

Private Native Forestry Review Frequently Asked Questions

What is private native forestry?

Private native forestry (PNF) is the sustainable management of native forests on private property for timber production. This can include harvesting of timber for a variety of products including flooring, construction timber, power poles, furniture and firewood.

What is a PNF Plan?

A PNF Plan is a legally binding agreement between a landholder and Local Land Services. If a landholder wants to harvest timber on a property, they need to obtain an approved PNF Plan.

A PNF Plan consists of a satellite image of the property and signed agreement stating that the landholder will adhere to the conditions of the relevant PNF Code of Practice. The satellite image identifies the PNF approval area and any areas of environmental importance such as rainforest and old growth forests where PNF is not permitted. Once a PNF Plan is in place, landholders must meet the requirements of the relevant PNF Code of Practice.

How is PNF regulated?

On 9 November 2018, the *Forestry Legislation Amendment Act 2018* commenced inserting a new Part 5B in the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act). Part 5B of the LLS Act establishes the legal framework for the regulation of PNF consistent with the following objectives to:

- authorise the carrying out of private native forestry operations in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management
- protect biodiversity and water quality
- enable landholders to carry out sustainable forestry operations
- ensure the differences between private native forestry and native forestry in State Forests or other Crown-timber land.

Under the LLS Act forestry operations on private land requires approval through a PNF Plan. Once a PNF Plan is in place landholders must meet the requirements of the relevant PNF Code of Practice.

Local Land Services is responsible for the approval of PNF Plans while the Environment Protection Authority is responsible for compliance and enforcement of the PNF Codes of Practice.

What are the PNF Codes of Practice?

The PNF Codes of Practice outline the environmental and sustainable forest management operating standards for PNF operations in NSW. The PNF codes:

- contain provisions to maintain and/or improve environmental outcomes
- set minimum operating standards for harvesting in private native forests.

All PNF operations in NSW fall under one of four PNF Codes:

- Northern NSW code
- Southern NSW code
- River red gum forests code
- Cypress and western hardwood forests code.

The existing PNF Codes of Practice can be found at www.ils.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry.

What is the PNF authorisation process?

A PNF Plan is an agreement between landholders and Local Land Services that states landholders will conduct PNF operations in accordance with the relevant PNF Code of Practice. The steps in developing a PNF Plan are broadly as follows:

- Landowner contacts Local Land Services PNF Officer
- Local Land Services PNF Officer provides landholder with a PNF Information Package
- If the landholder wishes to proceed with undertaking PNF operations, the landholder lodges a PNF application
- Local Land Services PNF Officer checks the environmental records relating to the landholding and helps develop a PNF Plan Agreement for the landholder's signature
- Once the PNF Plan Agreement is signed by both the landholder and Local Land Services it is an approved PNF Plan.

After developing a PNF Plan, and before conducting a PNF operation, landholders work with Local Land Services to develop a Forest Operation Plan that includes detailed information on the:

- area of the PNF operation
- intended silvicultural approach
- measures to protect the environment
- construction and maintenance of forest infrastructure.

A signed copy of the Forest Operation Plan must be available on-site during forestry operations.

What is the PNF Review considering?

The NSW Government is providing all members of the community the opportunity to improve the way the NSW private forest estate is managed through a review of private native forestry (PNF Review).

The PNF Review seeks to balance the sustainable development of the private native timber and agricultural industries while recognising the environmental values of the private forest estate.

The PNF Review will consider the PNF Codes of Practice, the rules and regulation that govern PNF, the PNF authorisation process, and PNF training and advice services.

The PNF Terms of Reference can be viewed on the Local Land Services website at www.ils.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry.

What is included in the PNF Review Terms of Reference?

The PNF Review Terms of Reference provides a framework for the PNF Review. They set out the scope and objectives of the PNF Review and outline the consultation process and proposed timeline for making new PNF Codes of Practice.

In summary, the scope of the PNF Review is to:

1. Review the PNF Codes of Practice (Northern NSW, Southern NSW, River Red Gum forests and Cypress and western hardwood forests)
2. Consider and develop options for:
 - a) Establishing efficient and effective regulatory settings
 - b) Developing an effective training and accreditation program for PNF haulage and harvest contractors
 - c) Enhancing landholder knowledge and community acceptance of the PNF industry.

Consistent with 1) and 2) above the outcomes of this review are to:

- a) Develop PNF Codes of Practice that are streamlined, clear and easier to use and enforce, and support social, environmental and economic sustainability in line with ecological sustainable forest management.
- b) Make recommendation to NSW Government on options to improve the PNF system as outlined in 2) above.

The PNF Review Terms of Reference can be found at www.ils.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry.

Consultation during the PNF Review

The NSW Government is seeking your early feedback and comments on how the PNF Review can meet the objectives and scope set out in the PNF Terms of Reference.

The PNF Terms of Reference are on public exhibition for ten weeks and submissions close on **31 January 2019**.

We are seeking your views on what is working well in the management of PNF and what can be improved, including:

- the PNF Codes of Practice
- the rules and regulations that govern PNF
- the process of authorisation
- PNF training and advice services.

Following this public exhibition period, we will review and consider submissions prior to developing new draft PNF Codes of Practice. You will have another opportunity to provide feedback on the draft PNF Codes of Practice before final PNF Codes of Practice are delivered in 2019.

How can I have my say?

We encourage you to have your say by lodging a submission by **31 January 2019**.

There are four ways you can submit your feedback:

Fill out the submission form **Online** at www.ils.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry

Email your submission to pnf.info@ils.nsw.gov.au

Fax your submission to 02 6562 7693

Post your submission to

Private Native Forestry Review
Locked Bag 6013
ORANGE NSW 2800

All submissions will be published unless marked confidential.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, visit www.ils.nsw.gov.au/pnforestry or contact us on **1300 778 080**.