

# Western Australia's Forest Management System - at a glance

**Western Australia's forest management system** is designed to achieve ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM) across both public and private land tenures within the State's south-west.

The forest management system has a hierarchy of integrated components, commencing with an overarching legislative framework, supported by national and state policies, and underpinned by the planning and operations management systems which guide forest activities on the ground.

The system has the following features.

## LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Figure 1 (overleaf) shows the primary legislation which forms the core of the system, and the major secondary legislation which influence how the forest management system delivers ESFM. These influences include the need to protect biodiversity and matters of national environmental significance (such as Ramsar wetlands, National Heritage places, threatened species and communities, or migratory species); the need to provide for multiple or specific benefits from the forests (such as provision for water, mining access, tourism or other); and recognition of Aboriginal connection and traditional ownership of lands and country.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic through to operational planning processes are conducted to integrate the various objectives for forest management and guide activities on the ground.

The Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) provides a strategic framework for delivering ESFM, through the establishment of a CAR [Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative] reserve system to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of forest biodiversity, old-growth forest and

wilderness values; the management of multiple-use forests outside reserves for the range of conservation and production uses, including timber production on a sustained yield basis; and supporting the sustainable development of forest-based industries.

The *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* (FMP) provides the policy and planning framework for managing public forests in the south west, and gives effect to the RFA objectives and commitments. Specific area management plans are also prepared for conservation reserves including national parks and nature reserves.

## MANAGEMENT CONTROLS

Subsidiary guidelines, manuals, codes of practice and operational prescriptions under the FMP guide and control the on-ground disturbance and conservation management activities in public forest (such as prescribed burning, timber harvesting, infrastructure development, and invasive species control).

## PRIVATE FORESTS

Forests on private land contribute to environmental, social and economic outcomes. Sustainable management is approached through regulation to control vegetation clearing or harvest, protection of indigenous flora and fauna, and the establishment of voluntary conservation mechanisms.

## ADAPTIVE AND RESPONSIVE

The overall system incorporates adaptive management and continuous improvement processes to respond to evolving environmental, social and economic factors. Research findings, feedback from monitoring, compliance, certification and enforcement systems, and stakeholder engagement are used to inform periodic review processes.

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