

### When will the new PNF Codes be released?

The Minister for Agriculture has approved PNF Codes with the concurrence of the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

The Codes will commence on 2 May 2022 when they are published on the NSW Legislation website. A link to the PNF Codes will be provided on Local Land Services' website.

The early announcement of new PNF Codes ensures that all landholders seeking to undertake farm forestry activities from May 2022 are provided with enough notice to plan their operations accordingly and engage with Local Land Services.

### What has been the process to develop new PNF Codes?

New PNF Codes of Practice are a key outcome of the Private Native Forestry Review which commenced in 2018.

The Review meets commitments made in the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap to review the arrangements for private native forestry and develop a modernised framework that meets the recommendations of the Independent Biodiversity Review Panel on farm forestry.

The finalisation of new PNF Codes follow an extensive process including two rounds of public consultation on the PNF Review Terms of Reference and draft PNF Codes, collaboration between agencies, and independent review by the Natural Resources Commission.

Consistent with the NRC's recommendations, the PNF Codes have been finalised to ensure they:

- meet the Objects of the LLS Act including the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management;
- meet Government's dual objectives of robust protections for koalas in high value koala habitat and certainty and consistency for primary producers; and
- provide greater clarity and are easier for landholders to apply.

### How do the new Codes protect environmental values of farm forests?

- The new PNF Codes strike an important balance between environmental values and productivity, to ensure farm forests can continue to generate environmental benefits such as biodiversity, carbon storage and soil and water quality, while providing sustainable wood and non-wood products long into the future.
- The new PNF Codes contain a range of inbuilt environmental protections for landscape features, habitat, streams and waterways, and threatened species.
- Landholders are now encouraged to retain habitat trees within their farm forest to promote habitat connectivity, provide additional protections for threatened species, and enhance existing habitat refugia.
- The PNF Codes retain the important protections for old growth forest and rainforest that were in previous PNF Codes. No forestry operations can occur in old growth forest or rainforest.



- Protections in place for streams and watercourses have been simplified and strengthened, with the replacement of the existing buffer on buffer arrangement with one simple exclusion zone around riparian zones.

### How are koalas protected in the new PNF Codes?

The new PNF Codes provide increased protections for koalas in areas of high-value habitat consistent with Government's commitment, while providing certainty and consistency for primary producers. These protections include:

- Increased tree retention in koala habitat;
- An updated primary and secondary koala feed tree list;
- Harvest exclusion zones around trees used by koalas;
- Prohibitions on harvesting in rainforest or old growth forest; and
- Improved animal welfare outcomes.

The protections in the PNF Codes are accompanied by the toughest penalties in Australia for causing harm to threatened species, with penalties of up to \$1.65 million or 2 years imprisonment for harming a threatened species in New South Wales including koalas.

The new PNF Codes ensure that existing protections within core koala habitat under Koala Plans of Management will remain under the private native forestry framework.

### How are threatened species protected under the new Codes?

- The new PNF Codes retain the approach that provides specific protections for listed threatened species.
- The threatened species protections in Appendix A have been updated with additional threatened plants and animal species, including updates to ensure robust protections for koalas.
- Added species include (amongst others) the greater glider, gang-gang cockatoo and the pale-yellow doubletail orchid.

### How do the new Codes assist farmers seeking to undertake farm forestry?

- The release of new PNF Codes provides certainty for landholders to invest in long-term forest management with the delivery of a ruleset informed by contemporary forest science.
- Under the new PNF Codes, landholders will receive increased support and engagement with Local Land Services during the planning stages of forest management.
- The Codes also provide a pathway for small scale harvest operations to meet recommendation 7 of the Independent Biodiversity Review Panel, which called for options to regulate sustainable forestry based on scale and intensity.

- The new Codes include simplified harvest and operating standards that enable a clearer interpretation of the PNF Codes, while also allowing landholders to achieve better forest management and environmental outcomes.
- The new PNF Codes introduce clear guidance on the ability for landholders to manage pests and weeds in farm forests. The PNF Codes make it clear that landholders can take action to manage pests and weeds as they would in any other area of their farm, as long as it's undertaken in accordance with the relevant legal requirements.
- The PNF Codes also make it clear that landholders can undertake fire management within their farm forests to reduce the risk of wildfire and provide for effective forest regeneration.

### **How will Government address dual consent for private native forestry?**

The NSW Government remains committed to meeting all recommendations of the Independent Biodiversity Review Panel, including that farm forestry should not be treated as land use change.