

Consultation summary – Forest Management Plans for inland hardwood and cypress forests and Cumberland State Forest

Forestry Corporation's Forest Management Plans (FMP) summarise our systematic management approach of our Forest Management System, outline our legal and regulatory framework, demonstrate our commitment to maintaining certification, and outline how Forestry Corporation will deliver Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management outcomes. Forest Management Plans are periodically reviewed and stakeholders are invited to provide input and feedback at each review.

Forest Management Plans for softwood plantations and coastal native forests were reviewed and streamlined into a single document in 2022 following a period of public consultation.

In 2024, Forestry Corporation updated the FMPs for inland hardwood and cypress forests and Cumberland State Forest.

The updated plans were placed on public display in April 2024 and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback.

Three submissions were received. One submission related to the management of plantations. None of the areas managed under the plans on display included timber plantations.

One submission related to the implementation of fire management activities, forms of community involvement in programs for pest species and cooperation with community on managing biodiversity.

One submission requested further information on how the ESFM strategy expressly applied to the two FMPs placed on display and made recommendations relating to gap analysis and analysis of recent developments.

The Forest Management Plans for inland hardwood and cypress forests and Cumberland State Forests are designed to be read and implemented in conjunction with the FMPs published in 2022.

The first two sections of the FMPs published in 2022 summarise the Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) strategy and forest management considerations and practices that are consistent across the landscape. The ESFM strategy and the management activities summarised in the first two sections expressly apply to all forests in this consolidated suite of FMPs, including inland hardwood and cypress forests and Cumberland State Forest.

The unique management considerations and practices for different forest types are set out in the subsequent section. Each of these sections, when read together with sections one and two and the ESFM strategy, represents a separate forest management plan. The four plans are presented together in a consolidated format for ease of reference and to avoid duplication of the areas that are consistent for each plan.

The FMPs are guiding documents rather than operational plans. When individual activities are implemented in a specific location, the individual requirements of the community, environment and regulations are considered and addressed in operational planning.

The Forest Management System that the FMPs summarise is built on a continuous improvement framework underpinned by the principle of adaptive management. Factors and changes that may impact the application of the ESFM principles and strategy are identified through a systematic program of audits, investigations and management review, as summarised in the FMPs. Further, Forestry Corporation's annual sustainability report has been restructured to explicitly describe which indicators relate to which ESFM principles.