

NSW Forest Certification Pathway Pilot

Expressions of Interest



Are you interested in having your farm forest certified by Responsible Wood (PFEC)?

Local Land Services is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from landholders to participate in the NSW Farm Forest Certification Pathway Pilot which assists and supports landholders through a forest certification process.

What is forest certification?

Forest certification provides independent assurance that farm forests are managed sustainably for long-term environmental, social and economic values.

Certification of farm forests increases access to additional timber markets, strengthens certified supply chains and improves the long-term sustainable management of farm forests.

What is the Forest Certification Pathway?

Local Land Services (LLS) has developed a pathway to help landholders become certified under the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme by streamlining the administrative process for Farm Forestry Certification.

The Certification Pathway complements the Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice. It supports landholders in developing a Forest Management System tailored to a landholder's property and business plan. The Forest Management System includes the plans and documents that outline how the Forest will be managed sustainably and in line with Certification.

What's involved in the Forest Certification Pathway Pilot?

Together with Responsible Wood, the Farm Forestry Certification Pathway Pilot will assist landholders in trialing and refining the process, all the way through to certification.

Landholders approved to participate in the Pilot will receive:

- Support from a forestry certification consultant to navigate the certification

pathway and provide specialist advice on Forest Management Systems and business practices consistent with the Responsible Wood Standards.

- Certification assessment by an accredited Certification Body, including a 2-stage assessment that provides opportunities for the Forest Management System to be refined in line with Certification requirements.
- Continued annual audit costs and notification fees for a maximum of 3 years.
- The opportunity to work closely with LLS to improve the Certification Pathway and ensure it adequately supports landholders in NSW.

Who can participate?

To participate, landholders with forested land will need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- an existing Private Native Forestry (PNF) Plan
- ability to undertake forest management in line with Responsible Wood Certification Standards
- willingness to work with LLS on reviewing the Certification Pathway
- commitment to maintain Certification once the Pilot has ended
- agreement for LLS to host field days in their forest to inform other farm forest managers about the Certification pathway.

How do I apply?

Landholders are invited to submit the Expression of Interest below, outlining their eligibility and commitment to forest certification. Applications that satisfy stated eligibility criteria will be approved up to the limit of 5 landholders.

Applications close 9 January 2023

Contact details (*mandatory information)

*Name	
*Address	
*Town	
*Postcode	
*Phone	
*Mobile	
*Email	

Property details

Property Address (if different from above):	
*Whole of property area (ha):	
*Approximate area of forest on property (ha):	
Forest Manager Details (if applicable):	
*Have you attached a whole of property map?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please contact Local Land Services if you need assistance in preparing the whole of property map.</i>
*Is this property Aboriginal owned, managed or co-managed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please specify:</i>
*Have you had advice from Local Land Services staff about your property or this application?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please specify:</i>
*Are you partnering with any other agency, organisation or university on your property?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please specify:</i>
*Have you previously considered applying for certification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Comments:

* Are you committed to following the Certification pathway over the next 12-18 months, and contribute to the review of the certification pathway?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Are you willing, able and committed to continue with certification for 3 years following Certification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Do you have an existing PNF plan covering a forest area that is at least 10 hectares in area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please specify PNF Plan Approval No:</i>
* Which PNF Code of Practice applies to your forest?	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern NSW <input type="checkbox"/> Southern NSW <input type="checkbox"/> River red gum forests <input type="checkbox"/> Cypress and western hardwood forests
*Do you have an existing Forest Management Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please specify Forest Management Plan Approval No:</i>

Conflict of interest*

Are you aware of any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to this pilot?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please specify:</i>
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Landholder declaration*

I declare that I have an ongoing interest in managing the forested area to be certified, as identified in the Whole of Property Map, to support its long-term sustainability in accordance with the attached PNF Plan.

I declare that the information provided within this application is true and correct at the time it is submitted and agree to contact Local Land Services if any information within the Plan changes.

Name:	
Signed:	
Date:	

Forest details*

Please describe what you know about the characteristics of your forest (e.g. forest type, species, age):

Please describe what you know about the requirements of meeting Responsible Wood Certification:

Please describe what you know about the health of the forest (e.g. pests and weeds), disturbance history (e.g. past fires, flooding etc.), and condition of the forest (including any other management challenges):

What are the long-term goals of your farm forest?

Please describe why you are interested in participating in the LLS Forest Certification Pathway Pilot

Forest certification barriers

Please rank your top 3 challenges to achieving Responsible Wood Certification, with 1 being the most challenging

Financial cost	
Stakeholder engagement	
Cultural heritage management	
Documentation and administration	
Safety and workers' rights	
Community development	
Forest management planning	
Forest management activities	
Research and monitoring	
Staff and resourcing	
Sales and management	
Compliance and performance	
Not known	
Other? Please specify:	

Please attach any supporting materials, such as:

- a completed Whole of Property Map
- current PNF Plan that complies with the Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice
- current Forest Management Plan, if applicable
- if relevant, any documents or agreements related to third party partnerships (e.g. agreements with research agencies, or access agreements for community)
- if relevant, any photos, previous surveys or other supporting information.

Please submit your signed EOI to:

ffp@lls.nsw.gov.au or

Local Land Services, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West 2302

If you have any questions about the pilot, EOI process or require any further assistance please contact:

E: pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au

P: 1300 795 299

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing September 2022. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.