



Draft Forest Management Plan 2024–2033

Fact sheet: Forest Management Plan



In south-west Western Australia, native forests on lands vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission are managed through a Forest Management Plan.

Western Australia's national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves are vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission and managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

Ten-year plans provide direction on how the State's parks and reserves are managed. The process of developing management plans includes the preparation and release of a draft plan for public comment.

When land is vested in an organisation, it is placed under the care, control and land management of that organisation.

What is a Forest Management Plan?

A plan sets out measures to protect forest values and balance the many ways the forests are used, including conservation, customary practices, recreation and tourism, and other forest-based industries.

The current *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* will end on 31 December 2023. The next plan (*Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*) is expected to commence on 1 January 2024.

The Forest Management Plan covers an area of approximately 2.5 million hectares from Lancelin, north of Perth, to Denmark on the south coast. Within this extensive area, the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* is largely focused on the management of State forests and timber reserves.

What are the key changes in the plan?

There have been a number of recent Government policy changes affecting the future use and management of the south-west forests. The most significant change is the end of large-scale commercial timber harvesting in native forests from 2024. The only timber to be removed from native forests will be sourced from management activities that improve forest health or clearing for approved mining operations and infrastructure.

Other key changes reflected in the plan include the commencement of the South West Native Title Settlement, which will establish new management arrangements between DBCA and Noongar Traditional Owners, and a greater focus on adapting to climate change.

Changes to the climate of the south-west region have already been observed, with an increase in average temperatures and heat extremes and a reduction in annual rainfall. Warming and drying trends are forecast to continue in future decades.

These changes provide an opportunity to pursue a new approach to the management of south-west forests. The *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* prioritises biodiversity and forest health, to meet both the socio-economic and cultural aspirations of current generations, whilst balancing sustainability of the forests for future generations.

The four strategic goals in the plan are:

1. to value and protect Noongar cultural heritage and support Noongar involvement in forest management
2. to conserve biodiversity and support ecosystem resilience
3. to maintain or improve forest health and enhance climate resilience
4. to deliver social and economic benefits through the provision of goods and services.



How was the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* developed?

The plan is informed by scientific research and management experience, input from technical experts and results from monitoring and evaluation processes. The plan was prepared following wide-ranging consultation with government agencies, key stakeholders and the community.

During the planning and development stage of the draft plan, a public survey was conducted, and targeted focus groups were held with representative sectors, as well as stakeholder meetings with peak bodies, industry organisations, community-based groups, government departments and authorities.

Information and reports from the engagement activities are available on the Forest Management Plan dbca.wa.gov.au/forest-management-plan

How will the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* be implemented?

Once finalised, the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* will be implemented using an adaptive management approach.

Adaptive management is often referred to as ‘learning by doing’ and involves a number of elements, including planning and design, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Adaptive management is based on evidence and learnings, meaning that programs and activities can be adjusted if they are not successfully meeting management objectives.

The implementation of management activities will be through the State’s Forest Management System, which includes the various laws, policies, guidelines and operational procedures for forest management.

Formal management partnerships between DBCA and Noongar Traditional Owners are an important aspect of how the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* will be implemented. These agreements will recognise the continuing connections that Noongar people have to the south-west forests and their cultural responsibilities to care for country.

Further reading

For more information on managing climate change refer to the Western Australian Climate Policy – ‘A Plan to position Western Australia for a prosperous and low-carbon future’ https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2020-12/Western_Australian_Climate_Policy.pdf

For more information on partnerships with Noongar Traditional Owners refer to the Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016, <https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/>



The management of Western Australia’s south-west forests will be outlined in the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*.

For more information visit our website at dbca.wa.gov.au/forest-management-plan