



NSW Plantations Regulation

Plantations in NSW

Plantations are areas of land on which the predominant trees and shrubs are planted (by sowing seed or otherwise) for timber or non-timber purposes including environmental restoration, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. A plantation can range in size from small farm forestry plantings to large commercial timber and carbon plantings.

Plantations can be on private or public land and include a wide range of species including radiata pine and native hardwoods. Due to the unmet community demand for timber and wood fibre, expansion of the plantation estate is needed to provide essential timber and fibre for the community and multiple environmental benefits including carbon sequestration.

Plantations Benefits

Plantations on farms provide an alternate or additional revenue stream to land managers through carbon projects, timber production or other uses such as bushfoods or tourism.

Plantations can also improve natural resources and can deliver environmental outcomes including increased biodiversity, erosion control, carbon sequestration, salinity management and other landscape benefits. These multiple benefits result in an improved natural resource base.

Plantations also provide a sustainable timber resource that is used for essential products used by the community such as house frames, furniture, paper, poles, and packaging.

Regulatory Framework

In NSW, timber, environmental protection plantings and other non-timber plantations are regulated by the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* (the Act) and *Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001*. The Act requires plantations over a total area of 30 hectares on a property to be authorised. Many landholders also choose to authorise smaller plantation areas.

The Act provides a streamlined approval process for plantations whilst providing certainty for harvest of timber plantations. The Act and Code have environmental standards to prevent soil erosion and land degradation and protect biodiversity and cultural values. An object of the Act is to facilitate plantation development on essentially cleared land.

DPI Plantation Regulation Unit

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Plantations Regulation Unit is responsible for authorising and regulating plantations on public and private land under the Plantations Act and Code. The unit assists landholders and corporate entities to make practical decisions based on the best scientific information available and assists plantation owners and managers to comply with the Act and Code.

For more information go to the DPI Plantations Regulation Unit webpage at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forestry/plantations>
