



Plantations Regulation

Working with plantation neighbours

Introduction

All new plantations in NSW that are greater than 30 hectares in size must obtain approval (authorisation) under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act (the Act) 1999* and *Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001*, administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

The purpose of the Act is to:

- facilitate the reafforestation of land, and
- promote and facilitate development for timber plantations on essentially cleared land, and
- codify best practice environmental standards, and provide a streamlined and integrated scheme, for the establishment, management and harvesting of timber and other forest plantations,

consistently with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (as described in section 6 (2) of the [Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991](#)).

While the Act does not require plantation owners or managers to develop a protocol for communicating with neighbouring landholders, the nature of plantation establishment, management and harvesting can sometimes be a source of conflict. This document aims to provide guidance for plantation owners and managers in managing the relationship they have with their neighbours.

Suggestions for building a relationship with your neighbour

In order to foster good relations with neighbouring landholders, once a plantation has been authorised by DPI, it is recommended that the plantation owner or manager consider informing adjoining landholders of the following:

1. That an authorisation has been granted by DPI and that Local Government has no role in the authorisation process.
2. The limits of the owner's responsibilities under the Act and Code.
3. Plantation layout and design.
4. Estimated timing of plantation operations.
5. Location of roads, tracks and fire trails in respect of fire access and access for stock movement.
6. Fire protection with respect to maintenance of fire breaks, fire control within plantations and access to water.
7. Maintenance of boundary fencing through the life of the plantation, in accordance with the *Dividing Fences Act 1991*.
8. Control of feral pest animals and weeds.
9. Opportunities for stock agistment where relevant.
10. Chemical and fertiliser applications.
11. Potential impacts from noise and dust.

The Plantation Manager should endeavour to exchange contact details with respective landowners or lessees of adjoining land to assist in facilitating ongoing communication.

If necessary, the owner/manager of the plantation can refer the neighbour to the nearest Plantation Assessment Officer for more information about the Act and Code.

State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry & Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment or the user's independent adviser.