Overview of Private Native Forestry

Private native forestry (PNF) is the management of native vegetation on privately owned land to obtain forest products – including sawlogs, veneer logs, poles, girders, piles and pulp logs – on a sustainable basis.

Regulation of private native forestry
Under the Native Vegetation Act 2003, harvesting and associated forestry operations conducted for the purposes of PNF require an approved PNF Property Vegetation Plan (PNF PVP). PNF operations under a PNF PVP must be conducted in accordance with the PNF Code of Practice (the Code).

The PNF Code of Practice
The Code establishes a regulatory framework for the sustainable management of private native forests by ensuring that operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes. The Code contains provisions for:

- protecting habitat and biodiversity
- protecting catchments by minimising soil erosion and reducing contamination of waterways
- maintaining the forest structure
- protecting Aboriginal and cultural heritage values.

The Code is in four parts. Each part applies to a particular area within the state, as described below:

- **Northern NSW** – land north of the Sydney CBD, i.e. latitude 33°52'02.71S
- **Southern NSW** – land south of the Sydney CBD, i.e. latitude 33°52'02.71S
- **River Red Gum Forests** – forests dominated by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
- **Cypress and Western Hardwood Forests** – Cypress forests are dominated by white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*). Western hardwood forests are predominantly eucalypt woodlands and forests of the Western Plains and Western Slopes of NSW and typically include box woodlands, box-ironbark woodlands, black cypress and eucalypt woodlands, western red gum woodlands and white box – stringybark woodlands.

Each part of the Code can be found on the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) website at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf/.

Private native forestry property vegetation plans
Landholders need to obtain a PNF PVP to perform forestry operations on their land. These operations need to be conducted in accordance with the Code. Further information on the process for obtaining a PNF PVP can be obtained from the Private Native Forestry Property Vegetation Plan fact sheet.
Overview of Private Native Forestry

**Biodiversity certification of private native forestry**

The Code has been granted biodiversity certification under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act). This means that once a PVP has been approved, landholders do not need to separately apply for a licence under the TSC Act.

The Code has built-in requirements to protect biodiversity, including threatened species. There are additional requirements for some threatened species; these requirements can be found in the Listed Species Ecological Prescriptions in the Appendix to the Code. To view the part of the Code relevant for a particular operation, go to [http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf/](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf/). A template and associated guidelines to help prepare a Forest Operation Plan (FOP) can be downloaded from [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf).

**Forest operation planning**

A FOP is a detailed plan of all the forestry operations occurring on the land where a PNF PVP has been issued. The FOP consists of a map, a written template and details about the forest (e.g. type and condition), the harvesting methods used, planned regeneration activities, environmental protection measures and road planning.

A FOP is the key communication tool between the landholder and all forestry operators. A copy of the FOP must be available on site during all forestry operations and must be read, signed and dated by the landholder and all forestry operators.


**Annual reports**

The Code requires landholders to report to the EPA if they have performed PNF operations in the previous year, or if they plan to undertake PNF operations in the coming year.

If landholders have not performed any PNF operations in the past year and have no intention of performing any PNF operations in the coming year, they do not need to provide a report.

Reports are due at the end of March in each calendar year and may be submitted to the EPA by post, via email or online. Sample reporting templates are available at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pnf).

**Auditing of private native forestry operations**

An audit is a planned activity involving staff from the EPA and the landholder or their representative. The EPA will contact the landholder or their representative and arrange a suitable time for the audit.

Audits are conducted by trained and experienced EPA PNF Officers, who will discuss the landholder’s operations and inspect the forest operations being conducted on the property. Items to be inspected may include the FOP, the protection of environmental values, the retention of residual basal area, and regeneration. The results of the audit will be discussed with the landholder.

The aim of the audit is to:

- ensure the landholder’s compliance with the Code
- gather information to support any audit findings
- provide the landholder with a report, including any follow up actions required.

Being involved in the audit gives landholders the opportunity to develop ways of improving their forest management.

**More information**

For more information:

- **Phone** the EPA on 131 555
- **email** forestry@epa.nsw.gov.au
- **fax** (02) 6640 2539