

Private Native Forestry Review

Frequently Asked Questions

What is private native forestry?

Private native forestry (PNF) is the sustainable management of native forests on private property for timber production. This includes harvesting of timber for a variety of products including flooring, construction timber, power poles and furniture.

What is the PNF Review considering?

The NSW Government is providing all members of the community the opportunity to give feedback on how we can improve the management of NSW private forest estate through a review of private native forestry (PNF Review).

The PNF Review seeks to balance the sustainable development of the private native timber and agricultural industries while recognising the environmental values of the private forest estate.

The PNF Review will consider the PNF Codes of Practice, the rules and regulations that govern PNF, the PNF authorisation process, and PNF training and advice services.

The PNF Terms of Reference can be viewed on the Local Land Services website at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry.

What is a PNF Plan?

A PNF Plan is a legally binding agreement between a landholder and Local Land Services. If a landholder wants to harvest timber on a property, they first need a PNF Plan approved by Local Land Services.

A PNF Plan consists of a map of the PNF approval area and identifies any areas of environmental importance such as rainforest and old growth forests where PNF is not permitted. Once a PNF Plan is in place, landholders must meet the requirements of the relevant PNF Code of Practice.

How is PNF regulated?

Part 5B in the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act) establishes the legal framework for the regulation of PNF consistent with the following objectives to:

- authorise the carrying out of private native forestry operations in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management
- protect biodiversity and water quality
- enable landholders to carry out sustainable forestry operations
- ensure the differences between private native forestry and native forestry in State Forests or other Crown-timber land are recognised.

Under the LLS Act forestry operations on private land require approval through a PNF Plan. Once a PNF Plan is in place landholders must meet the requirements of the relevant PNF Code of Practice.

Local Land Services is responsible for the approval of PNF Plans, while the Environment Protection Authority is responsible for compliance and enforcement.

What are the PNF Codes of Practice?

The PNF Codes of Practice outline the environmental and sustainable forest management operating standards for PNF operations in NSW. The PNF codes:

- contain provisions to manage and protect environmental values
- set minimum operating standards for harvesting in private native forests.

All PNF operations in NSW fall under one of four regionally based PNF Codes:

- Northern NSW
- Southern NSW
- River Red Gum Forests
- Cypress and Western Hardwood Forests.

The existing PNF Codes of Practice can be found at www.ils.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry.

What is the PNF authorisation process?

A PNF Plan is an agreement between landholders and Local Land Services that states landholders will conduct PNF operations in accordance with the relevant PNF Code of Practice. In developing a PNF Plan:

- a Local Land Services PNF Officer provides the landholder with a PNF Information Package
- if the landholder wishes to proceed with undertaking PNF operations, the landholder lodges a PNF application
- a Local Land Services PNF Officer checks the environmental records relating to the landholding and helps develop a PNF Plan Agreement for the landholder's signature
- once the PNF Plan Agreement is signed by the landholder, Local Land Services can approve the PNF Plan.

After developing a PNF Plan, and before conducting a PNF operation, landholders work with Local Land Services to develop a Forest Operation Plan that includes detailed information on the:

- area of the PNF operation
- intended silvicultural approach
- measures to protect the environment
- construction and maintenance of forest infrastructure.

A signed copy of the Forest Operation Plan must be available on-site during forestry operations.

What stage is the PNF Review at?

The NSW Government has developed draft PNF Codes of Practice. These draft PNF Codes of Practice have been released for 8-weeks of public exhibition, ending 19 May 2020.

How can I have my say?

The NSW Government is seeking industry and the community's views on the four draft PNF Codes of Practice, including:

- Northern NSW
- Southern NSW
- River Red Gum Forest
- Cypress and Western Hardwood Forest.

To make a submission you can:

Online - fill out the submission form on the Local Land Services website at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry

Email your submission to pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au

Post your submission to:

Private Native Forestry Review
Locked Bag 6013
ORANGE NSW 2800

All submissions will be published unless marked confidential.

What are the next steps?

Following the public exhibition of draft PNF Codes of Practice, submissions will be reviewed and considered prior to making new PNF Codes of Practice.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry or contact LLS on **1300 795 299**.