

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

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| Project | The proposed forestry operations in south western NSW includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harvesting of River Red Gums and White Cypress Pines • road/track construction associated with harvesting operations. |
| Site | Crown timber lands in south western NSW |
| Proponent | Forests NSW |
| Date of Issue | 25 July 2008 |
| Date of Expiration | 25 July 2010 |
| General Requirements | <p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ need for the project (including the demand for the timber products to be provided, in terms of species, product types and volumes; ○ alternatives considered (including reservation of areas of high conservation value and/or harvesting lower timber volumes); ○ a description of the products harvested (both residue and sawlog) and how they are used; ○ various components and stages of the project; ○ a description of the determination of sustainable timber harvesting as it applies to the project (i.e. how is sustainability achieved and what indicators of sustainability are used); ○ a description of the method by which trees are selected for harvesting; ○ a description of the physical and planning management processes which precede and follow a harvesting event; ○ a description of all silvicultural techniques employed in the management area including those which are not part of a harvesting event and their sustainability. Details of proposed rotation periods must be provided. ○ a description of proposed road/track construction. ○ A description of the site for which approval is sought, including cadastral or other property descriptions, and clear delineation of any State forests (or parts thereof) and Crown-timber lands within the regions but not the subject of the application, sufficient for it to be clear to which land the application applies. • consideration of relevant statutory provisions; • an overview of the environmental impacts of the project (including an environmental risk analysis) which takes into consideration the issues raised during consultation; • a detailed assessment of the key issues specified below and any other significant issues identified in the environmental risk analysis, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the existing environment; - an assessment of the potential impacts of the project, including potential cumulative impacts (particularly on flora and fauna, surface water, groundwater, noise, and air quality) that may be expected to arise from the combined operation of the project, together with the other approved and existing activities such as grazing, on the site and in |

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| | <p>the region;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the measures, including any new reserves, that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage, and/or monitor the impacts of the project - The contribution of any new reserved areas to improving the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the NSW reserve system.; - a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures; - a conclusion justifying the project, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the proposal and cumulative impacts, the suitability of the site, and whether or not the project is in the public interest; - a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading. |
| Key Issues | <p>Socioeconomic</p> <p>The EA must describe the current supply contracts/arrangements with customers of FNSW and the extent of their reliance on supply of Red Gum and/or Cypress from Crown-timber lands in NSW, as well as the contribution of this sector of the NSW timber industry to the social and economic welfare of small towns in the region. The assessment should include an analysis of the impact of any reduction in the supply of timber to mills in the region and the timber industry in NSW in general.</p> <p>Sustainable Timber Yields</p> <p>The EA must include an estimate of sustainable yields for all forest types that are to be harvested. The estimates must allow for the application of threatened species prescriptions, any zones and proposed new reserves, and other environmental impact mitigation measures. Details of the estimate techniques and error bounds must be included. Consideration should also be given to the impacts of climate change on regeneration and growth rates.</p> <p>High Conservation Value Areas</p> <p>The EA must identify areas of high conservation value and document how such areas will be protected during logging and roading activities. Such areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o major colonial waterbird breeding sites o remaining stands of highly cleared vegetation types or forests o stands of vegetation types under-represented in conservation reserves having regard to the JANIS criteria and to bioregions and sub-bioregions o important refuges for wildlife during drought or under projected climate change scenarios o localities where there are high fauna or flora population densities, high diversity of fauna habitats or high species diversity o stands with concentrations of hollow-bearing trees or large mature trees (important for other resources like nectar) and the distribution and maintenance of these across the site o riparian fringes (that is land within 20m of permanent / semi-permanent water) o known Super Parrot and Regent Parrot nesting aggregations. |

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| | <p>Flora and Fauna</p> <p>The EA must include an assessment of the impacts on critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and native vegetation.</p> <p><i>Threatened Species</i>- It is noted that Forests NSW have made the commitment to prepare the assessment of the impacts of the proposal upon threatened species to a standard equivalent to that of a Species Impact Statement. The requirements specified in Section 110 (Content of species impact statement) of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act</i> 1995 must therefore be met.</p> <p><i>Vegetation mapping</i> – a vegetation map must be included which is produced using an accepted classification system (such as that developed by the Royal Botanic Gardens) and enabling comparison with other relevant vegetation maps (such as those produced by the MDBC, DNR, the CMAs and their predecessors, and DECC). The vegetation map may be produced using a combination of modelling, field data and expert opinion. The map should consider all strata of vegetation and their intersection and coincidence. Factors likely to influence vegetation distribution and distribution should be considered, including hydrology and edaphic factors.</p> <p>The vegetation map should allow determination and analysis of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ vegetation communities poorly represented in reserves ○ rare vegetation types or those of limited distribution ○ geographic variation of the vegetation of the area where logging and roading will be undertaken. <p><i>Flora/Fauna Survey</i> – survey of the flora and fauna of the region should be undertaken to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ threatened species, endangered ecological communities and endangered populations known or likely to be present in the area to be logged/roaded ○ the likely impacts of logging and roading on threatened species, endangered ecological communities and endangered populations ○ the local, regional and State-wide conservation status of such entities likely to be affected by logging / roading activities. <p>Expert opinion and reliable existing data may be used in combination with survey data obtained for this assessment.</p> <p>A description must be given of the measures that will be affected to mitigate any adverse effect of logging / roading on threatened species, endangered ecological communities and endangered populations, and to maintain and improve the status of those species and communities.</p> <p>A comprehensive offset strategy must be included as part of the mitigation measures for the project to ensure that there is no net loss of flora and fauna values (including representativeness) in the area in the medium to long term.</p> <p>The document “DECC’s Environmental Assessment Requirements” (Appendix 1) and consultation with DECC should be used to guide flora and fauna assessment requirements.</p> <p>Aquatic Habitat</p> <p>The EA must include a description of how impacts of activities on aquatic habitats will be minimised. This should include:</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drainage feature protection zones (size, placement and permitted activities) • road and track location, design construction and maintenance • drainage feature crossings design, construction and maintenance (e.g. stability, waterway disturbance, fish passage) • erosion and pollution controls within the harvest area, and measures to minimise sediment transport. • consideration of the full range of climatic conditions likely to be experienced over the next 20 years and flow on effects of activities which may influence ecological factors within the aquatic environment (e.g. sediment runoff during rainfall events). <p>Cumulative Impacts</p> <p>The EA must include an assessment of the cumulative impact on the environment of the proposed activities (timber harvesting and associated roading) in combination with other activities (including grazing, Broombush harvesting, Mallee harvesting, Black Box / Bimble Box harvesting for fence posts, thinning, apiary, recreation ,and any other forest uses) on the site and its environs..</p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</p> <p>The EA must :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the nature and extent of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the project area; • describe actions that will be taken to mitigate impacts or compensate to prevent unavoidable impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural heritage values; and • document how effective community consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and making final recommendations. <p>The information requirements set out in “Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation” should be addressed in the EA.</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>An assessment of the impacts of noise from logging, roading activities, and traffic movements on any residential or noise sensitive premises must be made, and a description of any measures that will be used to mitigate against any impacts.</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>The EA must include a description of the likely impacts of dust and other particulate matter on sensitive receptors as a result of harvesting and roading activities, and any mitigation measures put in place to reduce such impacts.</p> <p>Water Quality</p> <p>The EA must outline erosion and sediment control measures directed at minimising disturbance of land, minimising water flow through disturbed site(s) and filtering, trapping or detaining sediment. This should include measures to maintain and monitor controls as well as rehabilitation strategies.</p> |
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| | <p>The EA should also identify the proposed type, quantity and location of chemicals to be stored on site(s). Spill management measures, including items such as bunding, and emergency procedures should be clearly outlined.</p> <p>Roads and Traffic</p> <p>The EA should include an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic generation/attraction and trip generation of the proposed development. • The direction of travel of all vehicles entering and exiting the site including delivery, service and employee vehicles. • Types and volumes of vehicles to be used. • Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) and historical trends on key streets. • Peak period traffic volumes and congestion levels at key adjacent intersections. • Impact of generated traffic on adjacent road network and key intersections, the environment and other major traffic generating developments in close proximity. • Accident history of road network in the area. • Safety and efficiency of access between the site and the adjacent road network including access location and width and Sight distance at access location. • Assessment of traffic noise and dust effects. • Recommendations to address impacts on the road network <p>Climate Change</p> <p>The proponent must accurately account for the greenhouse gas emissions from the project. The full life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions must be calculated, and it must be demonstrated how greenhouse gas emissions have been minimised over the life-cycle.</p> |
| References | <p>The Environmental Assessment must take into account relevant State government technical and policy guidelines. While not exhaustive, guidelines which may be relevant to the project are included in the attached list.</p> |
| Consultation | <p>During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you must consult with the relevant local and State government authorities, service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any affected Commonwealth government authorities.</p> <p>In particular you must consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment and Climate Change; • Department of Natural Resources; • Department of Primary Industries; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; and • RAMROC. <p>The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.</p> |
| Deemed refusal period | 120 days |

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

| Aspect | Policy / Methodology |
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| Soil and Water | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • any Water Sharing Plan under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> applicable to the site; • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR); |
| Flora and Fauna | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI); |
| Blasting and Vibration | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC); |
| Noise | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC); |
| Air Quality | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approved Methods and Guidance for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); |
| Heritage | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DECC); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office); |
| Traffic | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Developments</i> (RTA); • <i>RTA Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • relevant AUSTROADS standards; |
| Greenhouse Gases | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Factors and Methods Workbook</i> (Australian Greenhouse Office); and |
| Waste | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC). |