drainage – Northern Code (three properties).
- Not retaining sufficient recruitment trees for hollow-bearing resources – Northern Code (one property) and Cypress and Western Hardwoods Code (one property).
- Felling trees into drainage feature zones as well as disturbance in the riparian buffer zone – Northern Code (two properties).
- Felling trees into drainage feature zones - Riverina Red Gum Code area (two properties).

¹ This is a summary of non-compliances found as a result the EPA's proactive compliance program. For the purposes of this report it should be noted many of the logging operations assessed by the EPA were compliant with other compliance priority requirements as well as other aspects of the PNF codes and IFOAs. To get an overall picture, future reports will discuss both compliances as well as non-compliances with the compliance priority requirements of the PNF Codes and IFOAs.

The issues identified were followed up by EPA officers to check if corrective action requests had been implemented. For example, operators had installed road and snig track drainage according to those corrective action requests.

Importantly in 2014-15 the EPA officers also engaged with landowners and logging contractors who had not been in contact with the EPA before (particularly in the Cypress and Western Hardwoods Code area) about the PNF Code requirements particularly in facilitating an understanding of why and how to select and retain hollow-bearing and recruitment trees and how to protect retained trees (including large white cypress trees) and how to protect streams and other drainage features.

As a result of the EPA's proactive compliance program, the EPA also completed 7 investigations in State Forests and 3 investigations on private land and began 5 investigations in State Forests (Table A3 below). The EPA also completed investigations that resulted from complaints and allegations. These investigations are categorised as responsive and have been not reported in the table below.

For further information about the EPA's responsive compliance work, refer to the EPA's website.

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

Table A3: Investigations resulting from the proactive compliance program in 2014–15

Crown or PNF	IFOA or Code	Location	Matter/s investigated	Status
Crown	Eden IFOA	Nadgee State Forest	Mark up and protection of exclusion zones, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stream exclusion zones • threatened species exclusions – southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo • endangered ecological community protection 	Two (2) Penalty Notices issued in July 2014 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • failing to measure and mark an exclusion zone in accordance with the Threatened Species Licence • conducting specified forestry activities in stream exclusion zones. Official Caution issued in July 2014 for failing to adjust the Southern Brown Bandicoot exclusion zones in the field in accordance with Clause 6.5A (c) of the TSL, and for conducting specified forestry activities within Southern Brown Bandicoot exclusion zones. <p>No action was taken in relation to the Long-nosed Potoroo. The presence of the EEC River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions was not confirmed in the location under the investigation so no further action was taken.</p>
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Giro and Olney SFs	Road drainage feature crossings. Potential pollution of waters under s120 of the POEO Act.	Two (2) Penalty Notices issued in December 2014 for water pollution on second order streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first at a crossing in Giro SF where a culvert pipe was blocked resulting in water pollution into a stream. This was not cleaned up until 16 days after the incident. • The second at a crossing in Olney SF for water pollution due to the road drainage structures not being maintained properly. Official caution in December 2014 for water pollution on an additional four (4) crossings in Giro SF and one (1) in Olney SF.

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

Crown or PNF	IFOA or Code	Location	Matter/s investigated	Status
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Giro and Bowman SFs	Koala habitat identification (searches and mark-up)	Penalty Notice issued in December 2014 for failing to do compartment mark-up searches least 300m ahead of timber harvesting operations in Giro SF – this was after previous warnings being issued to the contractor and onsite FCNSW staff. Official caution issued in December 2014 for failure to undertake compartment mark-up searches in advance of timber harvesting operations in in Giro and Bowman SFs and for undertaking harvesting within areas not subject to compartment mark-up searches.
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Giro SF	Threatened species habitat protection – Stephen’s banded snake	Penalty Notice issued in December 2014 for felling hollow-bearing trees greater than 60cm DBHOB within 100m of Stephen’s Banded Snake record.
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Kiwarrak SF	Endangered ecological community identification and protection	The EPA identified an EEC in Kiwarrak SF and notified FCNSW of this EEC in a show cause letter in July 2014.
PNF	Lower North East – Hastings Area	Private property	Maintenance of road crossings and no approach drainage to crossing	Verbal corrective action request to contractor and landholder to install 5 and 30m drainage and to maintain crossing structure.
PNF	Lower North East – Hastings Area	Private property	Koala primary feed tree retention	The EPA made a further assessment of the retention rate of koala feed trees and they were found to be at the required rate. No further action was taken.
PNF	Lower North East – Hastings Area	Private property	Basal area retention (forest structure) Holding a forest operation plan	Official caution issued in June 2015 for failing to hold a FOP during forestry operations and a warning issued about basal area requirements.

Private Native Forestry and Crown Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2014–15
 Actions taken in 2014–15

Crown or PNF	IFOA or Code	Location	Matter/s investigated	Status
Crown	Eden IFOA	Glenbog SF East Boyd SF Yambulla SF Nadgee SF	Protection of retained hollow-bearing and recruitment trees. Compartment mark-up. Rocky outcrops exclusion zones – mark-up and protection. Stream exclusion zones – mark-up and protection. Threatened species exclusion zones – field mark-up and protection. Endangered Ecological Community exclusion zones - mark up and protection.	Official caution issued in March 2015 for failing to mark hollow bearing and recruitment trees for retention in Yambulla and Nadgee SFs.
Crown	Southern IFOA	Mogo SF	Mark up and protection of stream exclusions	Matter being finalised 2015–16.
Crown	Brigalow Nandewar IFOA	Euligal/ Coomore Creek SF Vickery SF	Harvesting in Forest Management Zone 3A. Mark up and protection of drainage feature exclusion zones (streams).	Matter being finalised 2015–16.
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Brassey SF	Wombat habitat including burrows north of the Oxley Highway. Compartment mark-up surveys in front of operations for wombats and mark-up of exclusion zones. Conducting harvesting operations within areas that have not been subject to compartment mark-up surveys.	Matters being finalised 2015–16.
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Broken Bago SF	Koala habitat identification (searches and mark-up). Harvesting in marked stream exclusion zone.	Matters being finalised 2015–16.

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 Actions taken in 2014–15

Crown or PNF	IFOA or Code	Location	Matter/s investigated	Status
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Bulahdelah SF	Harvesting within a koala high use area exclusion zone.	Official caution issued in June 2015 for failing to correctly mark the boundary of a koala high use area exclusion zone in Bulahdelah SF. The investigation found that no trees were removed from within the koala high use area exclusion zone. The FCNSW harvest operational map was incorrectly aligned with the official IFOA data layers and this highlighted an operational risk.
Crown	Lower North East IFOA	Enfield SF Kippara SF	Mark up and protection of exclusion zones, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rainforest • high conservation old growth 	Matters being finalised 2015-16.