Forestry Corporation

Policy

Title	Forest Management Policy	**Version**	17
Policy No.	P 2026/09	**Effective date**	1/10/2026

Acknowledgment of Country

Forestry Corporation of NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live and work, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future. We recognise and honour the culture, knowledge, and enduring connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

1. PURPOSE

Forestry Corporation manages State forests and other land to produce a range of products, services and environmental, community and cultural benefits in accordance with the objectives of the *Forestry Act 2012*. The long-term sustainability of Forestry Corporation's managed forests underpins management decisions.

The purpose of this policy is to guide the sustainable management of State forests and other lands Forestry Corporation manages, ensuring ecological integrity while supporting social, cultural and economic values.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees, contractors and other parties undertaking forest management activities on Forestry Corporation's behalf. It applies to forest management activities include planning, operations, monitoring, and continuous improvement processes that support the sustainable production of forest products and the protection of environmental, cultural, and community values.

The policy is implemented through Forestry Corporation's Forest Management System, which is certified to AS/NZS 4708:2021 within the defined scope of certification.

3. POLICY

Forestry Corporation's management will:

- Maintain ecological integrity through the identification and management of material forest management risks
- Protect and, where practicable, enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functions and other forest values
- Maintain or improve the productive capacity of managed forests
- Identify, assess and manage risks to forests, including those arising from climate change, bushfire, pests, diseases and biosecurity threats
- Protect air quality, water resources, soil health, native flora and fauna, cultural heritage and other forest values

Forestry Corporation is committed to:

- Implementing a long-term, systematic approach consistent with ecologically sustainable forest management principles through a certified Forest Management System
- Providing a framework for setting and reviewing forest management objectives, fulfilling applicable compliance obligations, minimising harm, providing benefits from forests, and continually improving the Forest Management System and its performance.
- Complying with all applicable laws, regulations, contractual, and other obligations
- Maintaining systems and controls to support the traceability and certification of forest products
- Providing adequate, trained resources to achieve management objectives
- Ensuring employees, suppliers, and contractors:
    - Understand their responsibilities under the Forest Management System
    - Apply forest management requirements effectively in their work
- Maintaining and testing systems for incident and emergency management to protect life, property, community assets, and forest values
- Regularly monitoring, auditing, reviewing and publicly reporting on forest management performance and outcomes.

Forestry Corporation recognises the positive contribution of stakeholders and proactively provides opportunities for meaningful, timely and culturally appropriate engagement to understand their needs and expectations and inform forest management decisions.

Forest management activities stemming from this policy are summarised in the Forest Management Plans.

This policy, along with the Forest Management Plans, associated reports and other elements of the Forest Management System are publicly available.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
Board	• Endorse the Forest Management Policy • Provide strategic oversight of policy implementation
CEO	• Approve the Forest Management Policy • Provide executive leadership and accountability for effective implementation • Ensure adequate resources are available to maintain the Forest Management System and meet applicable obligations.
Managers and Supervisors	• Implement this Policy and applicable Forest Management System requirements within their areas of responsibility • Ensure employees and contractors understand and apply relevant policy and document requirements • Provide appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision • Monitor compliance and performance, and ensure incidents, non-conformances and improvement opportunities are reported and addressed.
FMS Coordinator/ Specialist	• Coordinate implementation and maintenance of the Forest Management System • Monitor alignment with AS/NZS 4708:2021 and applicable compliance obligations • Coordinate monitoring, audit, review and reporting of Forest Management System performance • Maintain current supporting policies, procedures, plans and references.

All staff	• Understand and comply with this Policy and applicable Forest Management System requirements • Complete required training and apply relevant procedures, plans and controls • Report incidents, non-conformances, emerging risks and improvement opportunities.
Contractors, Consultants and Volunteers	• Comply with applicable legal, contractual, and Forest Management System requirements • Follow relevant Forestry Corporation policies, procedures, plans and site instructions • Maintain required competence and promptly report incidents, non-conformances and emerging risks.

5. LEGISLATION AND OTHER COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS

- *Forestry Act 2012 (NSW)*
- Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS/NZS 4708:2021

6. RELATED POLICIES

- Stakeholder Engagement Policy
- Compliance Policy
- Training and Development Policy
- Fire Management Policy

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Forest Management System Guides (SPD and HFD)
- AS4708 Scope and Defined Forest Area Procedure
- Forest Management Plans
- Forest Management System procedures, plans, reports and supporting guidance
- Responsible Wood Standard (AS/NZS 4708:2021)

8. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Author	Summary of changes	Approver	Approval date
15	Information Systems and Framework Manager	Updated for clarity. Added related documents. Removed ISO 14001-specific commitment. Included reference to ecologically sustainable forest management. Broadened fifth dot point to reference the Forest Management System.	Anshul Chaudhary (CEO)	1/8/2024
16	Information Systems and Framework Manager	Updated for clarity. Transferred to new template. Removed redundant points regarding forest values and use of genetically modified material. Added roles and responsibilities and scope, and incident management commitment.	Anshul Chaudhary (CEO)	8/10/2025
17	Risk and Compliance Systems Manager	Aligned roles and responsibilities with policy commitments. Sections 5-7; standardised compliance and document references.	Anshul Chaudhary (CEO)	01/10/2026

For previous document versions, refer to Content Manager

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Risk and Compliance Systems Manager (RCSM)

10. EXECUTIVE ENDORSEMENT



Anshul Chaudhary

Chief Executive Officer

Responsible Wood RW/1-21-5

PEFC PEFC/21-23-05