



# TIMBER



## HARVESTING LIMITS

The proposed Coastal IFOA will introduce limits on the four timber harvesting practices currently used by Forestry Corporation NSW. The different limits allow for the impact of timber harvesting to be distributed over time and across the landscape. Together they will deliver a comprehensive protection model for coastal timber production forests in NSW.

- 1 SELECTIVE
- 2 INTENSIVE
- 3 MIXED
- 4 ALT. COUPE



Figure 1: harvesting practices across the Coastal IFOA region.

Type of harvesting across Coastal IFOA:

- Selective Harvesting Area
- Intensive Harvesting Area + Selective Harvesting = Mixed Harvesting
- Alternative Coupe Harvesting

## 1. Selective Harvesting

Selective harvesting is the **most common harvesting practice** in coastal timber production forests. Under selective harvesting, trees are selectively removed from a forest area.



Selective harvesting may be carried out throughout the entire region under the proposed Coastal IFOA. Selective harvesting limits will differ for regrowth and non-regrowth forests. This is because they have a different forest structure. Regrowth forests are younger and actively growing forests while non-regrowth forests are multi-aged, have a more complex structure and contain older and larger trees.

To ensure selectively harvested forests retain suitable density, structure and tree size after harvesting, a minimum retention rate will apply known as 'basal area'. It sets out the density of trees to be kept in the forest.

A minimum basal area of:

- 10 square metres of trees per hectare will be retained in regrowth forests
- 12 square metres of trees per hectare will be retained in non-regrowth forests.



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# TIMBER CONTINUED

## 2. Intensive Harvesting

**2,200  
HECTARES  
PER YEAR**

A type of harvesting that involves high levels of tree removal and ground disturbance to improve regeneration outcomes. It will be restricted to Blackbutt dominated forests between Grafton and Taree in northern NSW, as shown in figure 1. Across this area, no more than 2,200 hectares of timber production forests may be intensively harvested in any financial year.

Intensive harvesting is proposed to be carried out over three cycles. Each cycle will be separated over time and across each mapped local landscape area (LLA). This approach has been designed to balance operational needs, forest regeneration and native species persistence and re-colonisation of harvested areas.

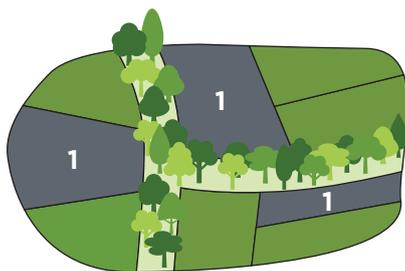
Rules that apply to intensive harvesting in each LLA include:

- Intensive harvesting must not exceed 45-hectare areas known as coupes
- Harvesting in each cycle must occur over a 10-year period
- No more than 33% of forest may be harvested during any one cycle

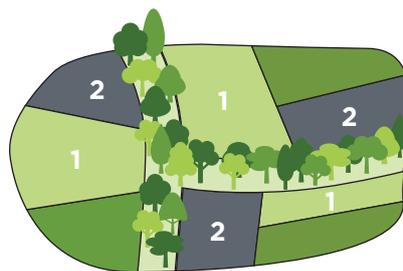
An example of how intensive logging cycles apply to coupes over time and across the LLA is shown below:

Pre-harvesting coupe with native forest  
Active harvest area

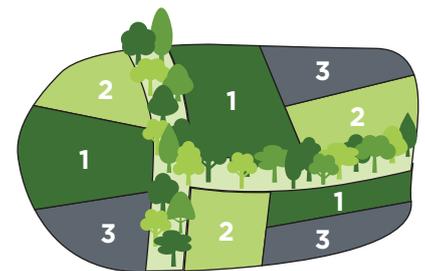
Harvested Area  
Regenerating harvested area



Cycle 1: Year 0-10



Cycle 2: Year 11-20



Cycle 3: Year 21+

Limits will also apply to coupes that are located next to one another. After harvesting is completed in one coupe, a period of 10 years must go by prior to commencing harvesting in an adjacent intensive harvesting coupe, unless an area of permanent exclusion zone of more than 40 metres occurs between the coupes.

## 3. Mixed Intensity Harvesting

Under the proposed coastal IFOA, a combination of selective and intensive harvesting may take place at the same time in an LLA within the intensive harvesting zone.

Prior to commencing harvesting in an LLA, the selective and intensive harvesting areas must be defined in a map known as a 'tract' map.

The selective and intensive harvesting rules described above apply in the tract mapped areas. Site specific limits will also apply to areas where intensive harvesting is planned for more than 25% of the net harvest area in each harvesting cycle.

## 4. Alternate Coupe Harvesting

A type of harvesting that involves high levels of tree removal in coupes. Alternate coupe harvesting is limited to the Eden region in southern NSW.

The rules for this practice are similar to intensive harvesting and will continue unchanged under the proposed Coastal IFOA.

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