

Title	Recreation & Tourism Policy	Version	4
Policy No.	P2018/13	Effective date	23/08/2018

1. OVERVIEW

Forestry Corporation (FCNSW) occupies a unique position in the recreation and tourism (R&T) landscape in NSW. State forests provide a distinct blend of leisure and visitor opportunities, different from other NSW land managers and/or NSW public lands.

Whilst the provision of traditional camping, picnicking and bushwalking experiences remains important, FCNSW recognises a role in providing safe, innovative and high-quality nature-based visitor experiences. The development of commercial R&T opportunities is seen as a key means by which FCNSW can provide on-forest experiences of a high standard that promote the FCNSW and State forests brand.

FCNSW R&T meaningfully contributes to NSW State Plan targets in the areas of health, social/community values, tourism and growing the visitor economy.

2. BACKGROUND

The term recreation applies in a FCNSW context to those activities undertaken by people for pleasure or relaxation. Tourism is defined as the temporary, short term movement of non-residents along transit routes to and from a destination, and is often undertaken in the pursuit of recreation.

R&T in FCNSW is guided by the objectives of the *Forestry Act 2012*, to:

- Be a successful business
- Have regard to the interests of the community in which it operates
- Conduct activities in an ecologically sustainable manner, and
- Contribute toward regional development.

FCNSW Strategy 2019 supports the current Policy. R&T experiences in State forest can significantly enhance and raise awareness of what we do (Strategy 3). The expansion of commercial tourism opportunities can positively impact business profitability through diversifying the forest product (Strategy 4). We strive to achieve operational excellence in creating nature-based visitor experiences, and in administering our Forest Permit system, and there are clear opportunities for innovation in R&T both within FCNSW and through the development of commercial and other partnership opportunities (Strategy 5).

The delivery of R&T experiences on State forest are complementary to, yet differentiated from, those conducted by National Parks, Lands, local government recreation services and the commercial sector. FCNSW commands a unique place in the R&T market and this policy seeks to align the management of this aspect of the business with the primary objectives of the organisation.

3. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all Business Units.

4. POLICY

Goals:

FCNSW are a recognised manager of nature-based visitor recreation & tourism activities in NSW:

- State forests offer a wide variety of desirable and sustainably managed nature-based eco-tourism destinations and experiences, where visitors can appreciate and enjoy the forest environment.
- State forests offer R&T destinations with a diverse range of natural and cultural heritage experiences.
- State forest R&T destinations are managed within a sustainable forest management framework.
- State forest R&T experiences educate visitors on forest management and the forest environment
- FCNSW partnerships with clubs and community groups facilitates management of forest use for mutual benefits.

Objectives:

In delivering nature-based R&T experiences, FCNSW will:

- Provide for safe and enjoyable use by the community of the forest-based recreational services of FCNSW
- Promote State forest R&T destinations via a recognized and marketable brand
- Pursue opportunities with commercial R&T operators for establishment on State forest, and in doing so provide consistent, clear and helpful advice and information
- Implement effective stakeholder engagement practices in the ongoing management and promotion of State forest R&T destinations
- Monitor and report on usage of FCNSW managed visitor sites, including visitor demographics, visitor economic contribution to local and regional communities and visitor satisfaction, to support relevant NSW public policy
- Work with government and industry in supporting and increasing a market share of tourism for NSW
- Aim for consistency in the use of R&T permits and fees
- Use corporate standards for suppliers, contracts and management related to R&T activities
- Address OH&S factors relevant to the provision of R&T

FCNSW approach to Recreation and Tourism is based on the following principles

- R&T management is integral to the role of FCNSW as a land manager, as a member of local and regional communities, and as a stakeholder in the NSW tourism industry.
- R&T is an important tool in earning social licence to operate for FCNSW
- FCNSW R&T management is how FCNSW distinguishes itself from other agencies providing similar services, and thereby promotes key corporate messaging and the values of multiple-use forestry.
- FCNSW provides best practice R&T services, focusing on delivering safe and environmentally-responsible opportunities to the NSW community.
- R&T services are provided within an appropriate legal framework, ensuring consideration of liability, equity and probity.
- Partnerships with local interest groups and service providers are established and/or maintained, as are relationships with other government R&T providers. Partnerships with the commercial sector are identified as a key opportunity and are pursued.
- R&T is undertaken in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Commercial R&T activities are cash-positive.
- Consistent standards guide signage, provision of facilities, communication processes and permit provision, as delivered at a regional level.

FCNSW recognises that at times there will be some tension between different forest uses and some management objectives. This Policy recognises the need to determine the appropriate use for each forest area and activity as part of Policy implementation.

Document title: Recreation & Tourism Policy	Version No. 4	Page 2
Document ID (TRIM No.): D00049514	Issue Date: 23/08/2018	Review Date: 23/08/2021

Appropriate fee structures and funding or partnership arrangements apply. These include:

- *Forest Permits* – Designed to manage the use of State forests by a variety of organisations, clubs, recreational and other user groups for a variety of organised events and/or occupation of State forest sites. Fee structures are based on cost-recovery for non-commercial activities, whilst a cash positive approach will be taken with commercial business occupation and/or commercial activities.
- *Visitor Sites* – State forest visitor sites (picnic, camping, lookouts, and walking tracks) are managed by FCNSW for the benefit of the community. These services are traditionally offered at no cost to the user.
- *Tourism Destinations* – Areas of identified tourism potential where competitive processes are applied such as EOs and tenders.
- The provision of guidance material and tools for consistent Forest Permit implementation across NSW through the *Recreation and Tourism Forest Permit Toolkit*.

This Policy recognises the benefit of local knowledge and regional stakeholder relationships in the management of R&T. Support will be provided to regionally-based staff via the provision of standards and guidelines, advice and resources. A network of staff involved in R&T matters will also be maintained.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Forestry Act 2012
- Forestry Regulation 2012

6. RELATED POLICIES

- Forestry Corporation of NSW Volunteer Policy
- Industry and Investment Tendering Policy
- Forestry Corporation of NSW Forest Management Policy.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- NSW 2021
- FCNSW Strategy 2019
- FCNSW Tourism Strategy
- FCNSW Sponsorship Guidelines
- FCNSW Recreation and Tourism Forest Permit Toolkit

8. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date
02	September 2013
03	October 2014
04	August 2018

9. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

August 2021

10. CONTACT OFFICERS

Louise Faulkner
Manager, Tourism & Partnerships

Kathy Lyons
Senior Manager Stewardship

Dean Anderson
General Manager, Hardwood Forests


Nick Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

Document title: Recreation & Tourism Policy	Version No. 4	Page 3
Document ID (TRIM No.): D00049514	Issue Date: 23/08/2018	Review Date: 23/08/2021