



# Update on the review of the Sandalwood Order Documents now available to view

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is pleased to advise the following documents are available to view at: [dbca.wa.gov.au/management/sandalwood](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/management/sandalwood)

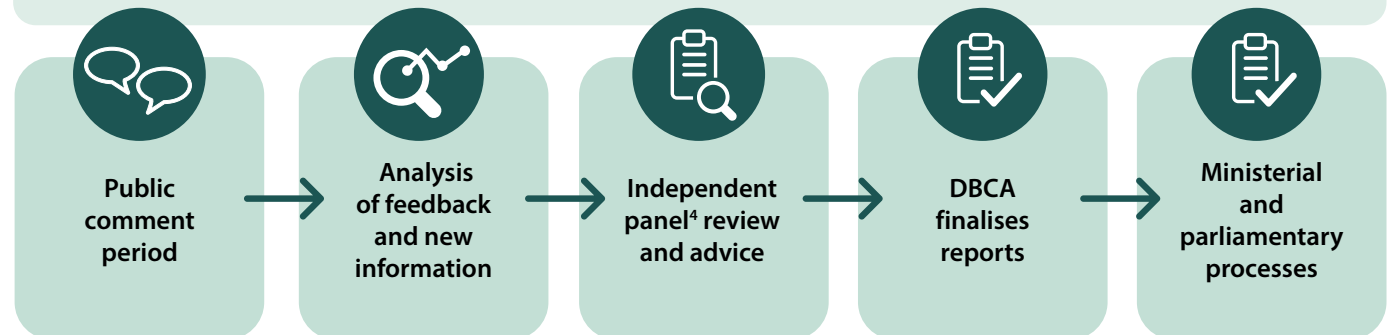
- Draft technical report<sup>1</sup>
- Feedback received since the release of the 'scope of works'<sup>2</sup>
- Paper – Conservation management of Australian sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*): using experts and a review of knowledge to develop future research priorities
- Frequently Asked Questions – updated April 2026

## Update and background documents

- These documents provide background information ahead of the release of the Sandalwood Order Draft Review Report<sup>3</sup> and the public comment period.
- The Draft Technical Report outlines work undertaken to assess the long-term ecological viability of sandalwood under modelled scenarios, including different levels of living (green) and dead harvest. Key findings are summarised overleaf.
- The Draft Technical Report is released as a resource for those interested in detailed information on habitat stratification and population modelling.
- Ongoing input on the Sandalwood Order review process is welcome via contacting the DBCA Sandalwood Team (*see overleaf*).



## Next steps



## What a new Sandalwood Order will specify

- Maximum harvest/take limits for living (green) and dead sandalwood, along with the duration of the order.

## Completed actions include

- Monitoring sandalwood condition and changes over time.
- Modelling various management scenarios, including:
  - a. 'do nothing' approach;
  - b. no harvest with reseeded; and
  - c. various levels of living (green) and dead harvest with seeding at harvest.
- Extensive literature review of knowledge gaps.
- Preliminary consultation.

## Key limitations

- Limited inventory plot data in many biogeographic regions.
- Limited information on socio-economic environment.
- Uncertainty around future composition of industry and market environments.

## Considerations

Using best available information, including results of modelling to simulate impacts on population structures of varied management scenarios, the following have been considered:

- Risk analysis of the species' potential for persistence within and across its distribution.
- Assessing modelled scenarios against the best outcome for Ecologically Sustainable Use (ESU) in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Draft Review Report will consider principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

## Draft Technical Report findings

- Without intervention, sandalwood is at risk of long-term decline due to a lack of natural regeneration.
- Achieving ESU depends on more than take limits, but also on other factors, such as success of regeneration programs.
- Commercial harvesting with seeding has the potential to improve regeneration at a localised level where sustainability actions<sup>5</sup> are met.
- Model simulations of varying levels of living (green) and dead harvest suggest successful regeneration leads to improved population structures over time.
- Dead wood only harvest provides the strongest ESU outcome. However, the Draft Review Report will consider economic, environmental, social and equity factors, including Aboriginal participation in the wild sandalwood industry and recommend an appropriate level of take.



<sup>1</sup> *Review of the Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order (No. 2) 2015, 2026 Draft Technical Report (Draft Technical Report).*

<sup>2</sup> *The scope of works for the review of the Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order (No. 2) 2015.*

<sup>3</sup> *Review of the Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order (No. 2) 2015, 2026 Draft Review Report (Draft Review Report).*

<sup>4</sup> An Independent Panel has been appointed to review and provide advice to DBCA at key stages of the process.

<sup>5</sup> For an overview of sustainability actions required to harvest sandalwood, refer to the CEO Guideline to support the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations, Sandalwood Licensing available at [dbca.wa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/sandalwood-licences](https://dbca.wa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/sandalwood-licences).

In order to obtain a licence to take sandalwood, applicants must show evidence that management actions will ensure retention of sufficient seed-bearing trees, manage threats and that there will be successful levels of reseeded and recruitment.