



Native Forestry Environmental Compliance Priorities 2015–16



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Contents

List of tables	iv
Introduction	1
Cross-tenure environmental compliance priorities	2
Hollow-bearing and recruitment trees	2
Koalas	2
Drainage line crossings.....	3
Streams and drainage features.....	3
Specific PNF environmental compliance priorities	4
Road and snig track drainage	4
Specific Crown forestry environmental compliance priorities	4
Exclusion zones	4
Threatened ecological communities.....	5
Forest structure	6
Forest health	6

List of tables

Table 1: 2015–16 compliance priority change.....	1
Table 2: Proposed actions for identifying, protecting and retaining hollow-bearing and recruitment trees	2
Table 3: Proposed actions for protecting koalas and their habitat.....	2
Table 4: Proposed actions for Drainage line crossings	3
Table 5: Proposed actions for protecting streams and drainage features.....	3
Table 6: Proposed actions for road and snig track drainage	4
Table 7: Proposed actions for protecting key Western and Coastal Exclusion Zones	5
Table 8: Proposed actions for improving the identification and protection of TECs.....	5
Table 9: Proposed actions for maintaining forest structure through basal area retention.....	6
Table 10: Proposed actions for consideration of Bell Miner Associated Dieback in the regulatory framework.....	6

Introduction

The EPA has completed an annual review of the key environmental compliance priorities for the regulation of native forestry.

The compliance priorities cover the period from **1 September 2015 to 30 August 2016** and are in three groups:

- cross-tenure compliance priorities
- specific private native forestry (PNF) compliance priorities
- specific Crown forestry compliance priorities

There is one change to the compliance priorities for 2015–16. This change is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: 2015–16 compliance priority change

Priority	Summary of change	Reason
Streams and drainage features	<p>The protection of streams and drainage features has been made a cross tenure priority.</p> <p>In 2014–15 the protection of streams and drainage features were captured under the Crown 'exclusion zone' priority. For private native forestry in 2014–15 there was already a specific streams and drainage features priority. This change acknowledges that a cross tenure priority is now appropriate.</p>	<p>The protection of riparian vegetation for threatened habitat and water quality purposes was already recognised as a compliance priority for both tenures in 2014–15.</p> <p>This change formally recognises this priority as cross-tenure and sharpens the EPAs compliance focus by ensuring that these features are adequately protected.</p>

Cross-tenure environmental 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

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed actions for identifying, protecting and retaining hollow-bearing and recruitment trees

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
Crown and PNF	Assess compliance with the current hollow-bearing and recruitment tree retention requirements.	2015–16	Assess compliance and raise awareness regulatory requirements around hollow-bearing and recruitment tree identification, retention and protection requirements.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.
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. 	2015–16	Achieve consistency in identifying hollow-bearing and recruitment trees.	Publish guidance notes on EPA website.

Koalas

Protecting koalas and their habitat

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 3.

Table 3: Proposed actions for protecting koalas and their habitat

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
Crown and PNF	Assess compliance with Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) and PNF Code requirements relating to protecting koalas and their habitat.	2015–16	Assess compliance and raise awareness of regulatory requirements around Koala protection.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.
Crown and PNF	Improve knowledge around the occurrence of Koala	2015–17	To inform policy and/or regulatory changes to the	Publish reports on baseline mapping, fine scale koala mapping

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
	habitat on public and private native forestry land.		Coastal IFOAs and PNF Codes of Practice.	and koala habitat modelling.
Crown	Consider and update the future koala requirements during the consolidated coastal IFOA remake.	2015–16	Integrate koala habitat mapping with the regulation of native forestry on the NSW crown estate.	New requirements to identify and protect koala habitat in the consolidated Coastal IFOA.

Drainage line crossings

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

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 4.

Table 4: Proposed actions for Drainage line crossings

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
Crown and PNF	Assess the compliance of the road and snig track crossings with IFOA and PNF Code requirements and section 120 of the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .	2015–16	Assess compliance and raise awareness around regulatory requirements for road and snig track crossings.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.

Streams and drainage features

Protecting vegetation adjoining streams and drainage features to maintain water quality and riparian habitat

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 6.

Table 5: Proposed actions for protecting streams and drainage features

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
PNF and Crown	Assess compliance with protections relating to exclusion zones and buffers for streams and drainage features.	2015–16	Assess compliance and raise awareness around regulatory requirements for stream and drainage feature protection	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.

Specific PNF environmental compliance priorities

Road and snig track drainage

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

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 5.

Table 6: Proposed actions for road and snig track drainage

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
PNF	Assess compliance of the road and snig track drainage with PNF Code requirements.	2015–16	Assess compliance and raise awareness around regulatory requirements for road and snig track drainage	Compliance summary published on EPA website.

Specific Crown forestry environmental compliance priorities

Exclusion zones

Protecting key exclusion zones in:

- (a) Western NSW – Forest Management Zones, and Threatened Species Protection Zones
- (b) Coastal NSW – Mapped Rainforest, Rocky Outcrops and Threatened Species Exclusion Zones.

Proposed actions to protect key Western and Coastal Exclusion Zones are described below in Table 7.

Table 7: Proposed actions for protecting key Western and Coastal Exclusion Zones

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
(a) Western				
Crown	Assess compliance with exclusion zone requirements in the relevant IFOA.	2015–16	Assess compliance with IFOA requirements for Forest Management, Drainage Feature and Threatened Species Protection Zones.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.
(b) Coastal				
Crown	Assess compliance with exclusion zone requirements in the relevant IFOA.	2015–16	Assess compliance with IFOA requirements for Mapped Rainforest, Rocky Outcrops, Riparian Protection Zones and Threatened Species Exclusion Zones.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.

Threatened ecological communities

Improved identification and protection of threatened ecological communities (TECs)

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 8.

Table 8: Proposed actions for improving the identification and protection of TECs

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
Crown	Assess compliance with the TEC requirements in the western IFOAs.	2014–15	Assess compliance and raise awareness around regulatory requirements around TEC identification and protection in Western IFOAs.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.
Crown	Map priority TECs in State Forests in coastal NSW.	2015–16	Improve the identification and protection of priority TECs.	Operational boundaries or indicative maps and field guide key for targeted TECs on State forests.

Forest structure

Maintaining forest structure through adequate basal area retention

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 9.

Table 9: Proposed actions for maintaining forest structure through basal area retention

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
Crown	Assess compliance with the basal area requirements in IFOAs	2015–16	Assess compliance and raise awareness around basal area retention requirements.	Publish compliance summary on EPA website.

Forest health

Consideration of Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) in the regulatory framework

Proposed actions for this compliance priority are shown below in Table 10.

Table 10: Proposed actions for consideration of Bell Miner Associated Dieback in the regulatory framework

PNF or Crown	Action proposed	Year action proposed	Purpose	Expected output
Crown	Observe BMAD during compliance activities.	2015–16	Improve the knowledge base on the occurrence of BMAD in forests.	Make any observations of BMAD occurrence available to FCNSW and report any findings in audit reports. A summary of BMAD observations will form a part of the next annual compliance priority report. A copy of the annual summary will be provided to the BMAD Working Group.