

# FORESTRY AND NATIONAL PARK ESTATE ACT 1998

## AMENDMENT NO 6 TO INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVAL FOR THE UPPER NORTH EAST REGION AMENDMENT NO 4 TO INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVAL FOR THE LOWER NORTH EAST REGION

The Integrated Forestry Operations Approval for the Lower North East Region and Upper North East is amended as set out in the following schedules to this instrument:

**Schedule 1** — amendments to the terms of licence under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 set out in Appendix B of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals for the Upper North East and Lower North East regions

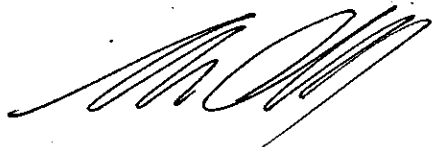
This instrument commences on the day of signature below.

Notes do not form part of this instrument. They are provided to assist understanding only.

Dated: 7 November 2011.



Robyn Parker MP  
Minister for the Environment



Katrina Ann Hodgkinson MP  
Minister for Primary Industries

**SCHEDULE 1 – AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF LICENCE UNDER THE  
THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT 1995 SET OUT IN APPENDIX B OF THE  
INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVALS FOR THE UPPER NORTH EAST  
AND LOWER NORTH EAST REGIONS**

**Definitions**

Insert:

“Suitable Habitat for Hastings River Mouse” means land with:

- i. a moderate to dense native groundcover over greater than 90% of a contiguous 10 hectare area; and
- ii. a low boundary to area ratio; and
- iii. scattered refugia in the form of hollow logs, trees with basal cavities, natural burrows or areas of rock.

Native groundcover for the purpose of this definition consists of any combination of grass (including *Lomandra* sp.), sedge, rush, heath or fern between 10 and 75 cm high usually mixed with a diversity of herbs and forbs.

Suitable Habitat for Hastings River Mouse includes all areas identified as moderate or high suitability habitat under condition 8.8.9A.

**6.13 Hastings River Mouse *Pseudomys oralis***

Omit the introductory sentence under 6.13 and insert instead:

Where there is a record of a Hastings River Mouse in the compartment or within 200 metres outside the boundary of the compartment, the following must apply:

Omit 6.13 clause a)

Omit 6.13 clause b)

Omit 6.13 (c)

Omit clause 6.13 clause g)

Insert instead:

6.13 a) A 12 ha exclusion zone that takes in as much Suitable Habitat for Hastings River Mouse as practical, must be established around the record. The exclusion zone need not be symmetrical and should, where possible, link to other areas excluded from harvesting activities.. And;

6.13 b) The felling of trees across the boundary of a Hastings River Mouse exclusion zones (established under condition 6.13 (a) above) is prohibited except where no more than six (6) trees containing timber logs are felled across the boundary in any 200 metre length of the boundary of the Hastings River Mouse habitat or exclusion zone, whatever 200 metre length of boundary is considered.

Amend 6.13 (d), (e) and (f) by omitting the words “habitat or” and renumber these sub-clauses

## **8.6 Incidental Threatened Flora and Fauna Records**

Insert after 8.6 c):

- d) within compartments containing known habitat or modelled habitat for Hastings River Mouse, Forests NSW employees and contractors must identify areas encountered incidentally that comprise Suitable Habitat for Hastings River Mouse.

## **8.7 Pre-logging and Pre-roading Compartment Traverse**

### **8.7.2 Field Methodology**

Insert in list after 8.7.2 b) i. 13.

- 14. Areas of Suitable Habitat for Hastings River Mouse within compartments containing known habitat or modelled habitat for Hastings River Mouse.

### **8.8.9 Hastings River Mouse surveys**

Omit the first sentence.

Insert instead:

Surveys for Hastings River Mouse must be conducted across the net survey area of all compartments that contain known habitat or modelled habitat for Hastings River Mouse as follows:

#### **8.8.9 A Habitat suitability surveys**

Omit clauses a) b) c) and d) of 8.8.9 A Habitat suitability surveys,

Insert instead:

- a) Within compartments containing known habitat or modelled habitat for Hastings River Mouse, classify and map vegetation cover in the survey area using aerial photographs, other remote sensing technology or existing mapped information such as forest type maps. The vegetation should be classified into broad vegetation categories such as: rainforest, wet sclerophyll, dry sclerophyll, woodland and grassland.
- b) Each broad vegetation category must be inspected in the field and the following types of vegetation must be mapped at a scale of 1:25,000 or better:

- i. wet or dry sclerophyll forests with a grass, sedge, rush, heath or fern understorey;
  - ii. woodland with a grass, sedge, rush, heath or fern understorey; and
  - iii. wet or dry sclerophyll forest or woodland with dispersed patches of grass, sedge, rush, heath or fern.
- c) Topographic maps, aerial photographs, other remote sensing technology and field survey must be used to identify and map any areas with outcropping rock cover occurring in conjunction with vegetation types in condition 8.8.9A (b) above within or within one kilometre beyond the boundary of the compartment.
- d) For every ten hectares of vegetation type mapped in condition 8.8.9A (b) above, one 100 metres microhabitat transect must be established. Each transect must be located to sample a representative area within each ten hectare patch of vegetation type. Transects must be located to sample within 100 metres of outcropping rock cover referred to in condition 8.8.9A (c) above where present. Transects should be orientated parallel to drainage lines or transects should sample areas of high total vegetation cover of sedges, rushes, grass, heath and fern. Where mapped vegetation type is patchy in distribution each patch greater than five hectares should be sampled.

Clause e) [Referring to microhabitat assessment]

Omit part i.

Insert instead

- i. Sedge, rush, grass, heath and fern cover: at ten metre intervals along the 100 metres transect (giving 11 samples) record in a circular plot measuring three metres in radius at each sample point the percentage cover of sedge, rush, grass, heath and fern within the plot. Average the percentage across all 11 points along the transect.

Following clause h) insert:

- i) Where Forests NSW choose to undertake a rapid habitat assessment approach referred to in the note following this clause, the assessment must be documented. The Hastings River Mouse Rapid Habitat Assessment data sheet format in Schedule 10 provides an example of the information that is required to be recorded. The data recording requirements may be varied subject to the written approval of OEH.

#### **Schedule 10 Hastings River Mouse Microhabitat model**

Omit reference to “Grass/sedge/rush”, insert instead “Sedge/rush/grass/fern”

### 8.8.9 B Targeted surveys

Omit existing provisions and replace with:

Surveys to determine the presence of Hastings River Mouse must be conducted as follows:

- a) The minimum specifications for trapping are as follows:
  - i. The trap effort is to be at a rate of 1 size A Elliott trap over four nights for each hectare identified as having Suitable Habitat for Hastings River Mouse (either as the result of habitat suitability surveys under 8.8.9A or otherwise such as during compartment traverse or incidentally recorded).
  - i. The minimum number of traps will be 50 for up to 50 hectares, with 25 additional traps for each 25 hectares increment above 50 hectares, as follows:
    - 10-50 hectares      50 traps
    - 50-75 hectares      75 traps
    - 75-100 hectares      100 traps
    - > 100 hectares      add additional 25 traps for each 25 ha increment
  - ii. For each 200 trap nights two transects should be established. Twenty five traps should be placed along each transect. Each trap should be placed at approximately ten metre intervals in sites where suitable micro-habitat occurs.
  - iii. Transects should be placed in suitable habitat to maximise capture.
  
- b) Survey Season: Anytime of the year, preferably avoiding cold, wet periods.

*(Note: The trapping configuration may be varied to allow for local topographic conditions however, the trap effort should remain the same.)*

Insert into Schedule 10 Hastings River Mouse Rapid Habitat Assessment data sheet as presented on following page.



# HASTINGS RIVER MOUSE RAPID HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATA SHEET

M.A.	CPT.	STATE FOREST	
OBSERVER(S)			DATE
BROAD VEG TYPE(S)	Rainforest	Sclerophyll	Woodland
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical	<input type="checkbox"/> Wet Sclerophyll	<input type="checkbox"/> Shrub Woodland
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Sclerophyll	<input type="checkbox"/> Heath Woodland
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temperate	<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sclerophyll	<input type="checkbox"/> Tall Woodland
SURVEY CODE			
ROCKY SCARP (>100m long & within 500 m of compartment) contiguous with habitat		Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
FIRE HISTORY		< 2 yrs <input type="checkbox"/>	> 2 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
"SUITABLE HABITAT" PRESENT IN COMPARTMENT		YES <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment Required	NO <input type="checkbox"/> No Assessment Required

Number of hectares in Net Survey Area of cpt	
Number of rapid assessment sites required (1 per 10 ha)	

**RAPID ASSESSMENT** (tick boxes or include hectares, note MGA's for each site)

Site	Easting	Northing	Suitable groundcover e.g. diversity of grass, sedge, rush, herbs, forbs, heath & fern present?	Scattered refugia e.g. logs, basal hollows, rocks, ground cavities present?	Site Assessment: Unsuitable/M/H
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

Number of hectares with medium/high habitat	
TRAPPING REQUIRED	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

**Site Notes**

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

### **AMENDMENT NO 6 TO THE INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVAL FOR THE UPPER NORTH EAST REGION**

### **AMENDMENT NO 4 TO THE INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVAL FOR THE LOWER NORTH EAST REGION**

The Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) for the Upper North East Region commenced on 1 January 2000 and has had five previous amendments. The IFOA for the Lower North East region commenced on 1 January 2000 and has had three previous amendments.

This amending instrument constitutes amendment number 6 to the Upper North East IFOA and amendment number 4 to the Lower North East IFOA. This amendment alters the terms of the licence under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The amendments to the Upper North East and Lower North East IFOAs alter prescriptions survey and protection prescriptions relating to Hastings River Mouse *Pseudomys oralis*. The amendments were agreed to as a result of the review of the IFOAs that was finalised in 2010.

#### **REASONS FOR AMENDMENTS**

The amendment alters habitat suitability surveys to be more reflective of current knowledge about Hasting River Mouse occurrence. Habitat suitability surveys are used to identify areas where trapping is required but they are currently limited to areas within modelled habitat for the species. However, recent records of the species show they can be located outside of modelled habitat. To correct this deficiency, habitat suitability surveys will be required within compartments containing 'known habitat' (records) and within compartments containing modelled habitat. Habitat suitability assessment and trapping survey requirements have also been refined, including a requirement to document 'rapid assessment' of habitat suitability. The size and configuration of exclusion zones around records have also been modified in view of the species' home range and habitat requirements.