

STATEMENT OF REASONS

AMENDMENT NO 6. 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.

1. Amendments to the General Terms

These amendments are required under the IFOA to set the maximum volume of residue logs that may be produced from harvesting operations (including early thinning operations) on Western lands leases for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2030 and to ensure the volume caps are sustainable.

The amendments allow the Forestry Corporation of NSW to produce river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) residues from logging operations on Western land leases from 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2030. The amendments set residue volume caps based on data from a comprehensive assessment of red gum on Western lands leases carried out during 2015.

These volume caps will ensure timber harvested from these areas is consistent with ecologically sustainable forest management. It allows the river red gum timber industry to continue to obtain timber from Western lands leases, generating local employment, while ensuring large trees are not felled solely for the purpose of producing residue.

Further, the amendment aims to address the issues raised by local landholders (Lessees) in relation to existing IFOA constraints that impact on their day to day farm management activities. Specifically:

- a) The safety and access impediments to managing stock and weeds
- b) Increased fire risk
- c) Lessees share of royalty being unrealised.

The amendments provide that the five-yearly review of the Approval will include a review of the sustainability of timber yields. It also allows for reviews of the sustainability of the Western lands lease yields at any time should environmental conditions, such as climate and forest health, warrant.

The amendments arise from the review of residue operations under clause 27(5) of the approval and give effect to recommendations by the Environment Protection Authority and Forestry Corporation of NSW under clause 27(10).

2 Amendments to Threatened Species Licence

This amendment delivers new tree retention requirements for dead standing trees

The amendment strengthens existing environmental protection, by way of additional tree retention prescriptions, to ensure that dead trees with the highest biodiversity values are retained, while at the same time allowing for efficient agricultural and forestry operations to continue on western lands leases.

The amendment arises from the review of residue operations and gives effect to recommendations by the Environment Protection Authority and Forestry Corporation of NSW.