

Background

Local Land Services (LLS) is increasing its role as the one-stop shop for sustainable land management in NSW as it commences responsibility for managing the private native forestry (PNF) framework.

From April 30, landholders will no longer need to go to multiple state government agencies to receive advice on how to manage their land and forests but can discuss all their options in the one place with LLS.

What are the changes?

From April 30 2018, Local Land Services will assume responsibility for private native forestry approvals and advice. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will continue to be responsible for compliance and enforcement.

How will LLS be managing PNF?

A private native forestry team of seven officers is being established within Local Land Service. This team has specialist PNF expertise, including several EPA employees who are transferring to LLS along with additional staff being recruited to the new LLS PNF team.

These specialised PNF staff will join LLS staff in regional offices at Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Queanbeyan to provide an integrated suite of services to landholders seeking advice on options to manage their land and forests. The manager of PNF Operations, Jeff Boyd, is based in Forbes. The level of extension services provided to landholders will be enhanced under these new arrangements.

How do I contact LLS if I am interested in PNF?

For general queries relating to PNF or for updates on the PNF transition please refer to www.lls.nsw.gov.au/sustainable-land-management/private-native-forestry or contact the PNF hotline on 1300 778 080 or via email pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au.

I have a current PNF plan approved by the EPA. What will happen to it? Who do I contact to discuss my approval?

The transition of PNF to LLS from the EPA has no impact on your current approved PNF plan and it will remain valid - you are not required to do anything.

Please contact the PNF hotline on 1300 778 080 or email pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au to be put in touch with your local LLS PNF adviser.

I currently have a draft PNF plan pending approval by the EPA. What will happen to it? Who do I contact to discuss my approval?

If your draft PNF plan is not approved by the EPA prior to April 30 then LLS will automatically transition your draft PNF plan over and continue to work with you through the PNF plan approval process post 30 April 2018.

Please contact LLS on 1300 778 080 or via email pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au to be put through to the appropriate PNF officer working on your application.

Will LLS be making any changes to the PNF application and approval process?

LLS will continue to deliver PNF plan applications and approvals in the same way.

Information on PNF and application forms are available at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/sustainable-land-management/private-native-forestry

During 2018, LLS will begin reviewing the existing process to ensure the process is efficient and effective. LLS will be seeking feedback from key stakeholders to inform this review.

I am interested in applying for a PNF who do I contact?

Please contact the PNF hotline on 1300 778 080 or email pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au to be put in touch with your local LLS PNF adviser.

Will there be further changes to PNF?

Consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Panel, the government is committed to undertaking a review of the PNF Codes of Practice to ensure they are outcomes focused, risk responsive, easier to use and access and ultimately promote triple-bottom-line outcomes.

This review will commence later in 2018. You will be kept informed about opportunities to provide input into the review.

Additional information about the PNF transition and the review of the PNF Codes of Practice will be available soon.