

NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap

The NSW Government's vision is that NSW will have a sustainably managed forest estate that underpins a dynamic, economically efficient forestry industry, which continues to support regional economies and delivers social and environmental benefits.



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The **\$2.4 billion** NSW and wood product manufacturing industry is an economic driver for regional NSW.

The softwood plantation sector industry value is **\$1.92 billion** and the native forestry sector industry value is **\$465 million**.¹



NSW's population will grow by

100,500

people on average each year to 2031. Sydney's population alone is set to increase to

5.86 million

by 2031, which means more than

660,000

new homes need to be built. With timber a primary building construction material, sourcing more timber locally will be good for the environment, benefit our local industry, boost our regional economies and help keep the carbon footprint below that of building materials such as steel and concrete.²

Overall consumption of forest products in Australia has risen over the past 40

- years. **Consumption per capita of wood-based panel products has increased by more than 150%**, while consumption
- per capita of **paper and paperboard products has increased by about 40%** over the same period.³

More than **3,300** people are employed in NSW forestry and logging, timber wholesaling and forestry support services and **18,946** people are employed in NSW paper and wood product manufacturing sectors. **42%** of these jobs are based in regional NSW.⁴

Australia imports more forest products than it exports. With an average annual trade deficit of **\$2 billion**, our local forestry industry is competing with cheaper imports from countries where environmental standards are often inferior.⁵



The NSW Government would like to see carbon benefits from forest management recognised by the Commonwealth, **so that carbon credit revenue can fund the future management of NSW forests.**

Sustainably managed forests have the capacity to absorb greenhouse gases as they grow, which contributes to a healthy environment.⁶

Forests deliver many important services on which society depends, including **clean water, biodiversity, carbon storage, recreational values, as well as wood products**.⁷

If consumption per capita of forest products in Australia remains at 2012 levels, Australian demand for these products will **increase by about 43%** within the next 25 years.⁸



¹ABARES, Australia's State of the Forests Report 2013; ²NSW Department of Planning <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/sydney-metropolitan-population-household-and-dwelling-projections.ashx>; ³Forest Industry Advisory Council (2015), a Strategic Directions Issues Paper, <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/fiac-issues-paper.pdf>; ⁴ABARES, Australia's State of the Forests Report 2013; ⁵Forest Industry Advisory Council (2015), a Strategic Directions Issues Paper, <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/fiac-issues-paper.pdf>; ⁶DPI Research; ⁷CSIRO, Forests in the landscape, <http://www.csiro.au/en/Research/LWF/Areas/Landscape-management/Forests>; ⁸Forest Industry Advisory Council (2015), a Strategic Directions Issues Paper, <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/fiac-issues-paper.pdf>

Minister Blair



The Honourable Niall Blair MLC
NSW Minister for Primary Industries

In NSW we rely on wood products every day. From the structures of our buildings, the furniture in our homes, the newspapers we read, to the toys our children play with, wood features in almost every aspect of our daily lives.

It's no surprise, then, that demand for wood is healthy – and growing. Our \$2.4 billion forestry industry provides critical jobs in our regions and is embedded in NSW's social fabric, culture, and economy.

But despite its importance, the risks and threats to the NSW forestry industry have created a complex operating environment.

Previous NSW Government decisions combined with years of inappropriate or under-investment, regulatory uncertainty, cheaper imports from overseas and resource insecurity have had a domino effect, which has put significant pressure on the industry.

I am committed to getting our local forestry industry back on track and prioritising our beautiful and sustainable timber products over cheaper, imported products where environmental standards are often inferior to NSW.

It is important to have a robust NSW forestry industry because overseas imports do not always meet our rigorous environment standards. The release of this NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap (the Roadmap) marks the beginning of the transformation process. At the heart of this whole-of-government plan is the importance of a triple bottom line approach, balancing the legitimate range of economic, social and environmental considerations.

The Roadmap is not about expanding or decreasing productive native forestry areas – our state's conservation areas and national parks will remain unchanged and protected.

The Roadmap is about transforming, reviving and re-invigorating the industry, which has lost its competitive edge. It addresses the challenges such as supply and demand issues, but it also seizes the opportunities by reducing unnecessary red tape, stimulating investment and encouraging a greater role for our timber industry in Australia's low carbon future.

This is a fresh start for how the NSW Government manages productive forests and supports the forestry industry, and I encourage all stakeholders to participate in the consultation processes as we embark on this long-term journey of transformation.

Minister Speakman



Mark Speakman
NSW Minister for the Environment

New South Wales is home to some of the most breathtaking forests in Australia. From Eden to the Blue Mountains and the Border Ranges, our forests are more than just tourism destinations. They also have important environmental functions on which society depends, including clean water, biodiversity and carbon storage.

Our forests remain a keystone for the state's biodiversity, and the health and conservation future of NSW. Without healthy and thriving forests there can be no timber industry in NSW.

The current frameworks for regulating native forestry in NSW have been in place for some time and need to be reviewed and updated to ensure they continue to deliver on the state's commitments to ecologically and economically sustainable forest management under national and state based forest agreements. However, as a Government we have also made the commitment that any changes to forestry regulation must not result in erosion of environmental values and protections.

In order to maintain the environmental value of our forests, strong controls need to remain in place to protect all significant or sensitive habitat features including: rainforest, old growth, endangered ecological communities, riparian networks, and hollow bearing trees. NSW production forests must continue to contribute to the maintenance of NSW unique biodiversity, by supporting populations of threatened flora and fauna.

The Roadmap will aim to deliver a new regulatory framework that is efficient, enforceable and based on the latest ecological advice and information. Outdated penalties for environmental offences, some of which have remained unchanged since 1974, will also be modernised.

The Government will work closely with key stakeholder groups to ensure the reforms reflect and address the needs of the State, local communities, the industry and the environment.

There is always more we can do to improve the way we manage forestry activities in NSW. Developing sound, efficient and enforceable regulations that reflect the latest science and industry best practices is a key commitment of the NSW Government in order to deliver a healthy and sustainable environment.

The NSW forestry industry roadmap: vision and guiding principles

Vision

The NSW Government's vision is that NSW will have a sustainably managed forest estate that underpins a dynamic, economically efficient forestry industry, which continues to support regional economies and delivers social and environmental benefits.

Guiding Principles

- ✓ Forest policy decisions should recognise the legitimate range of economic, social and environmental values in the NSW forest estate and the NSW Government's commitments under the National Forest Policy Statement.
- ✓ Policy decisions will balance long term sustainable and reliable timber supply with the maintenance of environmental values.
- ✓ The NSW planted and native forestry estate should be managed in line with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management, and the NSW Government commitments under current and future Regional Forest Agreements and Wood Supply Agreements.
- ✓ The forestry industry should be encouraged to participate in transformative new markets, including engineered wood products and the carbon economy.
- ✓ Data supporting forest policy decisions should be timely, reliable and transparent.
- ✓ Regulation of the forestry industry should be efficient, effective, transparent and outcomes-focused.

Why has the NSW Government created the Roadmap?

The NSW forestry industry is facing a number of significant state-wide and regional challenges, including resource and regulatory uncertainty in the native forestry sector, and resource uncertainty in the plantations sector.

The NSW Government has developed a clear vision and Roadmap to ensure the forestry industry is economically viable and sustainable into the future.

The NSW Government has also determined a set of guiding principles, which will be applied to decision-making in relation to forest policy and regulation in NSW, to ensure whole-of-government consistency with the Roadmap.

Summary

The Roadmap represents a whole-of-government approach, which outlines the most significant positive reform the NSW forestry industry has seen in decades.

It outlines a triple bottom line approach to social, environmental and economic sustainability (in line with existing government commitments to ecologically sustainable forest management, or ESFM) through four priority pillars:

1. Regulatory modernisation and environmental sustainability
2. Balancing supply and demand
3. Community understanding and confidence
4. Industry innovation and new markets

Under each of these four pillars, there are clear actions the NSW Government will implement.

The NSW Government's vision for the forestry industry supports the following four key government objectives:

1. The NSW Government's priority to create 150,000 new jobs by 2019, of which 30,000 are in regional NSW.
2. The Department of Primary Industries' strategic objective to grow the value of the primary industries sector by 30% by 2019.
3. The Environment Protection Authority's strategic objective to maintain key native forest values, including threatened species; and to oversee modern, effective and transparent regulation of native forestry operations on public and private land.
4. The NSW Government's commitment to reform the management of the State's biodiversity.

Why the NSW Government is committed to sustainable forest management

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring our regions have a stronger and more diverse economic base, which is critical to the overall wellbeing and resilience of our communities.

The \$2.4 billion NSW forestry and wood products manufacturing industry is an important economic driver for regional NSW.

More than 22,200 people in NSW are currently employed in the forestry and wood products manufacturing sectors. This includes 3,300 in forestry and harvesting and 18,950 in paper and wood products manufacturing.

42% of these jobs are based in regional NSW. The forestry industry supports jobs in sectors such as forestry and timber harvesting, paper and wood product manufacturing, construction, logistics, trades and sales, and science and research. For many people in rural areas, including Aboriginal communities, forestry jobs are crucial in ensuring their communities' economic diversity and sustainability.

This Roadmap is a clear sign of the NSW Government's commitment to the State's forests, the people who enjoy them, the businesses that depend on them and the environment they support.

DID YOU KNOW? Native forests protection and harvesting

There are 22 million hectares of native forests in NSW. Of this area, approximately 7.5 million hectares are managed by the Crown.

75% (5,581,000 hectares) of the area managed by the Crown is made up of "nature conservation areas" under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975. These nature conservation areas are not available for timber harvesting.

The remaining 2 million hectares are managed by Forestry Corporation as "multiple use public forest". Approximately 50% of this area is not available for harvesting due to various restrictions. This leaves a total of 1 million hectares available, **of which approximately 30,000 hectares – or 3% – are harvested annually.** Harvesting occurs through regular thinning operations or harvesting of small patches. Clear felling in native forests is not practised in NSW. Harvested areas are regenerated predominantly through natural seed fall.

Ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM)

ESFM seeks to provide the economic, social and cultural benefits from forests while conserving environmental values, such as biodiversity and water quality, and sustaining the health and productivity of the forest for current and future generations.

Principles of ESFM:

- ✓ Maintain or increase the full suite of forest values for present and future generations across the NSW native forest estate.
- ✓ Ensure public participation, access to information, accountability and transparency in the delivery of ESFM.
- ✓ Ensure legislation, policies, institutional frameworks, codes, standards and practices related to forest management require and provide incentives for ecologically sustainable management of the native forest estate.
- ✓ Apply precautionary principles for prevention of environmental degradation.
- ✓ Apply best available knowledge and adaptive management processes.



ANDREW WORSAM—PHOTOGRAPHER

DID YOU KNOW? Plantation harvesting

In NSW there are approximately 296,000 hectares of softwood plantations and 93,000 hectares of hardwood plantations, located on both Crown and private land. Softwood plantations are generally managed for sawlog production on a 30-35-year rotation, while hardwood plantations serve pulpwood and saw log markets. Plantations are usually thinned a number of times during their rotation, with an estimated 3% being clear felled and replanted each year.

Why wood is good: traditional and innovative uses of timber

Many of the items we use every day are made with forest-based materials. They are versatile, beautiful and renewable.

Traditional wood products form the backbone of the NSW forestry industry

- ✓ For our homes: framing, flooring, home insulation, weatherboards, outdoor decking, heating, tables, chairs, cabinetry, fence posts, tools, toys and art.
- ✓ For our infrastructure: wharfs, railway sleepers, bridge girders, boats, and poles to support our telephone and electricity wires.
- ✓ For our everyday use: books, toilet paper, printing paper, essential oils for medicinal and industrial use, brushes, seeds, nuts and honey.

Emerging innovative wood products are important for the future of the NSW forestry industry

Internationally the industry is cultivating new customers in new markets – owing to its environmental credentials and development of new products for the emerging bio and carbon economies. Innovative wood fibre products include cosmetics, car parts, electronics, bio-fuels, rayon textiles and 3D printing.

Why wood is good: the recyclable nature of timber⁷

In NSW, many companies reuse and recycle salvaged timber that isn't chemically treated or painted. It can be used for a range of applications, including construction and furniture making. Old pallets and other timber can be recycled into useful products such as:

- ✓ Renewable energy
- ✓ Building products
- ✓ Mulch and compost
- ✓ Animal bedding
- ✓ Timber is a good insulator
- ✓ Timber is durable
- ✓ Timber is energy efficient
- ✓ Timber is safe



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Why effective regulation is important

Laws, regulations, policies and enforcement help ensure the forestry industry is environmentally sustainable and continues to provide renewable wood products and associated socio-economic benefits, particularly for regional NSW.

Because native forests provide multiple non-timber values, such as biodiversity and clean water, effective regulation is vital to ensuring these environmental values are maintained in areas where harvesting occurs. They also strongly support the community acceptance for the industry.

The regulation of the timber industry in NSW is grounded in State and Commonwealth commitments to ecologically sustainable forest management. The National Forest Policy Statement, the NSW Regional Forest Agreements, the NSW Forest Agreements and various licences, approvals and codes guide how forestry in NSW is undertaken to ensure the maintenance of important conservation values of Australia's forests and of the contribution that forest activities make to the national economy and rural and regional communities.

How native forestry contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity in NSW

Comprehensive regional assessments were undertaken in the 1990s to determine the environment, heritage, social and economic uses and values of forests.

Nationally agreed criteria were applied to help protect forest biodiversity, old-growth forests and wilderness areas through the creation of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. Forest areas were also identified for commercial timber and other purposes. The assessments drew on existing material as well as a wide range of commissioned studies and technical reports to determine what the forests meant to the industries and people of each region, including Aboriginal Australians.

National Parks and other conservation reserves cover about 8% of the land area of NSW land area. However conservation reserves alone were unable to solely conserve the biodiversity of NSW.

⁷<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/managewaste/120360-wood-timber.pdf>

NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap:

The way forward: 4 pillars

1 Regulatory modernisation

The NSW Government will implement a modern regulatory framework for the NSW forestry industry that ensures the industry is ecologically sustainable.

Many of NSW's native forestry regulations are out-dated and overly complex, and no longer delivering the best outcomes for the community, the environment and the industry. Native forestry operations on public lands of NSW are regulated under the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs), with operations on private lands regulated under the Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice.

The forestry industry is also managed in accordance with the Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) and NSW Forest Agreements. RFAs are 20 year agreements with the Commonwealth that, together with the NSW Forest Agreements, IFOA and PNF Codes, establish a framework for the sustainable management of NSW native forests.

Regulation of public native forestry

Native forestry on public land is regulated by the EPA under the *Forestry Act 2012*, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. Forestry must operate to the standards set in the IFOAs, which integrate the regulatory regimes for environmental planning and assessment, protection of the environment and threatened species conservation.

The current IFOAs are costly to implement, inefficient and lack clarity, and penalties for forestry offences – which in many cases have not been changed since 1974 – no longer align with modern standards for environmental penalties. They no longer reflect best industry practice, with many of the conditions being prescriptive, overlapping and unenforceable. The NSW Government has committed to remaking the coastal IFOAs, which consist of 12 separate licences and about 2000 conditions. The NSW Government has committed to remaking the IFOA with no erosion of environmental values and no net change to wood supply.

Mapping TECs

The EPA is working with the Forestry Corporation of NSW to map 18 priority threatened ecological communities (TECs) in coastal state forests.

While TECs are already protected under legislation, they are difficult to identify in the field. A map of TECs will make it easier to identify, manage and protect them during harvesting operations.

The TEC mapping will bring a much higher standard of transparency and reliability to the management of forestry in areas where TECs occur.

Regulation of private native forestry

Private Native Forestry (PNF) is regulated by the EPA under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, and is therefore treated in the same manner as land clearing.

The NSW Government commissioned an independent review of biodiversity legislation in NSW, which delivered its final report in late 2014. The NSW Government accepted all 43 recommendations, including one relating specifically to PNF. This recommendation found that PNF sat uncomfortably with the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, and requested that the NSW Government review regulatory arrangements for PNF and consider options to regulate PNF based on scale and intensity, rather than tenure.

Under these changes, the sustainable harvesting of native forest timber will no longer be treated as a form of land-use change such as clearing. The review panel found that when undertaken sustainably, private native forestry is not a form of land use change, because the forest regenerates after harvesting.

Regulation of plantations

Regulation of plantation forestry in NSW occurs through the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* and the *Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001*.

Plantation forestry on both Crown land (including State forests) and freehold land is regulated and supported by Department of Industry.

All new plantations (except for plantations of less than 30 hectares, which do not otherwise require clearing approval under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*) are required to be authorised prior to establishment. Any existing unauthorised plantations are required to be authorised prior to commencement of forestry operations in excess of 30 hectares.

Haulage and transport regulation

The forestry sector is heavily reliant on the haulage and transport sector and there is a need to consider both national and state policy in transportation access and identify gaps or inhibitors to forestry transportation access (including recognition of modernisation of haulage transportation of safer and more sustainable configurations).

This could include consideration of strategic forestry transportation routes, identifying gaps in the network and other efficiency measures.

Where do we want the industry to be?

- ✓ Supported by a native forestry regulatory framework that balances economic benefits with community expectations, in a way that is efficient, outcomes based, enforceable and reflects modern best-practice regulation.
- ✓ Confident in new native forestry legislation that is underpinned by a rigorous and robust regulatory framework with modern penalties for environmental offences and a suite of regulatory tools.
- ✓ Operating under a new modernised and best-practice regulatory framework that continues to recognise key differences between forestry operations on public and private land.
- ✓ Operating under a new regulatory framework based on scale and intensity rather than tenure.
- ✓ Clear on regulatory requirements, rules, their responsibilities and penalties for non-compliance.
- ✓ Operating within a fair and consistent framework, addressing the Independent Biodiversity Review Panel recommendations to no longer recognise private native forestry as a form of land clearing and consider regulating sustainable forestry operations based on their scale and intensity rather than tenure.
- ✓ Operating under a new Coastal IFOA that is efficient, effective and outcomes-focused, with no erosion of environmental values or reduction of wood supply.
- ✓ Nationally consistent in delivering ecological sustainable forest management under the Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) and National Forest Policy Statement.
- ✓ The NSW Government considers there is an ongoing need for RFAs in NSW and will work with the Commonwealth to determine the most appropriate form going forward.

How are we going to get there?

SHORT TERM (now until January 2017)

1. Independent review of **Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals** by the Natural Resources Commission.
2. Review the regulatory arrangements for both public and private native forestry and develop a modern and simple regulatory framework that is in line with the Independent Biodiversity Review Panel Recommendations.
3. Commence public discussion around a future review of the **Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice**.
4. Targeted consultation on the proposed **new native forestry regulatory framework**.
5. Public consultation on a draft new **Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval**.

MEDIUM TERM (2017 and 2018)

1. Commencement of the **new native forestry regulatory framework**.
2. Public consultation and finalisation of the review of the **Regional Forestry Agreements and NSW Forest Agreements**.
3. Commencement of **modernised penalties and regulatory tools for native forestry offences**.
4. Commencement of the new **Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval**.
5. Commence review of the **Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice**, with full public consultation.
6. Commencement of a review of **Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals** for Brigalow-Nandewar, South Western Cypress and Riverina Red Gum, with full public consultation.
7. The NSW Forest Industries Taskforce will review options and prepare a report considering national and state policy settings in the haulage and transport sector. In identifying gaps or inhibitors to forestry transportation, the Taskforce will include recognition of modernisation in the sector, especially relating to safety.

LONG TERM (2018 and beyond)

1. Commence new **Private Native Forestry** code following public consultation.
2. Development of **harvest and haulage standards** with public consultation.
3. Develop options for the renegotiation of the RFAs with the Commonwealth
4. Statutory review of **Plantations & Reafforestation Act and Regulation**

NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap: The way forward: 4 pillars

2 Balancing supply and demand

The NSW Government will balance resource supply and demand to increase business confidence and promote investment.

There is significant resource uncertainty in the forestry industry sector.

Native Forestry Wood Supply Agreements will begin to expire on the South Coast from early 2019, creating further uncertainty in planning for investment and employment.

The industry, through recent national reports, has identified the need to focus on strategic forestry regions or 'hubs' especially with respect to plantation establishment and infrastructure investment.

The NSW Forest Industries Taskforce has also identified the need and opportunity for increased softwood and hardwood plantations. The softwood industry in particular requires more plantations to drive industry growth.

The lack of investment in the forest resource can lead to lost opportunity for current markets. In the future, important decisions to upgrade processing need to be based on increasing availability of plantation resources.

Where do we want the industry to be?

- ✓ Ecologically, socially and economically sustainable.
- ✓ Decisions made on balancing resource supply and demand, based on evidence and robust modelling.
- ✓ Greater certainty of resource supply for industry will allow industry to plan investments, recruit and retain employees and build their businesses with renewed confidence.
- ✓ Industry and community should have confidence there is sustainability of supply.
- ✓ Greater transparency in price setting.
- ✓ Supply from native forests to be allocated within the confines of long-term sustainable yield levels and at the supply area scale.
- ✓ Create opportunities for the long-term establishment and management of plantations in key forestry areas or 'hubs' and consider future infrastructure investments required to improve productivity and processing efficiency.

How are we going to get there?

Short term (now until mid-2017)

1. Commission a comprehensive and independent review of current coastal Native Wood Supply Agreements by early 2017.
2. Work with industry as a matter of priority to examine and resolve North Coast hardwood Wood Supply Agreement concerns – 2017.
3. Renegotiate expiring Native Wood Supply Agreements to provide certainty and stability for all stakeholders into the future, while ensuring the supply of timber continues to remain ecologically sustainable – renegotiations commence end of 2016.
4. Release a discussion paper that will identify barriers to investment in new softwood and hardwood plantations and developing options for their removal. The NSW Government will work closely with the NSW Forest Industries Taskforce to finalise the Terms of Reference for this discussion paper, prior to it being released for public consultation in early 2017.
5. Improve timber resource and environmental modelling.



ANDREW WORSAM—PHOTOGRAPHER

NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap: The way forward: 4 pillars

3 Community understanding and confidence

The NSW Government will aim to improve community acceptance of the forestry industry as a sustainable and renewable industry.

The community must be confident the industry is sustainable, that the regulatory framework is effective and credible and the industry complies with the requirements of the regulatory framework.

In keeping with the NSW Government's economic, social and environmental approach to sustainable forestry management, the NSW Government is committed to a more transparent regulatory framework to allow consumers to be more confident that products from NSW forests are obtained legally and harvested under a well-regulated system of sustainable forest management.

Where do we want the industry to be?

1. Stakeholders understand the environmental regulation of the NSW forestry industry is:
 - ✓ credible
 - ✓ transparent
 - ✓ effective
 - ✓ balancing the legitimate range of economic, social and environmental considerations.
2. The community is confident the NSW forestry industry:
 - ✓ is ecologically sustainable
 - ✓ seeks to comply with environmental regulations
 - ✓ is a supplier of forest products from legal and ecologically sustainable sources.



How are we going to get there?

The NSW Government is committed to:

- ✓ Working with the community to deliver and enforce a credible, effective and transparent forestry regulatory framework.
- ✓ Convening a forum to inform a community awareness program that seeks to improve acceptance of forestry as a sustainable and renewable industry.
- ✓ Providing consumers with the information they need to confidently choose a sustainable NSW timber product, through the development of practical (online) tools, published research and participation in public consultations about NSW forestry policy and regulation.
- ✓ Transparent environmental and regeneration monitoring of state forests to determine the effectiveness of the IFOAs at achieving their objectives, within the framework of a broader landscape monitoring program across tenures.

NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap: The way forward: 4 pillars

4 Industry innovation and new markets

The NSW Government will support industry innovation and the exploration of new markets for forest products.

Where do we want the industry to be?

Globalisation has been changing the environment in which NSW businesses, producers and consumers operate, and while it presents challenges, it also offers new opportunities.

Initiatives that encourage new investment, innovation and environmental sustainability are vital to the future of the NSW forestry industry. Improving the competitiveness of the NSW forestry industry is a key component of the Roadmap.

The carbon economy presents challenges and opportunities for NSW. The forestry industry can play an important role in storing carbon and displacing use of higher carbon materials. This may be aided by the development of innovative biomass and bioenergy products, and the establishment of methods for carbon crediting. The Roadmap will ensure the forestry industry is well placed to capitalise on these opportunities and contribute to Australia's low carbon economy.

How are we going to get there?

The NSW Forest Industries Taskforce was established in 2012 to provide members of the softwood and hardwood timber industries an opportunity to consider issues affecting the industries and provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries.

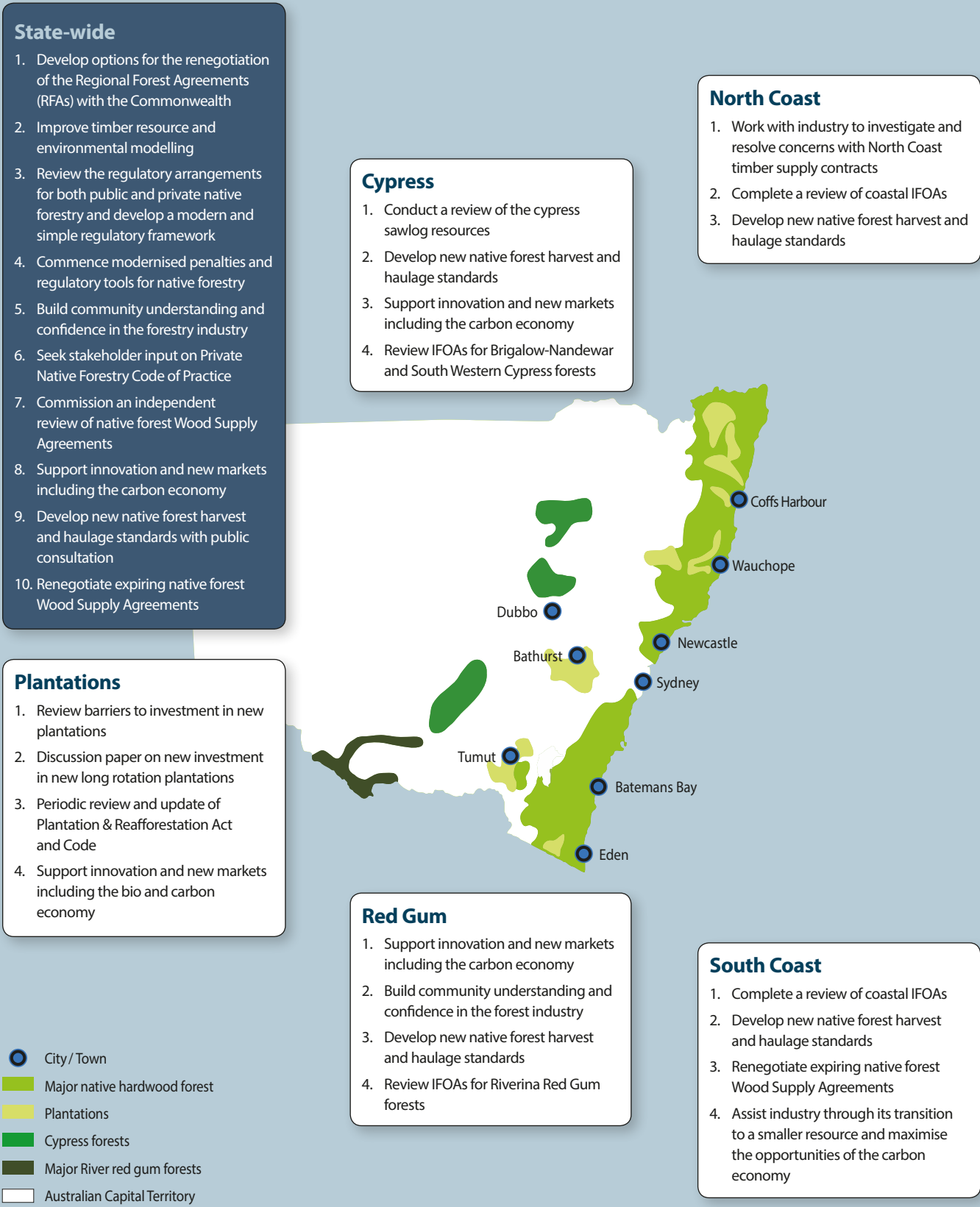
The NSW Government will, as a matter of priority, ask the NSW Forest Industries Taskforce to identify opportunities and put forward recommendations on:

- ✓ a plan to foster innovation and entrepreneurship;
- ✓ identifying new markets for forests products with a focus on the low carbon economy;
- ✓ working more closely with planning and construction sectors to promote NSW timber building products.



NSW Forestry Roadmap: key actions

Understanding the NSW Forest Estate



Next steps

The Roadmap is the NSW Government's clear commitment that it supports all elements of the forestry sector in NSW. Transformation involves close collaboration between stakeholders now and into the future. Many of the most pressing policy and regulatory issues for the forestry industry require comprehensive solutions that will be dealt with in the short term.

The NSW Government will work with all stakeholders on the actions to be delivered under the four pillars.

How can I get involved?

The NSW Government encourages all stakeholders to participate in the consultation processes as we embark on this long-term journey of transformation.

Targeted consultation sessions will occur across the state on forestry-related issues across the North Coast, South Coast, Tableland Plantation, Cypress and Riverina Redgum.

Details of these consultation sessions will be made available on www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and www.epa.nsw.gov.au in due course.

Who can I contact for more information?

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