

SANDALWOOD LICENCES

Summary of changes since 2025/2026 season

Sandalwood licensing documents were reviewed ahead of the 2026/2027 season. This document outlines the key changes introduced for 2026/2027 season. The changes outlined in the table below do not include minor changes and/or editorial changes. Note that this year no available quantity limits have been published, as the Sandalwood Order review process is still underway. Refer to [Sandalwood | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#) for more information.

Changes made for the 2026/2027 season.

Item	Description of change	Justification
1.	<p>For the 2026/27 season only, the deadline for applications to take wild sandalwood was extended to 4pm on 30 June 2026 (previously 4pm on 31 March for other seasons). It was extended once more and the deadline is now to Thursday 4pm 31 December 2026.</p> <p>This new deadline for this year only is not reflected in the <i>CEO Guideline to support the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations – Sandalwood Licensing</i> (CEO Guideline) (which has not changed from 2025/26), but is reflected on DBCA's Sandalwood Licensing webpage and in the latest <i>Flora Taking (Sandalwood) Licence Wild Stands Application Kit</i> (application kit).</p>	<p>As the review of the Sandalwood Order has been delayed, an extended deadline for only 2026/2027 applications allows more time for the process to determine possible future available volumes. In addition, due to a simplified dead wood only application process being introduced in 2026, it allows more time for those wishing to apply for a dead wood only licence to put an application together.</p> <p>The CEO Guideline provides for the option for applications to be accepted after the cut-off date, where the CEO or a person authorised by the CEO has provided approval for accepting applications after the cut-off date. As such this power has been exercised for 2025/2026 season applications to enable applications to be received later (on or before 30 June 2026), due to exceptional circumstances.</p>
2.	<p>The 'regional protocols for the take of sandalwood' has been updated with a revised map that now provides a guide to differentiate between northern and southern sandalwood genetic provenances.</p>	<p>This provides applicants with guidance on the general boundary between northern and southern genetic provenances.</p>
3.	<p>Form 1 'Application form' within the application kit has been changed to include other relevant Stage 1 application questions from other parts of the application kit.</p>	<p>This change consolidates all relevant Stage 1 questions and reduces repetition within the application kit.</p>

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4.	A separate dead wood only establishment and sustainability plan template (Form 2A) within the licence application kit has been developed.	A separate dead wood only establishment and sustainability plan template within the licence application kit will help simplify the process for those only wishing to apply to take dead wood, as some criteria within the CEO Guideline are not relevant to dead wood only applications. For example, as no living trees will be removed there is no requirement to assess if there is ' <i>...sufficient retention of mature seed producing trees...</i> '. No inventory is required for dead wood only applications (this is optional). There are also no strict requirements to manage grazing by animals. However, a seeding strategy is still required to help to ensure sandalwood populations are maintained and/or enhanced at the harvest location.
5.	The living (green) and dead sandalwood establishment and sustainability plan template (Form 2B) contains further guidance for calculating the minimum sample area for track-based surveys.	This information has been provided to assist applicants in ensuring an appropriate sample area is covered in the track-based survey.
6.	The minimum plot size for inventory has been adjusted to a recommended six hectares. The four-hectare plot size can still be used, but the suggested six hectares aligns with DBCA's sandalwood condition monitoring.	This is intended to be more efficient due to less plots being required.
7.	The establishment and sustainability plan template for living and dead applications—(Form 2B) now contains three suggested categories of dead trees (previously two) being 'dead with bark', 'dead grey', and 'dead withered,' and images for each of these categories have been added. Previous categories were 'standing' and 'pieces'. It is also suggested that observations are noted during inventory (e.g. fire damage).	The previous suggested categories were undefined and the new suggested categories align with those used for DBCA's sandalwood condition monitoring.
8.	Some brief additional guidance information is provided about seeding methods and preferred host species.	This information has been provided to assist applicants in developing a seeding strategy.
9.	Two appendices have been added to the living (green) and dead sandalwood establishment and sustainability plan template (Form 2B)—a suggested track-based survey sheet and a suggested sandalwood inventory plot survey sheet.	These suggested example survey sheet templates are intended to assist applicants to complete survey requirements for the establishment and sustainability plan.