

Consultation summary – Forest Management Plans for coastal hardwood forests and softwood plantations

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.

In mid-2022, Forestry Corporation updated the FMPs for coastal and tablelands hardwood forests and softwood plantations and placed them on public display for comment.

All comments were considered, and a range of changes were made to the draft plan to address issues or incorporate additional information (see Table 1 on the next page). Examples of these changes include adding a summary table detailing ESFM strategies, objectives and targets and including further detail about specific topics raised in submissions.

In all 13 submissions were received, the following table summarises the main issues raised and the approach to address each one. Comments were primarily directed at the coastal hardwood forests sections, but there were at six responses directed at least in part to the softwood plantations section.

Points	Broadly addressed by
The FMP would benefit from Executive Summary given the length of the document	Executive summary included.
Comments that the plan is both too high level and too detailed.	Executive summary included. The purpose of the plan is to provide a summary of the Forest Management System.
A number of submissions contended that the FMP needed to reflect the importance of non-timber values to a higher degree.	Addressed in the corporate objectives (1.1.1)
The draft plan did not adequately describe Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) Principles and an ESFM Strategy.	Addressed through the inclusion of the ESFM Principles (2.2) and Strategy (2.3) within the FMP.
Insufficient focus on monitoring and reporting / objectives and targets	Improved through inclusion of ESFM Strategy (2.3).
Insufficient discussion on climate change impacts and mitigation.	Climate change section (4.8) added.
Inadequate acknowledgement of changed circumstances arising from 2019/20 fires.	CIFOA and site-specific conditions negotiated with the regulator, inclusion in the FMP of revised sustainable yield review and dedicated section of the 2019-20 fire recovery (7.5 & 8.4).
Plantations should be considered critical infrastructure and increased emphasis in FMP on collaboration, increased fuel reduction / thinning.	Addition of a case study in the Fire management and emergency response section (3.5).
Detail around management of koalas.	The Forest biodiversity section (4.1) has been updated with a case study focusing on koala monitoring and research informs management

Table 1: Key points from public submissions on the draft Forestry Corporation Forest Management Plan (FMP) for coastal hardwood forests and softwood plantations and Forestry Corporation responses.