

STATEMENT OF REASONS

AMENDMENT NO. 7 TO THE INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVAL FOR RIVERINA RED GUM

Reasons for amendments

This instrument includes amendments to the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) for the Riverina Red Gum Region.

This amendment is to allow for the continuation of existing volumes of early thinning operations from 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2024.

Extension related to early thinning operations

The amendment maintains the existing timber residue supply for local businesses. During this period, the long-term sustainable volume of all timber products in red gum State forests will be independently assessed as part of the five-year statutory review of the Riverina Red Gum IFOA. If this amendment were not made, early thinning operations would not have been permitted after 30 June 2019.

The amendment is consistent with principles of ecologically sustainable forest management given it continues existing IFOA requirements; is complimented by a range of biodiversity protections set by the IFOA; provides for management practices that are considered to improve the long-term productive capacity and health of the forests; and provides for ongoing economic benefits for the Riverina region and timber industry.