

New rules for native forestry in state forests

The NSW Government is implementing new rules for the way forestry operations are undertaken on public lands. The Coastal IFOA is more enforceable, practical and effective in protecting threatened species, habitat, soils and streams during forestry operations.



enforce and were no longer achieving their intended purpose.

The Coastal IFOA establishes practical, effective and enforceable licence conditions that are not open to interpretation and are clear both to industry operators and the community.



What is the Coastal IFOA?

The Coastal IFOA sets the environment protection and forest management rules for how the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) undertakes native forestry operations in public forests in the coastal areas of NSW.

It sets out rules to protect native plants, animals, important habitat and ecosystems, soils and water during native forestry operations on state forests and other Crown-timber lands.

The new Coastal IFOA replaces four former IFOAs for the Eden, Southern, Upper North East and Lower North East regions.



What has changed?

The Coastal IFOA is now a truly integrated licence for regulating forestry operations on Crown land. It has been updated to reflect contemporary management practices and improves the effectiveness of the environment protection and forest management rules governing native forestry on public lands.

The Coastal IFOA replaces four former IFOAs that were nearly 20 years old, were overly prescriptive and complex, costly to implement, difficult to



What consultation was undertaken?

The Government consulted widely with community, environment and industry stakeholders. The Government received 3,148 written submissions expressing a broad range of views and interests. A summary of the feedback is available in a [Coastal IFOA Summary Consultation Report](#).



How has public feedback been considered?

In response to public feedback, changes were made to the Coastal IFOA to increase environmental protections, improve operating efficiencies for industry, and improve its clarity and enforceability. These changes are outlined in the [Summary Changes to Coastal IFOA](#) and include:

Increased protections for stream headwaters in areas with higher erosion or environmental risk.

Reinstatement of nectar trees protections for bees, swift parrots and regent honeyeaters.

Increased permanent retention of hollow-bearing trees.

Improved management of biosecurity risks, particularly phytophthora, where risks are associated with forest regeneration.

Changes to the management of ground protection zones to allow limited track construction in certain circumstances.

Changes to the burning provisions to improve their workability and include criteria for permitting deliberate burning in certain protected areas for safety reasons.

Changes to the management of debris around retained trees to permit debris to be retained if its removal would result in a worse environmental outcome.



How do these changes affect environmental values?

The Coastal IFOA delivers a comprehensive biodiversity protection model for the coastal timber production forests of NSW. It sets minimum standards for the permanent protection of important habitat at the site, local and regional scales.

This approach ensures the maintenance of multi-aged forests across the landscape and the permanent retention of undisturbed habitat, providing areas of refuge, as well as connectivity and dispersal opportunities for native species. The new Coastal IFOA includes additional protection measures for koalas.



How do these changes affect wood supply?

The Coastal IFOA will not impact on wood supply. Maintaining current wood supply was a key guiding commitment for the development of the new Coastal IFOA and additional work will soon be undertaken by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to ensure this commitment is delivered.



The Coastal IFOA is supported by a comprehensive monitoring program

Continuous improvement of the Coastal IFOA will be facilitated through a comprehensive effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management program. This program will be overseen by the NRC and is part of a \$9.2 million forest monitoring program funded by the NSW Government.

The Coastal IFOA is a more flexible and adaptive regulation. It enables an efficient and effective response when negative impacts or impractical outcomes are demonstrated, new information comes to hand or a better methodology for achieving an outcome is identified.



How will the Coastal IFOA improve regulation?

Associated with the Coastal IFOA, the NSW Government has commenced new legislation, the *Forestry Legislation Amendment Act 2018*, to improve the regulation of the Coastal IFOA. It increases the penalty levels for breaching the IFOA and is accompanied by regulatory tools such as remediation directions, mandatory audits and stop work notices.

The new laws and the Coastal IFOA encourage improved compliance and amplify the enforceability of environmental protections.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will continue to regulate native forestry operations and assess compliance with the Coastal IFOA. This includes responding to community complaints, environmental incidents and the maintenance of a proactive risk-based compliance program.



How can I find out more information?

Information about the regulatory changes are contained in this fact sheet. If you have additional questions about the Coastal IFOA, or want to stay updated, more information is available from:

1. Website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au
2. Environment Line on 131 555
3. Email info@epa.nsw.gov.au
4. FAQs – see the EPA website.

Photo

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