

# **FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2004-2013**

## **COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004**

**BY THE**

**FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION**



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## Introduction

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Action 32.5 of the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013 (FMP). It covers compliance by the Forest Products Commission (Commission) staff and contractors with the provisions of the FMP and subsidiary management guideline documents to the year ending 31 December 2004.

The Actions in the FMP represent the proposal and are the proponent commitments with respect to implementation. The FMP includes either an actual (in the text of the Action) or indicative (in Appendix 14 of the FMP) timeline for the implementation of each Action.

The report addresses the Actions in the order they appear in the FMP.

This report does not address those Actions, which are solely the responsibility of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (Department) or the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. If the responsibility of an Action lies with the Commission and the Department or with the Commission and the Conservation Commission, then the Action is addressed only from the perspective of the Commission. This report only addresses those actions which were to be implemented immediately on plan commencement or within the first year of operation.

Biological Diversity	Compliance Status
<p>3.1 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will conduct their operations within the informal reserves established by Appendix 3:</p> <p>3.1.1 in a manner that has regard to the requirements set out in Appendix 3 where the operation occurs prior to the approval of the Guidelines referred to in the following paragraph (On plan commencement &amp; End of Year 1); and</p> <p>3.1.2 in accordance with the Guidelines for the Management of Informal Reserves which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be prepared by the Department with public consultation;</li> <li>• provide for the manner in which the requirements of Appendix 3 are to be met; and</li> <li>• be submitted to the Conservation Commission for advice and approved by the Minister for the Environment by 31 December 2004, when they will take effect and supercede Appendix 3.</li> </ul>	<p>The requirements of Appendix 3 were implemented in the management of informal reserves. There were 7 incursions across informal reserve boundaries associated with native timber harvesting operations reported through the Commission's Environmental Management System (EMS). Two of these involved trees falling into an informal reserve, the remainder involved harvesting machine movement. All except one were of a minor nature. The exception was the incursion into a river reserve by a harvesting machine. It is of note that all reported incursions occurred during the first half of the year with none recorded in the second half.</p>
<p>3.4 The Forest Products Commission will not undertake any timber production in any area:</p> <p>3.4.1 referred to in Action 3.2.1; or</p> <p>3.4.2 for which the Conservation Commission has determined an assessment of whether the area should be classified as old-growth forest on the Department's corporate database to be warranted; until the Conservation Commission has assessed the area and confirmed the classification of that area in the Department's corporate database as other than old-growth forest (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>No harvesting activity occurred within any area referred to in Action 3.2.1.</p>
<p>6.2 The Forest Products Commission and its agents will conduct its silvicultural operations (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing):</p> <p>6.2.1 in accordance with the Department's Silviculture Guidelines; and</p> <p>6.2.2 prior to the formal incorporation of the amendments identified in Appendix 5 into those Guidelines, in a manner that is consistent with those amendments.</p>	<p>Approximately 8300 hectares of native jarrah forest was treemarked during 2004. Six incidents related to implementation of the Department's Silvicultural Guidelines were recorded in the Commissions EMS. Two of these related to habitat retention, two to gap size, one to incorrect procedure in karri regrowth harvesting and one to general treemarking standard. All were of a minor nature except potentially for the gap size related to jarrah regeneration release areas. This is being investigated as has been reported in the Annual Report. As a result of these incidents a checklist to provide for daily monitoring of treemarking standards including habitat retention has been developed and implemented by the Commission.</p>
<p>7.4 The Department and Forest Products Commission will conduct their operations in indicative fauna habitat zones, and in fauna habitat zones established under Appendix 4 and the Guidelines for the Selection and Management of Fauna Habitat Zones (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing):</p> <p>7.4.1 in a manner that has regard to the requirements set out in Appendix 4, where</p>	<p>The Commission conducted its operations in a manner having regard to the requirement set out in Appendix 4. One related incident was recorded in the Commissions EMS. This involved a skidding machine entering a Fauna Habitat Zone (FHZ) over a demarcated boundary. Disturbance to the FHZ was minimal and recoverable in the short term.</p>

<p>7.4.2 the operation occurs prior to the approval of the Guidelines; and in accordance with the Guidelines after they are approved and supercede Appendix 4.</p>	
<p>8.2 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will conduct their operations having regard to the Department's <i>Conservation of Endangered and Specially Protected Fauna in the Wild</i> policy and <i>Conservation of Threatened Flora in the Wild</i> policy (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission has been conducting its operations having regard to the Department's policies referred to in this action. There was one incident related to this Action recorded in the Commissions EMS where a short section of an existing road was graded without a flora search having been completed.</p>
<p>8.3 The Department and Forest Products Commission will revise planning checklists to identify actions to be taken in specified circumstances in which declared rare flora species, threatened ecological communities, and other significant flora identified in Appendix 13 may be disturbed by their operations (In Year 1 &amp; End of Year 2).</p>	<p>The Commission revised its pre harvesting planning checklist in 2004 to address this Action.</p>
<p>8.4 The Forest Products Commission and the Department will undertake operations in accordance with guidelines for operations in the presence of fauna, to be developed as part of the Fauna Distribution Information System, which is to be completed by the Forest Products Commission (On plan commencement &amp; End of Year 1):        8.4.1 to the satisfaction of the Department; and        8.4.2 in consultation with the Conservation Commission (end Year 2).</p>	<p>The Commission has applied the preliminary version of the Fauna Distribution Information System (FDIS) in the planning and approval processes for Timber Harvesting operations. The redrafting of FDIS documentation by the Commission and undertaking of Actions 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 is expected to be completed by the end of year 2.</p>
<p>8.5 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will advise the Department of its harvesting and management activities within plantations:        8.5.1 where those activities may impact on threatened species and threatened ecological communities, agreed protection measures will be implemented (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission is currently conforming to this via the use of Preharvest Checklists (FPC444). One incident was reported in the March Annual Review of the EMS.</p>
<p><b>Productive Capacity</b></p>	
<p>10.4 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will maintain the minimum area of plantation estate required to meet State Agreement Act supply requirements by:        10.4.1 replanting pines in all suitable areas of State forest and freehold (fee simple) land held in the name of the Executive Director that have previously been planted with pines and have been clearfelled, except at Gngara, Peel, Hamel and other areas determined consistently with the agreement ratified under the Wood Processing (Wesfi) Agreement Act 2000 (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and        10.4.2 establish new plantations on appropriate cleared land to replace any plantation areas that are clearfelled but not replanted with plantation species (As required).</p>	<p>All suitable areas included as part of the 2004 establishment program.</p> <p>Approximately 162 hectares at Gleneagle plantation was not considered suitable for replanting to pine. A 1 hectare sandalwood trial has been established on this area to assess productive capacity of an alternate species.</p> <p>Plantation establishment area for 2004 has been reported separately in the Commissions annual report for 2004/2005.</p>
<p>11.1 The average annual yield of logs, calculated over the 10 year life of the plan, shall not exceed the maximum volumes stipulated in Tables 3 and 4, and given above for wandoo, blackbutt and sheoak (In Year 1 &amp; End of Year 10).</p>	<p>The annual yield of logs for 2004 were within the maximum volumes stipulated in the FMP except for karri bole logs other than first and second grade logs. The FMP provides for 117000 cubic metres to be produced where as the actual produced was approximately 124000 cubic</p>

	metres. FPC systems do not currently differentiate between the quantity of logs produced as other bole volume and the quantity produced from the crown of the tree. The FMP indicates that non bole logs (crown logs) can add up to an additional 10 percent of the gross bole volume. The inclusion of both of these two sources of other bole logs is the likely reason for the higher actual production. Refinement of the process for differentiating between bole and non-bole volume will need to be developed in consultation with the Department.
11.2 In addition to the yield referred to in 11.1, the Forest Products Commission may contract for the removal and sale of forest products of species other than jarrah, karri, marri, blackbutt, wandoo and sheoak that become available in small quantities from operations designed to produce the yield referred to in 11.1 or as a result of other operations such as mining (As required & As required).	During 2004, as a result of proposed mining in the Ludlow Tuart forest approximately 3300 cubic metres of tuart sawlogs was removed and contracted for sale by the Commission.
11.3 The Forest Products Commission will prepare annual timber harvesting plans that are to be (On plan commencement & Ongoing): 11.3.1 developed in consultation with, and to the requirements of, the Department; 11.3.2 consistent with the allowable timber yields referred to in Action 11.1; and 11.3.3 made publicly available.	Indicative timber harvest plans were prepared for each forest region for 2004. The total projected volumes made available under these plans were consistent with the allowable timber yields. The plans were made publicly available and the Commission advertised where harvesting was to take place and undertook local consultation.
11.4 The Forest Products Commission and the Department will: 11.4.1 monitor the volume of all timber log categories removed from native forest in each year, separately recording for each of the commercial species the equivalent volume of (In Year 1 & Ongoing): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first and second grade sawlogs;</li> <li>• lower grades of sawlogs; and</li> <li>• residue logs; and</li> </ul> 11.4.2 periodically audit the grading and removal of sawlogs (In Year 1 & Ongoing).	The Commission has recorded the volume of timber removed in the Logging Operations Information System (LOIS). Monitoring of these volumes by the Department is underway. 34 inventory plots were established by the Department in harvest coupes during the year to monitor sawlog removals and the strategic inventory. One related incident was recorded in the Commissions EMS where an inventory plot in karri regrowth was thinned without notice to the Departments Forest Management Branch.
11.5 The Department will prepare rolling three-year indicative timber harvesting plans (In Year 2 & Ongoing) that are to be: 11.5.1 developed in consultation with the Forest Products Commission; 11.5.2 consistent with the allowable timber yields referred to in Action 11.1; and 11.5.3 made publicly available.	Development of the three-year plan has commenced. This action will be reported on at the end of year two.
11.6 The Forest Products Commission will conduct its silvicultural operations: 11.6.1 in accordance with the Department's Silviculture Guidelines (On plan commencement & Ongoing); and 11.6.2 prior to the formal incorporation of the amendments identified in Appendix 5 into those Guidelines, in a manner that is consistent with those amendments (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	As for Action 6.2 above

<p>11.8 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will monitor and record the areas over which each different silvicultural treatment is achieved in each year (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>Monitoring and recording of the areas over which each different silvicultural treatment is implemented is ongoing. The Department's Forest Management Branch captures this information electronically in its Silrec GIS program. One incident was recorded in the Commissions EMS with respect to timeliness of reports.</p>
<p>11.9 The Forest Products Commission will, where practicable and economically feasible, enter into contracts that are not confined to the supply of first and second grade sawlogs. For example, the Forest Products Commission may enter into contracts for the sale of bole sawlogs. When the Forest Products Commission enters into such a contract, the Forest Products Commission and the Department will calculate the equivalent volume of first and second grade sawlogs which would be derived from the volume of timber taken under the contract (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission has entered into contracts with three customers for the sale of jarrah bole sawlogs. Approximately 14000 cubic metres of jarrah bole logs was produced for the 2004 calendar year. The Commission has recorded the volume of timber removed in the Logging Operations Information System, (LOIS) and the equivalent volume of first and second grade sawlog calculated. In addition the Commission has entered into contracts for the sale of third grade karri and jarrah sawlogs, jarrah bole residue sawlogs, marri sawlogs and feature grade sawlogs.</p>
<p>12.1 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will harvest exotic species on State forest and timber reserves to supply up to 1.2 million cubic metres per annum of various log products to industry (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>Total exotic species deliveries from crown land were approximately 714,600 cubic metres.</p>
<p>13.2 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will work together to review the regulation of access to craftwood (In Year 1 &amp; End of Year 1), which: 13.2.1 if considered reasonable and practicable will be through production contracts issued under the FP Act for areas of State forest and timber reserves (whether or not those areas are identified in timber harvesting plans proposed by Action 11.3).</p>	<p>Due to the extended time taken to finalize contracts of sale for first and second grade sawlogs, and more recently feature grade sawlogs, little progress on the issue of access to craftwood was made during 2004. Some craftwood and feature grade logs have been made available through auctions, however further progress on the issue is anticipated 2005.</p>
<p>14.2 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will: 14.2.1 maintain an early warning system for Sirex in pine plantations (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and 14.2.2 monitor weeds, pests and diseases affecting productivity and, where reasonable and practicable, take measures to control them (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission maintains a monitoring program for Sirex in pine plantations. It also has a more general monitoring program for other weeds, pests and diseases. During 2004, with the discovery of the European House Borer in WA plantations, a specific monitoring and eradication program for this pest was initiated.</p>
<p>15.1 The Forest Products Commission will conduct regeneration operations in a manner that: 15.1.1 is in accordance with the Department's Silviculture Guidelines (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and 15.1.2 prior to the formal incorporation of the amendments identified in Appendix 5 into those Guidelines, is consistent with those amendments (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission conducts its regeneration operations in accordance with this Action item. There were no incidents in state forest related to this Action recorded in the Commission's EMS.</p>
<p>15.2 The Forest Products Commission will pursue additional markets for log categories that have traditionally been under-utilised, particularly lower grade jarrah and karri sawlogs and marri sawlogs (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>Refer Action 11.9 above. The Commission is actively seeking additional markets for lower grade log products.</p>

<p>15.4 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will:</p> <p>15.4.1 regenerate areas of plantation that are clearfelled and are to be replanted with exotic species, in accordance with the Forest Products Commission's Plantation Management Guidelines (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);</p> <p>15.4.2 rehabilitate the native vegetation in areas of plantation that are clearfelled and are not to be replanted with exotic species, in accordance with Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Plantation Areas that are to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developed by the Department with public consultation; and</li> <li>• submitted to the Conservation Commission for advice and approved by the Minister for the Environment before they take effect (As required &amp; As required); and</li> </ul> <p>15.4.3 where regeneration or rehabilitation operations do not result in regeneration or rehabilitation to a standard specified in the relevant guidelines, investigate the cause and if necessary, repeat the regeneration or rehabilitation operations in order to achieve that standard (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>All plantations replanted in 2004 were established as per the Commission's Plantation Management Guidelines. The total area replanted in 2004 following clearfelling was approximately 1440 hectares. Of this approximately 1045 hectares occurred on state forest.</p> <p>The Department will develop the Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Plantation Areas during year three.</p>
<p>16.1 The Forest Products Commission and the Department will:</p> <p>16.1.1 maintain records of the history of silvicultural treatments applied to stands of trees (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);</p> <p>16.1.2 develop schedules of future silvicultural treatments for stands of trees to promote growth of timber that can be used to produce sawlogs (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);</p> <p>16.1.3 assess stand development when silvicultural treatments are scheduled, with a view to determining whether those treatments are then required (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);</p> <p>16.1.4 undertake or reschedule those proposed silvicultural treatments, according to the assessment referred to in Action 16.1.3 (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and</p> <p>16.1.5 report to the Conservation Commission every two years after the commencement of the plan on the extent to which these scheduled silvicultural treatments have been undertaken (In Year 2 &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The spatial extent and silvicultural objective of treatments in 2004 has been recorded. The Department's Forest Management Branch captures this information electronically in its SILrec computer program.</p> <p>The Department has commenced stratification of regrowth stands to assist long-term scheduling of silvicultural treatments. No rescheduling of proposed silvicultural treatments occurred in 2004.</p>
<p><b>Ecosystem Health and Vitality</b></p>	
<p>17.2 The Forest Products Commission will:</p> <p>17.2.1 undertake an analysis of the risk from fire to its native timber production resources (In Year 2 &amp; End of Year 2); and</p> <p>17.2.2 provide to the Department funding sufficient to enable the Department to control the risk to acceptable levels, so far as is reasonable and practicable (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>In 2004 the Commission commenced an analysis of the risk from fire to the Karri regrowth resource. This will be extended to the jarrah regrowth resource in 2005.</p>

<p>17.4 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will:</p> <p>17.4.1 undertake an analysis of the risk from fire to its plantation timber production resources (In Year 2 &amp; End of Year 2);</p> <p>17.4.2 undertake an analysis of the risk from fire emanating from its plantations moving into surrounding land (In Year 2 &amp; End of Year 2); and</p> <p>17.4.3 cooperate with the Department and other organisations in seeking to control the risks to acceptable levels, so far as is reasonable and practicable (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>Current assessment and audit of Commission plantation asset risk is underway and comparisons of Insurance v the Department's fire control program are being considered.</p>
<p>18.2 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will conduct their operations having regard to the Management of Phytophthora and Disease Caused By It policy and in accordance with Volume 1 of the Phytophthora cinnamomi and Disease Caused by It Guidelines (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing), which:</p> <p>18.2.1 will be reviewed by the Department with public consultation by 31 December 2008; and</p> <p>18.2.2 in the case of a new policy or Guidelines, or revisions to the policy or Guidelines, will be submitted to the Conservation Commission for advice and approved by the Minister for the Environment before they take effect (As required &amp; As required).</p>	<p>The Commission has been conducting its operations having regard to the requirements of this action. Six incidents related to this Action were recorded in 2004 in the Commissions EMS. Three of these involved machines crossing blazed dieback boundaries, one involved a dirty vehicle within a clean on entry area and the other two related to inadequate cleandown points. All were minor in nature.</p>
<p>18.5 The Forest Products Commission will, so far as is reasonable and practicable, maintain their nurseries free from weeds, pests and pathogens that could be transported into the forest with planting stock (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission has been conducting its nursery operations having regard to the requirements of this Action. No related incidents were captured in the nursery EMS.</p>
<p>18.6 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will:</p> <p>18.6.1 monitor for the presence of significant weeds, pests and diseases in plantations, and where reasonable and practicable undertake control measures (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);</p> <p>18.6.2 develop and implement weed, pest and disease control programs for identified weeds, pests and diseases (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);</p> <p>18.6.3 where there is an identified risk that plantation operations may result in transport of Phytophthora cinnamomi, conduct its operations having regard to the policy and in accordance with the Guidelines referred to in Action 18.2 (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and</p> <p>18.6.4 take reasonable and practicable measures to control the spread of plantation species into adjacent native vegetation (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission responds to advice from the Department, Water Corporation and the Department of Agriculture regarding the presence of declared pests, weeds and diseases. However the process of information interchange regarding any concerns raised on the Preharvest Checklist (FPC444) requires further attention.</p> <p>The Department retains responsibility for the spread of wildings that occurred prior to November 2000.</p> <p>Commission operations manage dieback via Preharvest Checklists and associated Hygiene Plans.</p>
<p>19.1 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will undertake their regeneration or rehabilitation operations by (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing):</p> <p>19.1.1 using natural regeneration where reasonable and practicable; or</p> <p>19.1.2 where natural regeneration is not reasonable and practicable, using seed collected locally or plants propagated from seed collected locally.</p>	<p>The Commission's preferred option is to use natural regeneration in regeneration operations. This is largely achieved in Jarrah regeneration establishment operations, however in Karri regeneration operations the lack of seed availability has meant that seed has been collected locally and propagated in the Commissions nursery for later planting.</p>

	The use of “local” understorey species for regeneration on heavily disturbed sites such as gravel pits and landings is awaiting clearer definition of the term “local” from the Department.
19.2 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will report to the Conservation Commission annually as to the circumstances where local seed sources have not been used in their regeneration or rehabilitation operations (In Year 1 & Ongoing).	<p>During 2004 there was one occasion where the Department approved the Commission using a non-local seed source for a Warren Region Karri coupe for 2005 karri seedling production, because of inadequate holding of the appropriate seed.</p> <p>The Department also approved the use of a non- local understorey seed mix for landing rehabilitation in Autumn 2004 to use up existing seed mix supplies.</p>
<b>Soil and Water</b>	
<p>20.1 The Forest Products Commission and the Department will conduct their operations involving the use of heavy machinery in a manner that:</p> <p>20.1.1 has regard to the requirements of Appendix 6 where the operation occurs prior to the approval of the Guidelines referred to in the following paragraph (On plan commencement &amp; End of Year 2); and</p> <p>20.1.2 is in accordance with the Soil and Water Conservation Guidelines which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be prepared by the Department with public consultation;</li> <li>• provide for the manner in which the requirements of Appendix 6 are to be met; and</li> <li>• be submitted to the Conservation Commission for advice and approved by the Minister for the Environment by 31 December 2005, when they will take effect and supercede Appendix 6 (In Year 2 &amp; End of Year 2).</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the requirements of Appendix 6 has been a major focus for the Commission in 2004. Operations were conducted in accordance with Appendix 6 with considerable difficulty. The restrictions placed on operations to manage soils jeopardised native forest sawlog supply to customers. Three incidents related to the implementation of Appendix 6 were recorded in the Commissions EMS. All were of a minor nature.</p> <p>Monitoring of soil disturbance in harvesting indicated that operations were occurring generally well under the damage threshold.</p> <p>Adaptive trials were conducted to examine options for changing the procedures and Soil Dryness Index (SDI) thresholds to levels which would still achieve the target disturbance levels but not unnecessarily impede the progress of forest harvesting operations.</p>
<p>20.4 The Forest Products Commission and the Department will rehabilitate soil damaged in the course of their operations (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing) by:</p> <p>20.4.1 identifying and mapping damaged soil; and</p> <p>20.4.2 undertaking rehabilitation work as soon as is reasonable and practicable after the completion of the operation.</p>	Where required damaged soil was rehabilitated by the Commission in conjunction with harvest coupe regeneration operations. For example in karri regeneration coupes extensive ripping of landings was undertaken.
<p>20.5 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will:</p> <p>20.5.1 conduct its plantation operations in a manner that is in accordance with guidelines for soil protection in the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations and the relevant plantation manual, which will be revised in consultation with the Department by 31 December 2005 (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and</p> <p>20.5.2 rehabilitate damaged soil resulting from plantations operations to the standards</p>	<p>Operations have been conducted in accordance with this action item.</p> <p>The Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in WA is the subject of review and the timeframe for completion remains 31 December 2005. The Department holds a copy of the latest draft and will be consulted prior to publication of the final document. Finalization of the review is</p>

<p>specified in the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations and the relevant plantation manual (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>dependent, to some degree, on resolution of issues that may arise from the Agricultural Management Bill, interpretation of the Environmental Protection Act in relation to plantation forestry, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority levy system and the Farm Forestry Policy.</p>
<p>21.1 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will conduct their operations:  21.1.1 in a manner that has regard to the provisions for stream zones in Appendix 3 where the operation occurs prior to the approval of the Guidelines referred to in the following paragraph (On plan commencement &amp; End of Year 1); and  21.1.2 in accordance with the Guidelines for the Management of Informal Reserves referred to in Action 3.1.2 and the Soil and Water Conservation Guidelines referred to in Action 20.1.2 (In Year 2 &amp; Ongoing).</p>	<p>The Commission has been conducting its operations in accordance with the provisions of Appendix 3. During 2004 there were 6 incidents related to stream zones recorded in the EMS. All except one were of a minor nature. The exception involved a harvesting machine crossing a demarcated boundary and thinning a small area of karri regrowth in a River reserve.</p>
<p>21.3 The Department and the Forest Products Commission, in consultation with the Conservation Commission, will evaluate with the Water Corporation and the Water and Rivers Commission any proposal seeking to employ silvicultural treatments to increase the flow of water to surface and ground water reservoirs (As required &amp; As required).</p>	<p>The Commission has contributed to the Water Corporation Wungong thinning proposal at the policy and technical levels. The Commission and the Department, in consultation with the Conservation Commission, evaluated with the Water Corporation and the Water and Rivers Commission a proposal seeking to employ silvicultural treatments to increase the flow of water to the Wungong reservoir.</p>
<p>21.5 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will:  21.5.1 conduct its plantation operations in a manner that is in accordance with guidelines for water protection in the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations and the relevant plantation manual, which will be revised in consultation with the Department by 31 December 2005 (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing);  21.5.2 consult with the Water and Rivers Commission prior to undertaking plantation operations in a public water catchment area (On plan commencement &amp; Ongoing); and  21.5.3 evaluate with the Department, the Water Corporation and the Water and Rivers Commission any proposal seeking to employ silvicultural treatment to increase the flow of water to surface and ground water reservoirs (As Required &amp; As Required).</p>	<p>Operations have been conducted in accordance with this action item.</p> <p>Consultation with the relevant authorities occurs when required prior to the commencement of each operation. With the Department this is done via the Preharvest Checklist (FPC444), otherwise the Water Corporation is advised of both harvesting and establishment operations upon development of the harvest plan.</p> <p>The protection of waterways within catchment areas is done in consultation with Water Corporation throughout the operation. Example: Gleneagle, Cooke plantations. Buffers are marked in the field with tape, which Water Corporation inspects.</p> <p>As a result of clearfall operations within very close proximity to Public Drinking Water Source Areas, filtration devices are installed in those areas where the increased momentum of the surface water is likely to cause erosion.</p>

<b>Natural and Cultural Heritage</b>	
25.2 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will conduct their operations in a manner that has regard to the Indigenous Heritage Management Guidelines and Non-Indigenous Heritage Management Guidelines after those Guidelines have been prepared (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	This action will be reported against after both sets of guidelines have been prepared.
25.3 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will: 25.3.1 undertake its operations in a manner that is in accordance with guidelines in the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations and the relevant plantation manual for the identification of significant heritage sites, which are to be revised in consultation with the Department (On plan commencement & Ongoing); and 25.3.2 share information relating to identified heritage sites with the Department (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	Prior to the commencement of each harvesting operation the Preharvest Checklist (FPC444) is completed which takes into account cultural values. The Commission currently use the same database information as the Department with additional checks conducted using recognized indigenous and non-indigenous heritage information websites.
<b>Socio-economic Benefits</b>	
27.1 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will: 27.1.1 maintain a visual landscape classification and management system (On plan commencement & Ongoing); 27.1.2 review guidelines for the application of visual landscape management principles in land-use planning, codes of practice, operational guidelines and other relevant manuals (By Year 5 & End of Year 5); and 27.1.3 make submissions in relation to development proposals that may impact on visual landscapes on land to which the plan applies that are forwarded to them for comment or advice, with a view to seeking to reduce the effect of any proposed development on the visual quality of the landscape (As required & As required).	The Commission implements the visual landscape management systems specified in Departmental guidelines such as SFM Guideline No.1. Visual landscape management is an item for consideration in the pre harvesting checklist and all harvesting operations must give consideration to it.
27.2 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will consider the impact of plantation operations on the visual quality of the landscape and where reasonable and practicable, will conduct those operations in a manner that seeks to reduce their impact on the visual quality of the landscape (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	Visual Resource Management is completed in consultation with the Department. This is done prior to the commencement of operations. Example: Murray plantation.
<b>Plan Implementation</b>	
32.1 The Department and the Forest Products Commission, in consultation with the Conservation Commission, will: 32.1.1 cooperate in the development of an annual audit program to monitor the extent to which management of land to which the plan applies is undertaken in accordance with the plan (On plan commencement & Ongoing); and 32.1.2 conduct audits in accordance with the annual audit program, and report the results to the Conservation Commission (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	During 2004, the Department and the Commission, in consultation with the Conservation Commission developed an audit program. The Commission agreed to audit the performance of the EMS system and compliance with requirements for contractors in coupe management, including hygiene management plans, compliance with utilisation standards in native forest harvesting and to provide to the Department and the Conservation Commission the Plantation audit (EMS) program for comment. The audit on compliance with coupe management and environmental protection requirements in native forest harvesting and

	provision of the plantations audit have been completed. The audit on compliance with utilisation standards in native forest harvesting is yet to be completed. It is planned to develop a Controlled Self Assessment process for application as routine operational practice and work is continuing to develop meaningful measures [quantification] of utilisation. Work is continuing on this audit requirement.
32.5 The Forest Products Commission will publish annual reports on the compliance of its staff and contractors with the provisions of the plan and subsidiary management guideline documents (In Year 1 & Ongoing).	This document fulfills this required Action item
32.7 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will cooperate with the Commonwealth in the implementation of the Montreal Indicator program (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	The Department continues to be involved with the Commonwealth in the implementation of the Montreal Indicator program through representation on both the Montreal Implementation Group and the National Forest Inventory Steering Committee for Australia. The Commission will cooperate with both the Department and the Commonwealth as required on this issue.
32.8 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will, through the Plantation Environmental Management System, audit the extent to which plantation operations are undertaken in accordance with the plan. Audits will be planned with and reported to the Department and the Conservation Commission (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	<p>There were 12 incidents relating to non-conformances against the requirements of the FMP. The incidents related to entry to a Disease Risk Area, movement of vehicles outside of plantation areas into native vegetation and increased potential of noxious weed incursions as a result of areas left fallow. Eight of the incidents were a result of Management Letters and Works Improvement Notices from the Department which were investigated and responded to.</p> <p>A Plantation environmental management harvesting audit was also completed in December 2004 by Commission internal auditors. This audit reported no adverse findings.</p>
33.3 The Forest Products Commission will test methods to increase the utilisation of sawlogs below first and second grade standards (In Year 2 & Ongoing).	Utilization of jarrah bole residue logs was initiated in 2004 and will be reported on more fully at the end of year 2 of the plan. Third grade jarrah and karri sawlogs continue to be sold by the Commission.
35.1 The Department and the Forest Products Commission will, when required by the provisions of the plan, undertake public consultation in relation to the development and review of management policies and guidelines (As required & As required).	This action will be reported against when required.
36.2 <b>(Plantations):</b> The Forest Products Commission will maintain an environmental management system independently accredited as conforming to AS/NZS ISO 14001 (On plan commencement & Ongoing).	The Commission currently has an independently accredited EMS for its plantation operations and is committed to maintaining it as required by this Action.