

Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland

Version 1, 2015



Supporting sustainable plantation management practices



Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland

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Further information

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Review

The Code will be reviewed by industry when warranted by significant changes in legislation or industry practices, or at least every five years.

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- HQPlantations
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Any references to legislation are not an interpretation of the law. They are to be used as a guide only. The information in this publication is general and does not take into account individual circumstances or situations. Where appropriate, independent specialist and/or legal advice should be sought.





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1. Introduction

1.1 Queensland forest and timber industry

The Queensland forest and timber industry plays a vital role in Queensland's economic, social and environmental wellbeing. The industry employs around 19,000 people and the forest and timber value chain contributes about \$3.8 billion to Queensland, especially in rural and regional communities.

Queensland forest and timber industry facts:

- Comprises over 1,800 businesses and directly employs around 19,000 people.
- Annual sales turnover of about \$3.8 billion.
- Approximately 230,000 hectares of commercial timber plantations.
 - 190,000 hectares of Softwood (including Araucaria, Slash pine, Caribbean pine, Hybrids between Slash and Caribbean pine, Monterey pine and Loblolly pine).
 - 40,000 hectares of Hardwood (including Spotted gum, Western white gum, Dunns white gum, Gympie messmate, Mahogany, Teak and Sandalwood).
- Large number of small (< 30 hectares) single- and mixed-species commercial timber plantations throughout Queensland.

1.2 Purpose of the Timber Plantation Operations Code

The purpose of the *Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland* (the Code) is to provide guidance with regards to operational activities associated with commercial **timber** plantations in Queensland, in order to comply with all laws and with accepted principles for sound plantation management.

This Code defines the minimal voluntary standards developed for use by all parties with an interest in commercial timber plantations in Queensland, including the landowner, the plantation owner, the plantation manager, the harvest manager and any employees and contractors employed to work in a plantation (plantation operators).

The primary aim of commercial timber plantations established and managed under the Code is to be profitable whilst being environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.

1.3 Function of the Timber Plantation Operations Code

The function of this Code is to identify operational goals and specify appropriate Code actions that enable the commercial timber plantation sector in Queensland to demonstrate sustainable forest management.

The Code does not include detailed compliance prescriptions as it is acknowledged that these should generally reflect individual plantation management objectives and circumstances. It is also recognised that prescriptions can vary between plantation growers and are contingent on individual plantation characteristics.

- ⇒ Within the Code guidance is provided (indented) for certain Code actions to assist plantation operators. Further guidance may be provided, or existing guidance updated, when the Code is periodically reviewed.

1.4 Basis for the Timber Plantation Operations Code

Adoption of this Code should assist plantation operators with meeting legislative and other requirements applicable to the establishment and management of **existing plantation areas** and **new plantation areas**.

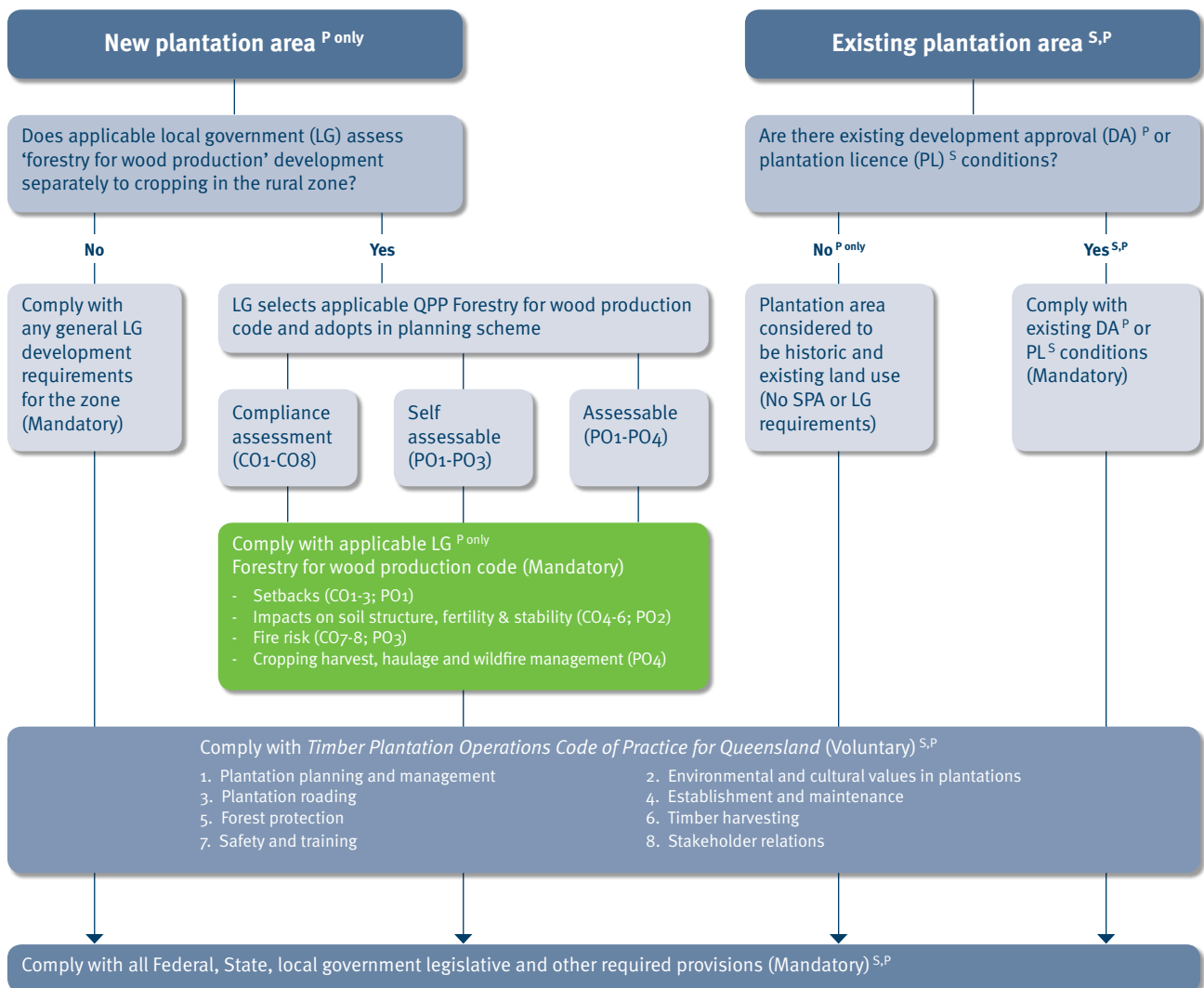
The Code is informed by the *Forest Practices Related to Wood Production in Plantations: National Principles*.

The Code complements all Acts, regulations, State government policies, local government planning schemes and local laws that relate to the development of new plantation areas.

The Code is ‘tenure blind’. That is, it can be voluntarily applied by **plantation operators** over any land tenure in Queensland.

The relationship between the Timber Plantation Operations Code and other instruments is demonstrated in the flow chart shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Relationship between the Timber Plantation Operations Code and other instruments



S = State land P = Private land

1.5 Relationship to QPP forestry for wood production assessment codes

Most existing timber plantation forestry on freehold land in Queensland is considered an existing land use and therefore not subject to new/additional planning requirements. Some **existing plantation areas** on freehold land may, however, be required to comply with existing development approval conditions imposed by local governments at the time they were established.

New timber plantation developments that constitute a material change of land use are subject to the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (the Act) and local government planning requirements.

The Queensland Government views plantation forestry for wood production in rural zones to be a form of cropping activity. The ‘statutory’ *Queensland Planning Provisions (QPPs)* introduced in 2013 establish a universal local government regulatory framework for development that is ‘**forestry for wood production**’ (i.e. development of **new plantation area**).

If a local government chooses to specifically regulate ‘forestry for wood production’ separately to other forms of cropping in a rural zone, they need to apply the relevant level of assessment from the options provided in the **QPPs** and adopt the relevant Statewide codes in their planning scheme. The selected codes can only be self-assessable development, assessable development (sometimes referred to as “code assessable development”) or compliance assessment. See Figure 1 for clarification and Appendix 1 for further detail in relation to QPPs.

When adopted by a local government, the Forestry for wood production planning assessment codes are regulatory instruments under the Act. It is mandatory that any new plantation development comply with these regulations and other codes as required in local government areas where they apply.

Plantation operators should directly consult the planning scheme applicable to a proposed new timber plantation development to determine what assessment requirements may exist in a given local government area.

1.6 Plantation forests on State lands

Plantation forests on State land in Queensland are managed, grown and harvested by HQPlantations Pty Ltd (HQPlantations) which was granted a 99-year plantation licence by the Queensland Government in 2010.

The Queensland Government ensures that high standards of environmental care continue to apply to these plantation forests on State land through agreements with HQPlantations about important management responsibilities, including:

- **Sustainable forestry:** HQPlantations must maintain accreditation under an internationally recognised sustainable forest management system.
- **Fire management:** HQPlantations works with Queensland Government agencies including the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) to manage fires in plantation forests on State land.
- **Road maintenance:** The Queensland Government and HQPlantations work together to determine responsibility for roads and tracks, depending on their use for recreation, commercial purposes or fire management.
- **Conservation:** Around 2,200 hectares of plantation forests will be selectively harvested, rehabilitated and transferred from plantation forests on State land to State forests for conservation after the plantations on each area are harvested.

1.7 Legislation relevant to timber plantations in Queensland

Plantation activities in Queensland are primarily governed by the Acts summarised below in Table 1, including all associated subordinate legislation, policies and codes.

Table 1. Acts applying to plantation activities in Queensland (by land tenure)

| Primary Acts | Act coverage | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|
| | State lands | Private land |
| Queensland Government (visit www.legislation.qld.gov.au for all current legislation) | | |
| <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Qld) Act 1994</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Fisheries Act 1994</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> | √ | - |
| <i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Plant Protection Act 1989</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Soil Conservation Act 1986</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> | - ^{1, 2} | √ |
| <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> | - ² | √ |
| <i>Water Act 2000</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i> | √ | √ |
| Australian Government (visit www.comlaw.gov.au for all current legislation) | | |
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Export Control Act 1982</i> | √ | √ |
| <i>Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012</i> | √ | √ |

¹ Clearing of vegetation on State land is exempted from development provisions under this Act, but local government planning provisions still apply to the development of infrastructure on State land.

² Plantation license conditions control the clearing of any regulated vegetation on State land.

Appendices 3 and 4 summarise how all of the above legislation and other relevant instruments apply to plantation forestry in Queensland. Links are also included within these appendices to related sites that provide access to supporting flora/fauna/cultural databases and/or guidance.

This voluntary Code is intended to provide guidance only on the main responsibilities and standards required by **plantation operators**. Specialist and/or legal advice may be required to ensure all obligations are identified.

The Acts and regulations described in Table 1 and Appendices 3 and 4 are currently in force, but users of this Code must be aware that these and other related pieces of legislation are subject to change.

1.8 Forest certification

Forest managers adopt forest certification systems to demonstrate the environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability of their forest management operations.

Compliance with forest certification schemes is assessed on an ongoing basis by independent, third-party auditors to ensure the desired forest management outcomes are being achieved.

Certification also requires forest managers to monitor and report on their forest management performance on an ongoing basis.

The *Australian Standard*® (AS) 4708:2013 *Sustainable Forest Management* (AFS) and the *Forest Stewardship Council*® (FSC-STD-01-001 [Version 4-0 in review]) (FSC) are the primary standards operating in Australia. Further information on these standards can be obtained from [Australian Forestry Standard Ltd](#) and [FSC Australia](#).



2. Operational goals, Code actions and Code compliance

The Code is divided into eight sections that outline the Code actions to be implemented by **plantation operators** that demonstrate compliance with all statutory obligations and the following voluntary operational goals.

1. Plantation planning and management

Goal 1: Plantations should be planned and managed to optimise the socio-economic and environmental benefits for Queensland.

2. Environmental and cultural values in plantations

Goal 2: Significant environmental and cultural values should be considered at all stages and adverse impacts minimised by appropriate planning and management.

3. Plantation roading

Goal 3: Plantation roads should be designed and managed to a standard capable of carrying anticipated traffic with reasonable safety while minimising impacts on environmental and cultural values.

4. Establishment and maintenance

Goal 4: Plantation establishment and maintenance activities should be appropriate for successful tree establishment and growth and undertaken with care for the protection of environmental and cultural values and immediate neighbouring land uses.

5. Forest protection

Goal 5: Forest protection measures should be taken to minimise the impact of damage agents on plantations and surrounding assets, lands and communities.

6. Timber harvesting

Goal 6: Timber harvesting will be conducted legally and safely and managed to minimise the impact of harvesting operations on environmental and cultural values.

7. Safety and training

Goal 7: Establishment, management and harvesting activities will be conducted in a safe and responsible manner by trained operators who have the skills, knowledge and tools relevant to the activity being undertaken.

8. Stakeholder relations

Goal 8: Plantation operators will actively engage with affected stakeholders and adopt appropriate communication and complaint management strategies.

Code compliance

Operational goals will be met if Code actions specified in the Code are implemented (or if another way is adopted and followed by plantation operators that also meets the goals).

The implementation of the Code actions will reflect the scale, intensity and risk associated with an operation. For example, the requirement of Goal 1 relating to managing in accordance with a plantation management plan (see Appendix 2) is not considered necessary for small, independent plantation operators managing small sized timber plantations ≤ 30 hectares (in aggregate).

Timber plantations in Queensland accredited to **AFS** and/or the **FSC** requirements are recognised as a way of meeting the goals stated in this Code.

Compliance with this Code on its own is not sufficient to secure forest certification.



2.1 Plantation planning and management

Goal 1: Plantations should be planned and managed to optimise the socio-economic and environmental benefits for Queensland.

Code actions to meet Goal 1:

- 2.1.1 The planning and management of plantations will be undertaken in accordance with all applicable statutory and legal instruments.
 - ⇒ Appendices 3 and 4 summarise all applicable legislation and other instruments and provide guidance on related websites and databases.
- 2.1.2 The environmental, social and economic impacts of all plantation operations envisaged for an area should be considered during the planning process.
- 2.1.3 Values such as intensive recreation, high scenic quality, significant geomorphic, biological, or cultural sites, should be recognised and considered for protection during the planning and management of plantation forest operations.
- 2.1.4 Buildings, roads, powerlines, gas pipelines and other applicable assets or features on the plantation property should be taken into consideration when planning and managing plantations.
 - ⇒ Dial Before You Dig is a referral service for information on locating underground utilities anywhere in Australia. Call 1100 or visit www.1100.com.au
- 2.1.5 The impacts of forest management on water management should be considered in accordance with authorised catchment management plans.
 - ⇒ The Department of Natural Resources and Mines provides advice about [water management](#), including catchments and resource planning; catchment areas and planning processes.
- 2.1.6 A plantation should be managed according to an operational plantation management plan (**PMP**) that incorporates key factors as specified in Appendix 2 and is informed by relevant resources/databases detailed in Appendices 3 and 4.
 - ⇒ Plantation operators with plantations spread over a number of properties may develop generic PMPs that apply to a number of properties.
 - ⇒ PMPs may not include all details suggested in Appendix 2 where such information is maintained by plantation operators in other corporate planning documents or support systems.
 - ⇒ The PMP should be updated as required to account for new techniques and procedures or new circumstances.
 - ⇒ The [Queensland Globe](#) is an interactive online tool that can be opened within the Google Earth™ application. Queensland Globe provides ready access to a wide range of Queensland specific spatial data and imagery (including up-to-date satellite information, land parcel tenures, flora/fauna, environment and agricultural land use information) that may be of use when planning plantations and/or preparing PMPs.

2.2 Environmental and cultural values in plantations

Goal 2: Significant environmental and cultural values should be considered at all stages and adverse impacts minimised by appropriate planning and management.

Code actions to meet Goal 2:

2.2.1 Environmental and cultural values on plantation land should be identified, protected and maintained in accordance with authorised conservation and catchment management plans, relevant planning schemes and legislation.

⇒ Under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Plantation Operators will identify, assess and refer proposed actions with potential to significantly impact on matters of national environmental significance (see Appendix 4 for further details).

2.2.2 Plantations should be established on already **cleared land**.

2.2.3 **Protected plants** and/or **regulated native vegetation** will be protected from clearing except where allowed under approval or exemption.

⇒ Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and/or the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (and/or Regulations) incidental **clearing** may be undertaken for a range of plantation management activities such as plantation maintenance (including site preparation, weed control, harvesting and debris clearing) and the establishment and maintenance of firebreaks, fire lines, roads and infrastructure.

⇒ Clearing of protected plants and/or regulated native vegetation is not allowed under approval/exemption when undertaken for the establishment of new plantation areas.

⇒ Under the *Forestry Act 1959*, the clearing of vegetation on State forest is exempt from development provisions under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

⇒ See Appendix 3 for further details.

2.2.4 **Native wildlife** and its **habitat** will be protected.

⇒ Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (and/or Regulation):

- A **wildlife authority** is required to **take** any **native wildlife** when undertaken in association with any plantation establishment or management activity.
- An **approved species management program** is required if a plantation activity **tampers** with an **animal breeding place** being used by any **protected animal** to incubate or rear an animal's offspring, unless the tampering:
 - happens in the course of a lawful activity (e.g. plantation establishment and/or management) that is not directed towards the tampering; and
 - cannot be reasonably avoided.
- Plantation Operators are required to ensure that the clearing of **koala habitat trees** in **koala districts A and B** is undertaken in accordance with **sequential clearing conditions**. In addition, all clearing of koala habitat trees in a **koala habitat area** within district A must be undertaken in the presence of a **koala spotter**.

⇒ See Appendix 3 for further details.



- 2.2.5 Plantations should be appropriately located and set back (using **buffer** strips where appropriate) to minimise impacts on areas of environmental interest.
- 2.2.6 Water quality values (physical, chemical, or biological) should be maintained in plantations by minimising disturbance to **waterways**.
- 2.2.7 Soil erosion and water pollution will be minimised by avoiding timber production in inappropriate areas or slopes and by undertaking necessary preventive measures.
- ⇒ Streams and drainage areas in plantations and adjoining areas can be identified using the 1:100,000 stream order classification or 1:25,000 drainage network mapping made available via the Inland Waters Category Globe within Queensland Globe. On-ground inspection should be used to verify the actual location of streams and drainage lines.
- 2.2.8 All reasonable and practicable measures will be taken to ensure that plantation activities do not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage or other heritage places.
- ⇒ The [Cultural Heritage Search Request database](#) allows plantation operators carrying out activities that may impact on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage to request information from the database and register by submitting an online request. A short description of any cultural heritage recorded on the database is provided together with the contact details of the relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party for the search area.
 - ⇒ The [Queensland Heritage Register](#) allows plantation operators to find information about non-indigenous places entered in the register, including their heritage significance and values, history, description and location.
 - ⇒ Plantation operators should also search local government websites to identify local heritage places recognised by local authorities that may not be on the Queensland Heritage Register.

2.3 Plantation roading

Goal 3: Plantation roads should be designed and managed to a standard capable of carrying anticipated traffic with reasonable safety while minimising impacts on environmental and cultural values.

Code actions to meet Goal 3:

- 2.3.1 Planning and management of **road** systems in plantations will be based on the economic principle of minimising the combined cost of roading and extraction while maintaining **environmental and cultural values** in plantations.
- 2.3.2 The specifications (e.g. size, location and spacing) of drainage outlets along a road will take into account **soil erodibility**, the **rainfall erosivity**, proximity of the road to **waterways** and the incline of the road.
- 2.3.3. Energy dissipating structures or silt traps should be used where necessary to reduce water velocity and trap sediments.
- 2.3.4 All fill disposal areas and embankments should be planned and designed to minimise soil erosion, **mass movement** and potential water quality deterioration.
- 2.3.5 Road construction should ensure that any disturbance to **watercourse** beds and banks is kept to a minimum.
- 2.3.6 Watercourse crossings should be designed according to the nature, size and period of flow (both pre- and anticipated post-harvest) and the characteristics of the bed and banks of the watercourse.
 - ⇒ Under the *Water Act 2000* (and/or regulation) a riverine protection permit is not required if excavation or placement of fill in a watercourse, lake or spring is undertaken in accordance with riverine protection permit exemption requirements (see Appendix 3 for further details).
- 2.3.7 Watercourse crossings must be appropriately designed to minimise barriers to the passage of fish and other aquatic fauna and to comply with waterway barrier works requirements.
 - ⇒ Under the *Fisheries Act 1994* (and/or regulation) constructing or raising any barrier across a waterway requires a permit if the structure limits fish movement and has a significant impact on native fish numbers. Self-assessable codes may be used for minor; low-impact waterway barrier works (see Appendix 3 for further details).
- 2.3.8 Adequate temporary stabilisation should be employed to deal with site **earthwork** drainage and erosion control if road construction is halted or suspended for any reason.
- 2.3.9 Quarry materials known to be infected with any **pest** plant or **pathogen** will not be used.
- 2.3.10 Heavy vehicle traffic will not use roads in plantations when persistent wet weather compromises road drainage and water quality (in the absence of suitable preventative/ remedial actions to manage risks to water quality).
- 2.3.11 Heavy vehicle traffic will not use roads in plantations when persistent dry weather causes surface materials to unravel to a degree that poses a threat to water quality (in the absence of suitable preventative/remedial actions to manage risks to water quality).
- 2.3.12 Roads should be closed (either temporarily or permanently) and effectively **rehabilitated** and drained where they are no longer required or where their continued use will threaten environmental values.

2.4 Establishment and maintenance

Goal 4: Plantation establishment and maintenance activities should be appropriate for successful tree establishment and growth and undertaken with care for the protection of **environmental and cultural values** and immediate neighbouring land uses.

Code actions to meet Goal 4:

- 2.4.1 Plantation establishment methods should be economically and environmentally appropriate for the particular requirements of the species to be planted and the specific site conditions.
- ⇒ The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) provides [resources for plantation forestry managers](#) to consider when planning plantations in Queensland, including: establishing and managing plantation forestry in Queensland; key plantation forestry trees in Queensland; and plantation forestry soils information.
 - ⇒ [Timber Queensland](#) – Queensland’s peak timber industry body (in collaboration with project partners) has prepared a [Best Practice Guide for Timber Plantations in Tropical Cyclonic Areas of Queensland](#) which covers: tree species, plantation design, timber plantation age, location in the landscape and management (silviculture) practices.
- 2.4.2 Intensive management practices, such as **site preparation**, fertilising, weed control, **pest** and **disease** control and other operations will be carried out in accordance with all relevant legislation, regulation, policies, standards and codes of practice.
- 2.4.3 Establishment of plantations should aim to constrain or prevent the introduction of **wildlings** into surrounding areas.
- 2.4.4 Where **windrows** or heaps are created, soil within them should be kept to a minimum.
- 2.4.5 For second (or subsequent) rotation plantation establishment, where practicable, harvest debris should not be burnt on site in order to conserve nutrients and reduce erosion risk.
- 2.4.6 If waste timber and debris are to be burnt, damage to retained native vegetation should be minimised.
- 2.4.7 Burning of windrows or heaps will not be conducted in the vicinity of power lines except with approval from the land owner and the manager/owner of the power line asset.
- 2.4.8 **Chemical** use will be restricted to those chemicals registered for use or that have an off-label permit.
- ⇒ The [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#) provide guidance on registration and use of chemicals.
- 2.4.9 Chemical use will be in accordance with applicable legislation and permit details and conditions, as well as recognised silvicultural, agricultural and environmental practices and techniques.
- ⇒ The DAF [Agricultural chemical users’ manual](#) provides advice to growers, trainers, spray contractors and operators on using chemicals safely and efficiently.
- 2.4.10 All **rubbish** or **waste** brought into the plantation area and used in relation to plantation activities is disposed of in an appropriate manner.



2.5 Forest protection

Goal 5: Forest protection measures should be taken to minimise the impact of **damage agents** on plantations and surrounding assets, lands and communities.

Code actions to meet Goal 5:

- 2.5.1 Plantations and adjacent native forests should be protected to minimise the adverse effects of fire and the introduction and spread of **pests** and **diseases**.
- 2.5.2 Plantation health should be maintained by employing appropriate preventative, protective and remedial measures.
- ⇒ For example, plantation health may be maintained through management practices such as: fertilising; weed, pest and disease control; thinning and salvage harvesting, to ensure the ongoing viability of plantations and to avoid impacts on nearby plantations and landowners.
- 2.5.3 Plantation health surveillance should be undertaken on a regular basis.
- ⇒ The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides resources for plantation forestry managers which cover:
- Managing pests and diseases in plantation forests;
 - Pests and diseases of plantations, forests and timber; and
 - Nutritional disorders for plantation forestry.
- ⇒ If the introduction of a notifiable weed, pest or disease is suspected, the relevant authority will be notified.
- 2.5.4 Where there is a known risk of introducing pests and **pathogens**, the risk will be minimised through appropriate treatment of equipment when moving from known infected areas.
- 2.5.5 Plantation owners/managers will minimise the use of **chemicals** consistent with the availability of practical and cost-effective alternatives.
- 2.5.6 Damaged or diseased trees in the vicinity of a power line easement or corridor will be removed where they are at risk of falling and making contact with power lines (where removal is approved by the land owner and the manager/owner of the power line asset).
- 2.5.7 The risk of fire to plantations and adjoining premises and infrastructure will be minimised through the provision and maintenance of firebreaks and fire tracks and roads.
- 2.5.8 Where possible, fire breaks, fire access tracks and roads should be established on already **cleared land**.
- 2.5.9 Fire protection planning should be undertaken in coordination with relevant land management agencies and with local bush fire control organisations.
- 2.5.10 Appropriate fire control measures, undertaken in accordance with applicable legislation and permit details, will be implemented to protect plantation and surrounding areas from uncontrolled fire.
- ⇒ Fire control measures will be implemented by:
- preparing and regularly reviewing a fire management plan that includes relevant plantation fire protection factors contained in Appendix 2, and takes account of bushfire hazard area maps produced by the Rural Fire Service Queensland; and
 - ensuring that appropriate authorisations under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* are obtained for the lighting of fires for hazard reduction and residue burning, and that adequate resources are available to control such burning to ensure containment within the operational area.

2.6 Timber harvesting

Goal 6: Timber harvesting will be conducted legally and safely and managed to minimise the impact of harvesting operations on **environmental and cultural values**.

Code actions to meet Goal 6:

- 2.6.1 The plantation operator will establish that a legal right exists to harvest the trees situated on a plantation.
- 2.6.2 Forest harvesting operations will be conducted in a manner that does not compromise safety, environmental or cultural values.
 - ⇒ The *Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007* is a practical guide to achieving accepted standards of health, safety and welfare for timber harvesting and is an approved code of practice under Section 274 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the Act).
 - ⇒ Compliance with the Act and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 may be achieved by following another method, such as a technical or industry standard, if it provides an equivalent or higher standard of work health and safety than the *Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007*.
 - ⇒ See Appendix 3 for further details.
- 2.6.3 A **harvesting plan** should be developed and signed off by all relevant parties prior to the commencement of operations.
 - ⇒ The harvesting plan developed for a particular area will cover health and safety issues as well as the normal methods of work, environmental, logistical and commercial considerations.
 - ⇒ A sample harvesting plan is provided in Appendix 3 of the *Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007*.
 - ⇒ It is a working document that should be understood, agreed to and used by all parties involved in forest harvesting.
- 2.6.4 Any in-field chemical treatment of harvested timber will only utilise those chemicals registered for use or that have an off-label permit.
- 2.6.5 The location of harvest boundaries should be easily distinguishable in the field.
- 2.6.6 Plantation **harvest infrastructure** should be designed, located, constructed and maintained to minimise potential adverse impacts on environmental and cultural values, without compromising safety.
- 2.6.7 Appropriate harvesting methods (e.g. **cable harvesting** or modified excavator based methods) should be used where conventional harvest methods are considered unsafe or may threaten the stability of the soil or may have potential for adverse off-site effects.
- 2.6.8 Progressive **rehabilitation** and drainage of plantation harvest infrastructure will be undertaken.
- 2.6.9 Harvesting operations will be modified, restricted or stopped where there is a risk to environmental values, particularly during or following wet weather conditions.



2.7 Safety and training

Goal 7: Establishment, management and harvesting activities will be conducted in a safe and responsible manner by trained operators who have the skills, knowledge and tools relevant to the activity being undertaken.

Code actions to meet Goal 7:

- 2.7.1 All establishment, management and harvesting activities will be conducted to comply with work health and safety legislation, regulation, standards and codes of practice.
- 2.7.2 All operators will be trained in the safe and responsible use of equipment, machinery and chemicals, and be inducted as required
- 2.7.3. All operators will be trained in safety and environmental care.
- ⇒ Training in safety and environmental care may include site instruction, induction, ‘in house’ training programs and components of formal training.

Guidance on training resources

- The [ForestWorks Industry Skills Council \(ISC\)](#) supports the development of the forest, wood, paper and timber products industries and the people who work in them.
 - ForestWorks ISC can provide information on skill standards that describe work processes and standards within the forest industry. They also outline required knowledge and performance, and how they can be assessed.
 - Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that deliver training and skills assessment to workers are registered with the [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#) with a complete list maintained at training.gov.au
 - ForestWorks has partnered with the [Institute of Foresters of Australia \(IFA\)](#) to produce a range of learning and assessment resources for the Advanced Diploma of Forest Industry Sustainability. These resources, which are freely available, can provide Plantation Operators with self-directed learning on a number of topics relevant to this Timber Plantations Operations Code of Practice for Queensland.
 - [FPICOT5201B Implement sustainable forestry practices](#)
 - [FPICOT5209B Manage tree harvesting to minimise environmental impact](#)
 - [FPIFGM5217A Promote plantations as a sustainable form of land use](#)
 - [FPICOT5208B Build and maintain community relationships](#)
- 2.7.4 Plantation operations should be supervised and monitored by experienced and/or suitably qualified persons and be subject to self-audit and periodic review.
- ⇒ A self-audit check list is provided for guidance in Appendix 5.
- ⇒ The auditing of the extent to which Code actions may have been implemented and/or met should take account of the overall level of risk based on the scale (extent of impact) and intensity (degree of impact) of operations.

2.8 Stakeholder relations

Goal 8: Plantation operators will actively engage with **affected stakeholders** and adopt appropriate communication and complaint management strategies.

Code actions to meet Goal 8:

2.8.1 Plantation operators will comply with this Code and should strive to build effective working relationships with affected stakeholders (including neighbours) by:

- maintaining in a **PMP** (see Appendix 2) or having another system in place which includes the names and contact details of neighbours, other affected stakeholders and relevant services;
- consideration of the impacts of planned forest operations on affected stakeholders;
- timely notification to affected stakeholders that may be directly affected by planned forest operations prior to their commencement;
- taking actions to mitigate adverse impacts on affected stakeholders; and
- addressing any legitimate complaints in a timely manner.



3. Definitions

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| affected stakeholder(s) | Individuals or groups directly impacted by the plantation operator's activities. |
| animal breeding place | A bower, burrow, cave, hollow, nest or other thing that is commonly used by the animal to incubate or rear the animal's offspring. |
| approved species management program | For a species of animal, means — a program about managing the population and habitat of the species of animal that is approved by the chief executive of the department administering the <i>Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006</i> . |
| AFS | <i>Australian Standard</i> ® (AS) 4708:2013 <i>Sustainable Forest Management</i> . |
| buffer (strip) | A protective margin of vegetation excluded from any harvesting activity abutting a waterway or an area of regulated vegetation or other special area. |
| cable harvesting | A hauling system using towers, winches, blocks and cables to extract harvested timber. |
| chemical(s) | Rodenticides, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides. |
| clear(ing) | For vegetation, means: (a) remove, cut down, ringbark, push over, poison or destroy in any way including by burning, flooding or draining; but (b) does not include destroying standing vegetation by stock, or lopping a tree. |
| cleared land | Recently cleared or previously cleared land not containing regulated native vegetation under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999 (Qld)</i> . |
| cultural heritage (feature or place) | A place or object that has significance for past, present or future generations for aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, historical, scientific, spiritual, societal, technological or customary values, including those sites or features listed under either the <i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i> , the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> , the <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> or the <i>Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975</i> . |
| cultural value(s) | The collective knowledge, wisdom, cultural practices and related environmental assets valued by communities and handed down from generation to generation by various means. |
| damage agent(s) | A factor that can cause a reduction to forest values or impact on forest ecosystem health and vitality including endemic or exotic species, and physical processes like cyclones and bushfires. |
| disease | For a plant, means: continuous disturbance by some causal agent that results in an abnormal physiological process that disrupts the plant's normal structure, growth, function, or other activities |
| earthwork(s) | Mechanical soil movement as part of road or landing construction. |
| environmental value(s) | (a) the ecological processes within forest ecosystems; (b) the forest, soil and geological features; (c) food chains and energy flows; (d) carbon, nutrient and water cycles; and (e) the biodiversity of forests. |
| existing plantation area(s) | A plantation area where existing land use is a timber plantation (includes second and subsequent rotations and fallow periods). |
| FSC | Forest Stewardship Council® |
| forestry for wood production | Means: 'cropping' (where involving forestry for wood production) when considered in relation to local government development assessment and approval processes. |
| harvest infrastructure | Log landings and dumps and snig and forwarding tracks. |
| harvesting plan | A document that describes the methods and conditions of operation for a defined harvesting area. The harvesting plan for a particular area must cover health and safety issues as well as the normal methods of work, environmental, logistical and commercial considerations. |

| Term | Definition |
|---------------------------|---|
| koala conservation area | (a) each part of the State shown on the SEQ (State) map as a koala conservation area; and (b) if a local government has an approved local government map for its area—each part of the local government’s area shown on the map as a koala conservation area. |
| koala district A | The area defined by the following (former) local government areas: Beaudesert, Boonah, Brisbane, Caboolture, Caloundra, Esk, Gatton, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Kilcoy, Laidley, Logan, Maroochy, Noosa, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Redland, Toowoomba. |
| koala district B | The area defined by the following (former) local government areas: Biggenden, Bundaberg, Burnett, Cherbourg, Cooloola, Crows Nest, Gayndah, Hervey Bay, Isis, Kilkivan, Kolan, Maryborough, Miriam Vale, Murgon, Nanango, Perry, Tiaro, Woocoo. |
| koala habitat | (a) a woodland where koalas currently live; or (b) a partially or completely cleared area that is used by koalas to cross from one woodland where koalas currently live to another woodland where koalas currently live; or (c) a woodland where koalas do not currently live, if the woodland: (i) primarily consists of koala habitat trees; and (ii) is reasonably suitable to sustain koalas. |
| koala habitat area | (a) a koala conservation area; or (b) a koala sustainability area; or (c) an urban koala area. |
| koala habitat tree | A tree of the following genera: (a) Angophora; (b) Corymbia; (c) Eucalyptus; (d) Lophostemon; (e) Melaleuca. |
| koala spotter | A person who has demonstrated experience in locating koalas in koala habitats or conducting fauna surveys. |
| koala sustainability area | (a) each part of the State shown on the SEQ (State) map as a koala sustainability area; and (b) if a local government has an approved local government map for its area—each part of the local government’s area shown on the map as a koala sustainability area. |
| mass movement | Bulk movement of soil and rock debris down slopes in response to the pull of gravity, or the rapid or gradual sinking of the Earth’s ground surface in a predominantly vertical direction. |
| native wildlife | Any taxon or species of wildlife indigenous to Australia. |
| NRM | Natural Resource Management |
| new plantation area(s) | A plantation development where the previous land use was not timber plantation. |
| pathogen | A bacterium, virus or other organism that can cause disease. |
| pest | Any animal, plant, parasite or disease causing organism (such as bacteria, virus or fungus) capable of causing adverse impacts to environmental, economic or social values, whether or not it is declared and listed in the <i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003</i> . |
| PMP | Plantation management plan |
| Plantation operators | The land owner, the plantation owner, the plantation manager, the harvest manager and any employees and contractors employed to work in a plantation (operating under this Timber Plantation Operations Code). |
| protected animal | An animal that is prescribed under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> as threatened, near threatened or least concern wildlife. |
| protected plant(s) | A plant that is prescribed under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> as threatened, near threatened or least concern wildlife. |

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------------------|---|
| QPPs | Queensland Planning Provisions |
| rainfall erosivity | The potential of rainfall to cause soil erosion and is directly related to rainfall amount and rainfall intensity. |
| regulated native vegetation | Vegetation categories on regulated vegetation management maps that are regulated under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999 (Qld)</i> . |
| rehabilitate(d) | The restoration of an area of land, road, track or landing to a stable condition. |
| roads | Formed (e.g. causeway, raised road) or unformed (e.g. access track) surfaces intended for vehicle use within, or to access a timber plantation. |
| rubbish | Material that is discarded, rejected or thrown out by persons which includes litter and trash brought onto the plantation area. |
| sequential clearing conditions | <p>In relation to koala, means all of the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) that clearing of trees is carried out in a way that ensures koalas on the area being cleared (the clearing site) have enough time to move out of the clearing site without human intervention, including in particular, for clearing sites with an area of more than 3ha, by—</p> <p>(i) carrying out the clearing in stages; and</p> <p>(ii) ensuring not more than the following is cleared in any 1 stage—</p> <p>(A) for a clearing site with an area of 6ha or less—50% of the site’s area;</p> <p>(B) for a clearing site with an area of more than 6ha—3ha or 3% of the site’s area, whichever is the greater; and</p> <p>(iii) ensuring that between each stage and the next there is at least 1 period of 12 hours that starts at 6p.m. on a day and ends at 6a.m. on the following day, during which no trees are cleared on the site;</p> <p>(b) that clearing of trees is carried out in a way that ensures, while the clearing is being carried out, appropriate habitat links are maintained within the clearing site between the site and its adjacent areas, to allow koalas living on the site to move out of the site;</p> <p>(c) that no tree in which a koala is present, and no tree with a crown overlapping a tree in which a koala is present, is cleared.</p> <p>Note: clear is as per definition of clearing in the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>.</p> |
| site preparation | The preparation of the ground to provide conditions suitable for tree establishment by either seed or planted seedlings or cuttings. |
| soil erodibility | The susceptibility of a soil to erosion when exposed and/or disturbed. |
| State map | For koala, means: the <u>State Planning Regulatory Provisions (SRRP) koala habitat values maps</u> |
| take | <p>In relation to an animal, means:</p> <p>(a) hunt, shoot, wound, kill, skin, poison, net, snare, spear, trap, catch, dredge for, bring ashore or aboard a boat, pursue, lure, injure or harm the animal; or</p> <p>(b) attempt to do an act mentioned in subparagraph (i).</p> |
| tamper(s) | For an animal breeding place , means: to damage, destroy, mark, move or dig up the breeding place. |
| timber | A general term used in this Code to describe standing trees or felled logs before processing into wood products. |
| urban koala area | <p>(a) each part of the State shown on the State map as an urban koala area; and</p> <p>(b) if a local government has an approved local government map for its area—each part of the local government’s area shown on the map as an urban koala area.</p> |
| watercourse | A defined channel which receives and conducts overland water flow for some periods in most years. |
| waterway | A river, creek, stream, watercourse or inlet of the sea. |

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------|--|
| waste | <p>Anything that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) left over, or an unwanted by-product, from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or (b) surplus to the industry, commercial, domestic or other activity generating the waste. <p>Waste can be a gas, liquid, solid or energy, or a combination of them.</p> |
| weed | <p>A troublesome plant growing out of place that may be causing harm to a crop, a habitat or the environment. A weed may be declared a pest under the <i>Land Protection (Pests and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i> and require control effort. It may be a Weed of National Significance (WONS) under the National Weeds Strategy (A national approach for weed management in Australia, Department of the Environment and Water Resources, 2007) or it may be listed in a Local Government Area Pest Management Plan.</p> |
| wildlife authority | <p>A lease, agreement, licence, permit or other authority under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (including under a regulation) in relation to a protected animal or protected plant.</p> |
| wildling(s) | <p>Introduced plantation tree species that have spread unwanted into surrounding native forest, shrubland or grassland areas.</p> |
| windrow(s) | <p>A long, narrow row of vegetation, debris, and some soil created during site preparation.</p> |

Appendix 1: QPP Forestry for wood production codes

Development categories in Queensland:

The categories of development allowed in Queensland under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (the Act) are (in prevailing order):

(a) Exempt development

- development permit not required.

(b) Self-assessable development

- development permit not required
- assessed against **self-assessable acceptable outcomes** of Applicable code(s)
- used where development outcomes can be clearly expressed through acceptable outcomes in a code.

(c) Compliance assessment

- compliance permit required
- assess against **compliance outcomes** of the Applicable code(s)
- used in assessing development, post-approval compliance of documents and works, and where assessment requires some level of expertise such as the application of engineering standards.

(d) Assessable development

- development permit required
- assessed against **all applicable codes** in the assessment criteria
- generally used in assessing development against applicable planning scheme codes and relevant state planning instruments (such as regional plans and a state planning policy, where these are not reflected in the planning scheme).

Development should be classified as (code) assessable, rather than compliance or self-assessable, if achievement of desired outcomes will require some discretion when assessing the application.

(e) Impact assessable

- assessed against **all applicable codes** in the assessment criteria **AND** against the planning scheme (to the extent relevant)
- impact assessment involves the assessment of the impacts of development against relevant state planning instruments (to the extent they are not reflected in the planning scheme) and relevant sections of the planning scheme, including the strategic framework
- development that is impact assessable requires public notification and may be subject to appeals by third parties—impact assessable development has the potential for higher impacts or impacts that are largely unknown when an application is submitted and therefore requires broad discretionary assessment.

The Queensland Planning Provisions

The ‘statutory’ *Queensland Planning Provisions (QPPs)* are the standard planning scheme provisions made under the Act. They provide a consistent format and structure for local governments to prepare their planning schemes under the Act while allowing the flexibility to address each local government’s circumstances.

Under the QPPs, timber plantations are considered to be a form of cropping activity. The QPPs establish a universal local government regulatory framework wherever ‘*cropping (where involving forestry for wood production)*’ is assessed and approved separately to other forms of cropping in the rural zone.

If a local government chooses to specifically regulate ‘forestry for wood production’ separately to other forms of cropping in a rural zone, they need to apply the relevant level of assessment from the options provided in the QPPs and adopt the relevant Statewide code in their planning scheme.

The selected codes can only be **compliance assessment, self-assessable development or assessable development**.

The local government may exercise discretion in relation to the level of assessment chosen noting that ‘**Forestry for wood production**’ **cannot be subject to impact assessment**.

Important notice:

When adopted by a local government, the ‘forestry for wood production’ Assessment Codes are regulatory instruments under the Act. As such, it is mandatory that any new plantation development comply with these regulations in Local Government Areas (LGAs) where they apply.

Plantation operators should directly consult the planning scheme applicable to a proposed new timber plantation development to determine what assessment requirements may exist in a given LGA.

By searching the [Queensland Local Government Directory](#), plantation operators can access:

- contact details for all local governments in Queensland
- locality and location maps of LGAs
- links to local laws (including planning schemes) in effect within councils.

Applicable codes:

The applicable Statewide codes shown over the page were extracted from **QPP Version 3.1 (Gazetted 27 June 2014)**.

Refer to the flow chart in Figure 1 (see body of Timber Plantation Operations Code) if further clarification is required as to when and where these Statewide QPP codes can apply.

Note 1: Even though codes provide the basis for all three levels of assessment allowed for under the QPPs, users should note that the term “code assessable” is often used just to describe “assessable development”.

Note 2: While the self-assessable and assessable development codes may appear to be one and the same, Section PO4 of that code only applies to assessable development.

Part 1: QPP Forestry for wood production compliance assessment

The following has been extracted from *Queensland Planning Provisions version 3.1*.

9.2.2 Forestry for wood production code

9.2.2.1 Application

This code applies to assessing a material change of use for development involving cropping (where involving forestry for wood production) in the rural zone.

9.2.2.2 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the code is to ensure forestry for wood production is assessed with equal regard to other forms of cropping, to guarantee long-term harvest and minimise impacts.
- (2) The purpose of the code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:
 - (a) ensuring cropping for forestry for wood production is appropriately located and setback from areas of environmental interest and existing infrastructure
 - (b) minimising the impacts on adjoining land uses
 - (c) minimising the risk of fire
 - (d) ensuring the long-term security of harvest for forestry for wood production
 - (e) ensuring there is equal regard for the forestry for wood production form of cropping compared to other forms of cropping.

9.2.2.3 Criteria for assessment

Part A—Criteria for development requiring compliance assessment

Table 9.2.2.1—Development requiring compliance assessment

| Compliance outcomes | |
|--|---|
| Setbacks | |
| CO1 | The establishment of the forest for wood production is setback from existing infrastructure and areas of environmental interest in accordance with Table 9.2.2.2—Forestry for wood production setback distances. |
| CO2 | No cultivation and planting for wood production is to occur in the setback areas identified in Table 9.2.2.2. Road and track establishment and maintenance can occur. |
| CO3 | Self-propagated seedlings (wildlings) generated from the forest for wood production are eradicated from the setback areas identified in Table 9.2.2.2. |
| Impacts on soil structure, fertility and stability | |
| CO4 | The establishment and maintenance (including associated tracks and roads) of the forest for wood production utilises one or more of the following methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• mechanical strip cultivation on the contour, spot cultivation or manual cultivation is used for establishment on slopes greater than 10 per cent and less than 25 per cent• either spot cultivation or manual cultivation is used for establishment on slopes equal to or greater than 25 per cent• tracks and roads are established away from natural drainage features and |

| Compliance outcomes | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | areas that are subject to erosion and landslips. |
| CO5 | Any part of a track or road established and maintained as part of the forest for wood production is appropriately drained and adopts the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish and maintain a stable surface or • drain the track or road with crossfall drainage (preferably with a slope greater than 4 per cent) or by shaping the track or road to a crown so that water drains to both of its sides or • establish and maintain drainage structures to convey water away from the track or road formation (for example, crossdrains, mitre drains, turnouts and diversion drains or relief culverts). |
| CO6 | Drainage water from tracks and roads established and maintained as part of the forest for wood production is directed away from exposed soils, unstable areas, and towards undisturbed ground and areas with stable surfaces. |
| Fire risk | |
| CO7 | Firebreaks are established and maintained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between the forest for wood production, adjoining premises and existing infrastructure • at a minimum width from the base of the outside trees in accordance with Table 9.2.2.3—Forestry for wood production firebreak distances • that are free of flammable material that is greater than one metre high. |
| CO8 | Fire access tracks and roads are established and maintained to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a minimum width of 4 metres • ensure that no part of a plantation is more than 250 metres from a fire access track or road. |

Table 9.2.2.2—Forestry for wood production setback distances

| Aspect | Distance (measured from the base of the tree) |
|--|---|
| Areas of environmental interest | |
| Top of a defining bank of streams (gully, creek or river) that are represented on the 1:100 000 topographic map series in accordance with the stream order classification system | Stream order 1 to 2: 5 metres or Stream order 3 to 5: 10 metres or Stream order 6: 20 metres |
| State-owned protected areas and forest reserves under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> | 10 metres |
| Protected vegetation under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> | 10 metres |
| Infrastructure | |
| Dwellings | 100 metres or such distance that ensures the dwelling is consistent with the requirements of AS3959-2009 and the Building Code of Australia |
| Machinery sheds | 25 metres or 1.5 times the maximum anticipated height of the tree at harvest, whichever is the greater |
| Transmission lines and above-ground pipelines (excluding infrastructure servicing only the farm) not subject to an easement | 25 metres or 1.5 times the maximum anticipated height of the tree at harvest, whichever is the greater |

Table 9.2.2.3—Forestry for wood production firebreak distances

| Firebreaks | |
|---|---|
| Activity | Distance |
| Forestry for wood production activities less than 40 hectares | 7 metres |
| Forestry for wood production of 40 hectares to 100 hectares | 10 metres |
| Forestry for wood production greater than 100 hectares | 20 metres, or a 10 metre break that is free of flammable material that is greater than 1 metre high followed by a 10 metre fuel reduction area where forestry for wood production trees are pruned up to a minimum height of 5 metres, commencing once trees are greater than 10 metres in height |

Part 2: QPP Forestry for wood production self-assessable and assessable development

The following has been extracted from *Queensland Planning Provisions version 3.1*.

9.2.2 Forestry for wood production code

9.2.2.1 Application

This code applies to assessing a material change of use for development involving cropping (where involving forestry for wood production) in the rural zone.

9.2.2.2 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the code is to ensure forestry for wood production is assessed with equal regard to other forms of cropping, to guarantee long-term harvest and minimise impacts.
- (2) The purpose of the code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:
 - (a) the use is appropriately located and setback from areas of environmental interest and existing infrastructure
 - (b) the impacts on adjoining land uses are minimised
 - (c) the risk of fire is minimised
 - (d) expected harvest cycles, volumes, timescales and haulage routes, plus proposed wildfire management and the location of supportive infrastructure are known by the local government, where development is assessable.

9.2.2.3 Criteria for assessment

Part A—Criteria for assessable development

Table 9.2.2.1—Self-assessable and assessable development

| Performance outcomes | Acceptable outcomes |
|---|---|
| For self-assessable and assessable development | |
| Setbacks | |
| PO1 The establishment of the forest for wood production is located to minimise impacts (such as shading and falling trees) on infrastructure and areas of environmental interest. | AO1.1 The establishment of the forest for wood production is setback from existing infrastructure and areas of environmental interest in accordance with Table 9.2.2.2—Forestry for wood production setback distances |
| | AO1.2 |

| Performance outcomes | Acceptable outcomes |
|--|--|
| | <p>No cultivation and planting for wood production is to occur in the setback areas identified in Table 9.2.2.2. Road and track establishment and maintenance can occur</p> <p>AO1.3 Self-propagated seedlings (wildlings) generated from the forest for wood production are eradicated from the setback areas identified in Table 9.2.2.2</p> |
| Impacts on soil structure, fertility and stability | |
| <p>PO2 The impacts of the forest for wood production on soil structure, fertility and stability are minimised through appropriate management of the site.</p> | <p>AO2.1 The establishment and maintenance (including associated tracks and roads) of the forest for wood production utilises one or more of the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mechanical strip cultivation on the contour, spot cultivation or manual cultivation is used for establishment on slopes greater than 10 per cent and less than 25 per cent • either spot cultivation or manual cultivation is used for establishment on slopes equal to or greater than 25 per cent • tracks and roads are established away from natural drainage features and areas that are subject to erosion and landslips <p>AO2.2 Any part of a track or road established and maintained as part of the forest for wood production is appropriately drained and adopts the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish and maintain a stable surface • drain the track or road with crossfall drainage (preferably with a slope greater than 4 per cent) or by shaping the track or road to a crown so that water drains to both of its sides • establish and maintain drainage structures to convey water away from the track or road formation (for example, crossdrains, mitre drains, turnouts and diversion drains or relief culverts) <p>AO2.3 Drainage water from tracks and roads established and maintained as part of the forest for wood production is directed away from exposed soils, unstable areas, and towards undisturbed ground and areas with stable surfaces</p> |
| Fire risk | |
| <p>PO3 The risk of fire to adjoining premises and infrastructure is minimised through the provision of firebreaks and fire tracks and roads.</p> | <p>AO3.1 Firebreaks are established and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between the forest for wood production, adjoining premises and existing infrastructure • at a minimum width from the base of the outside trees in accordance with Table |

| Performance outcomes | Acceptable outcomes |
|---|---|
| | <p>9.2.2.3—Forestry for wood production firebreak distances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that are free of flammable material that is greater than 1 metre high • to be accessible and trafficable for fire suppression vehicles |
| | <p>AO3.2 Fire access tracks and roads are established and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to a minimum width of 4 metres • that are accessible • that ensure no part of a plantation is more than 250 metres from a fire access track or road |
| For assessable development | |
| Cropping harvest, haulage and wildfire management | |
| <p>PO4 The local government is informed of the expected cropping harvest cycles, volumes, timescales and haulage routes, plus propose wildfire management and location of supportive infrastructure.</p> | <p>AO4.1 When the forest for wood production area is greater than 10 hectares a management report is attached to the development application that contains the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expected harvest cycles and estimated harvest timescale • an estimated haulage route plan identifying likely local roads for transporting the harvest to the primary destination/s • proposed methods and supporting infrastructure location for managing wild fire (including an area map of the property location, adjacent roads and tracks, property entrances, location of fire access tracks and turnarounds on the property and location of water points in the area) |

Table 9.2.2.2—Forestry for wood production setback distances

| Aspect | Distance (measured from the base of the tree) |
|--|--|
| Areas of environmental interest | |
| Top of a defining bank of streams (gully, creek or river) that are represented on the 1:100 000 topographic map series in accordance with the stream order classification system | Stream order 1 to 2: 5 metres or Stream order 3 to 5: 10 metres or Stream order 6: 20 metres |
| State-owned protected areas and forest reserves under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> | 10 metres |
| Protected vegetation under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> | 10 metres |

| Infrastructure | |
|---|---|
| Dwellings | 100 metres or such distance that ensures the dwelling is consistent with the requirements of AS3959-2009 and the Building Code of Australia |
| Machinery sheds | 25 metres or 1.5 times the maximum anticipated height of the tree at harvest, whichever is the greater |
| Transmission lines and above-ground pipelines (excluding infrastructure servicing only the farm) not subject to an easement | 25 metres or 1.5 times the maximum anticipated height of the tree at harvest, whichever is the greater |

Table 9.2.2.3—Forestry for wood production firebreak distances

| Firebreaks | |
|---|---|
| Forestry for wood production activities less than 40 hectares | 7 metres |
| Forestry for wood production of 40 hectares to 100 hectares | 10 metres |
| Forestry for wood production greater than 100 hectares | 20 metres, or a 10 metre break that is free of flammable material that is greater than 1 metre high followed by a 10 metre fuel reduction area where forestry for wood production trees are pruned up to a minimum height of 5 metres, commencing once trees are greater than 10 metres in height |

Appendix 2: Protocols for plantation management plans

A **plantation management plan** (PMP) is prepared prior to operations and should demonstrate how the principles of environmental care, cultural heritage maintenance and fire protection objectives will be achieved, accounting for the scale, intensity and risk associated with an operation.

The PMP should be revised at appropriate intervals or in response to changed circumstances. PMPs are not required to include all details suggested below where such information is instead maintained in other corporate planning documents or support systems.

A **plantation management plan** should detail the following:

1. Plantation information:

- forest owner/manager details
- land owner details (if applicable)
- locality plan and plantation access roads
- lot plan info, boundaries and size of proposed plantation/s.

2. Plantation planning:

- names and contact details of neighbours, other affected stakeholders and services – relevant local and state government contacts, Rural Fire Brigade, etc
- annual average rainfall
- soil erodibility class and surface texture and subsoil colour
- species being planted, harvest cycle
- plantation management intent, objectives, targets, plus monitoring and evaluation systems
- Locations of fire management zones, firebreaks and water points.
- natural watercourses and wetlands locations, if any
- location of any regulated native vegetation
- location of significant features including cultural and heritage sites, existing buildings, roads, bridges, creek crossings, fences, gates, buried services, powerlines and water points
- presence of any significant species requiring special management consideration.

3. Plantation establishment and maintenance:

- staff and contractor training and WHS
- buffer distances to the applicable natural watercourses, wetlands and significant features
- buffer distances to existing buildings, roads, powerlines, gas pipelines and other applicable assets or features on the plantation property
- control methods and maintenance schedules for declared pests and diseases
- species and areas to be planted and compartment sizes
- direction of planting lines in relation to contours and natural drainage
- description of soil preparation methods
- access roads
- proposed fertilising methods
- rubbish and waste management and disposal.

4. Plantation fire protection:

- names and telephone numbers of adjacent land holders for each plantation
- names, addresses and telephone numbers of all local fire agencies
- firebreak and water point establishment methods and maintenance schedules
- hazard reduction methods and maintenance schedules
- specific measures to protect power lines, gas pipelines and other significant features
- staff and contractor training and WHS procedures.



Appendix 3: Queensland legislation summary

Current as of June 2015

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|--|--|--|---|---------------|
| <u>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</u> | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | Plantation operators carrying out a plantation activity (on any land whether public or private) have a duty of care to ensure that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. Related sites: <u>The cultural heritage duty of care</u> <u>Cultural heritage search request</u> | Section 21 Part 3 – Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage Section 44 Section 51 Part 7 – Cultural heritage management plan Section 153 | 2.1 2.2 |
| <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Qld) Act 1994</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | Chemical used in Queensland must be registered for use by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Related sites: <u>Acts administered by Biosecurity Queensland</u> <u>Licensing and permits</u> | Part 7 APVMA Part 8 Miscellaneous | 2.4 |
| <u>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | Plantation operators are required to ensure that aerial and ground distribution of chemicals by contractors and commercial operators is licenced. Related sites: <u>Acts administered by Biosecurity Queensland</u> <u>Licensing and permits</u> | Part 3 Aerial distribution Part 4 Ground distribution Part 5 Regulation of licences Part 6 Regulation of distribution | 2.4 |
| <u>Biosecurity Act 2014</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | The act establishes obligations in relation to prohibited and restricted matters and notifiable incidents. Related sites: <u>Summary of the Biosecurity Act provisions</u> <u>Landholder responsibilities</u> <u>Pests and diseases of forests and wood</u> This legislation is scheduled to come into effect by 1 July 2016) at which point the <i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i> and <i>Plant Protection Act 1989</i> are scheduled to be repealed. | Chapter 2 – Significant obligations and offences Chapter 5 – codes of practice and guidelines Chapter 6 – Managing biosecurity emergencies and risks Schedule 2 – Restricted matter and categories | 2.5 |
| <u>Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | Plantation operators are required to only use registered agricultural chemicals and to ensure that their application is in accordance with the label. The disposal of used containers is required to be in accordance with prescriptions contained in regulations. Related sites: <u>Guidelines for safe use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals</u> <u>Acts administered by Biosecurity Queensland</u> | Part 2 – Use of chemicals and substances having chemical residues | 2.4 |

Current as of June 2015

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|--|---|--|---|---------------|
| <u>Environmental Protection Act 1994</u> <u>Environmental Protection Regulation 1998</u> <u>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</u> <u>Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008</u> <u>Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</u> | Department of Environment and Heritage Protection | <p>Plantation operators have a general duty of care to take all reasonable and practicable steps to avoid harm to the environment. Under the act it's an offence for a Plantation operator to cause harm to the environment and an offence to not notify authorities if a Plantation operator is doing an activity and becomes aware that it's causing environmental harm.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Environment and pollution laws</u></p> | <p>Part 3 and Schedule 4 provide detailed definitions</p> <p>Multiple sections</p> | 2.2 – 2.7 |
| <u>Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</u> | Queensland Fire and Emergency Services | <p>Plantation operators are required to control and prevent fire risks and take required actions in the case of a fire emergency.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Queensland Fire and Emergency Services</u> <u>Rural Fire Service Queensland</u></p> | <p>Part 7 Control and prevention of fires</p> <p>Part 8 Fire emergency</p> <p>Part 9 Off-site plans for dangerous goods</p> | 2.5 |
| <u>Fisheries Act 1994</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | <p>Constructing or raising any barrier across a waterway requires a permit if the structure limits fish movement and has a significant impact on native fish numbers. Self-assessable codes may be used for minor, low-impact waterway barrier works.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Waterway barriers</u></p> | 76G | 2.2 2.3 |
| <u>Forestry Act 1959</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | <p>Plantation operators are required to hold a plantation licence for the management, use and sale of a natural resource product (as defined in the Act) on State forest and public land in Queensland.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Plantation forests on State lands</u></p> | Part 6D Plantation forestry | 2.1 |
| <u>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</u> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | <p>Plantation operators are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent new pest plants from establishing on the plantation site • prevent the spread of established pest plants on the plantation site • reduce the extent of existing infestations on the plantation site. <p>There may also be pests not declared under the Act that are declared under local government laws.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Acts administered by Biosecurity Queensland</u> <u>Pests and diseases of forests and wood</u> <u>Local government directory</u></p> | Chapter 2 Pest management | 2.5 |

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|--|---|---|---|---------------|
| <u>Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993</u> | Department of the Natural Resources and Mines | Plantation operators are required to have regard to native title if the matter is raised in relation to the plantation land. Related sites: <u>Native title information for landholders</u> <u>Land access – Native title</u> <u>National Native Title Tribunal</u> | All relevant | 2.1 |
| <u>Nature Conservation Act 1992</u> <u>Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006</u> <u>Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006</u> <u>Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006</u> <u>Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006</u> <u>Management Program 2006–2016 (Koala plan)</u> | Department of Environment and Heritage Protection | Plantation operators are required to ensure native wildlife and its habitat is protected. A wildlife authority is required for the taking, keeping or using of protected wildlife. Plantation operators must not, without a reasonable excuse, tamper with an animal breeding place being used by any protected animal to incubate or rear the animal’s offspring without an approved species management program. It is a reasonable excuse for a person to tamper with the breeding place if— (a) the tampering happened in the course of a lawful activity that was not directed towards the tampering; and (b) the tampering could not have been reasonably avoided. Plantation operators are exempt from requiring a permit to clear any protected plants when undertaking maintenance (including site preparation, weed control, harvesting and debris clearing) associated with an existing use of the land, such as a plantation management activity where the land was previously lawfully cleared. A plantation operator is also exempt from requiring a clearing permit for establishing or maintaining a firebreak or fire management line. Plantation operators are required to ensure that the clearing of any koala habitat trees in Koala Districts A and B is undertaken using a sequential clearing technique. In addition, all clearing of koala habitat trees in a koala habitat area within District A must be undertaken in the presence of a koala spotter. Note 1: For the purpose of koala management, “clear” takes the definition in the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> (means remove, cut down, ringbark, push over, poison or destroy in any way) which does not provide an exemption for undertaking a forest practice. Related sites: <u>Wildlife Online – request a species list</u> <u>Plants and animals (tampering with animal breeding places) animal breeding places</u> <i>Continued on next page</i> | Act: Part 3 provides definitions Part 5 – Wildlife and habitat conservation Part 7 – Management statements, management plans and conservation plans S174A – Codes of Practice S174B – Assessment guidelines Regulations: Multiple Regulations apply NC (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 • [s 261ZC] taking protected plants for maintenance activities • [s 261ZD] taking protected plants for firebreak or fire management line • [s 332] tampering with animal breeding place Koala Plan: Parts 2 to 4 Schedule 1 | 2.2 |

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|--|---|---|--|---------------|
| | | <p><u>Protected plant legislation - Clearing and exemptions and concessions</u></p> <p><u>Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016 (Koala Plan)</u></p> <p>SPRP koala habitat values maps (Replaces Koala plan habitat area mapping)</p> | | |
| <p><u>Plant Protection Act 1989</u></p> <p><u>Plant Protection Regulation 2002</u></p> | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries | <p>Plantation operators are required to have regard to this Act in relation to the provisions for the control measures for pest plants – that is the Act provides for powers to prevent, control or remove pest infestation of plants.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Acts administered by Biosecurity Queensland</u> <u>Pests and diseases of forests and wood</u></p> | <p>Act:</p> <p>Part 3 – Pest control Part 4 – Accreditation Schedule 1 – Serious pests Schedule 2 – provides definitions</p> <p>Regulation:</p> <p>S4 to 6 prescribed pests and notifiable pests S13 relationship with other Acts for chemical use Schedule 1 Schedule 2 Schedule 5</p> | 2.5 |
| <u>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</u> | Department of Environment and Heritage Protection | <p>Plantation operators are required to determine if there is a record of any State heritage places; archaeological places; or protected areas and take any required action to protect registered sites.</p> <p>There may also be local heritage places recognised by local authorities that are not on the Queensland Heritage Register.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Queensland Heritage Register</u> <u>Local government directory</u></p> | Part 3 through to Part 11 should be reviewed for applicability to the plantation activity | 2.1 2.2 |
| <u>Soil Conservation Act 1986</u> | Department of Natural Resources and Mines | <p>Plantation operators are required to conserve soil resources and facilitate the implementation of soil conservation measures to mitigate soil erosion.</p> <p>Related sites: <u>Soil information for plantation managers</u> <u>Establishing and managing hardwood plantations</u></p> | Part 3 Approved property plan Part 4 Project areas | 1 2.1 |
| <p><u>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</u></p> <p><u>Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009</u></p> <p><u>State Planning Policy 2014</u></p> <p><u>Queensland Planning Provisions</u></p> | Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning | <p>SPA regulates the development of land and captures a range of activities including new plantation development. In addition to legislation, plantation operators are required to comply with the <i>State Planning Policy 2014</i> and all relevant local government planning schemes and State regional plans.</p> <p>The Queensland Government views plantation forestry for wood production (timber plantations) in rural and agricultural zones as a form of cropping.</p> <p><i>Continued on next page</i></p> | <p>Act:</p> <p>Part 3 provides definitions Multiple</p> <p>Regulation:</p> <p>Schedule 4 Schedule 24</p> | 1 2.1 |

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------|
| | | <p>Most existing timber plantations on freehold land in Queensland are historic, and existing land uses, and therefore not subject to the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 or local government's planning requirements.</p> <p>New timber plantation forestry developments that constitute a material change of land use are generally subject to the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> and local government's planning requirements.</p> <p>The clearing of vegetation on State forest or timber reserves is not classified as 'operational works' and is exempt from development provisions.</p> <p>Related sites: Plantation forestry legislation and regulation Queensland Planning Provisions</p> | | |
| Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | <p>Plantation operators carrying out a plantation activity (on any land whether public or private) have a duty of care to ensure that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to ensure the activity does not harm Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.</p> <p>Related sites: The cultural heritage duty of care Cultural heritage search request</p> | <p>Act: Section 21 Part 3 – Protection of Torres St. Islander cultural heritage Section 44 Section 51 Part 7 – Cultural heritage management plan Section 153</p> | <p>2.1 2.2</p> |
| Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 | Department of Transport and Main Roads | <p>Plantation operators are required to note the State's rights and obligations for road management for both safety and efficiency – these provisions may impact plantation operators from time to time in relation to transport of resources.</p> <p>Related sites: National Compliance and Enforcement – chain of responsibility</p> | Multiple | <p>2.6 2.7</p> |
| Vegetation Management Act 1999 Vegetation Management Regulation 2012 Managing Native Forest Practice – A self-assessable vegetation clearing Code | Department of Natural Resources and Mines | <p>The clearing of native vegetation in Queensland is regulated by the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>, the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> and associated policies and codes.</p> <p>Whether a plantation operator requires a permit or not for the clearing of any native vegetation depends on the type of vegetation; the tenure of the land; location, extent and purpose of the proposed clearing; and who is proposing to do the clearing. It is not permissible to clear native vegetation (Category B regulated vegetation) for the initial establishment of a plantation.</p> <p><i>Continued on next page</i></p> | <p>Act: S7 - S12; S19 O (1)(b); S19 P; S19 Q; S20AK to S20B; S20J; S20K; S22; S70AA; S70A; S72; S91; S101; S102; S117</p> <p>Regulation: Part 2 Approved self-assessable Code</p> | 2.2 |

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | <p>Exemptions may exist, or approval may be obtained, for clearing certain classes of regulated native vegetation when undertaking activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishing new infrastructure; - clearing to maintain existing infrastructure; - clearing to establish a necessary fence, road or vehicular track; - clearing a necessary fire management line; - clearing to establish or maintain a necessary firebreak; - clearing by fire to reduce hazardous fuel loads (under Permit); - clearing to remove/reduce imminent risk posed to people or infrastructure. - clearing for development (under a development approval). <p>A self-assessable vegetation clearing Code applies to managing a native forest practice on freehold land.</p> <p>Related sites: Obtaining approval to clear native vegetation Requesting a regulated vegetation management map Sustainable Planning Act 2009</p> | | |
| <p>Water Act 2000 Water Regulation 2002</p> | Department of Natural Resources and Mines | <p>Plantation operators may require an authorisation for an activity or works (including pumping equipment, diversion channels, weirs, barrages, dams, or bores) constructed to take or interfere with water from watercourses, lakes, springs, aquifers or overland flow.</p> <p>Plantation Operators needing to excavate or place fill within a watercourse, lake or spring, may need to apply for a riverine protection permit. Such a permit is not required if excavation or placement of fill is undertaken in accordance with riverine protection permit exemption requirements.</p> <p>Related sites: Authorisations in water areas Riverine protection permit exemption requirements</p> | <p>Act: S19 SS266 to S269 S814(2)(c)</p> | <p>2.2 2.4</p> |
| <p>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007</p> | Workplace Health and Safety Queensland | <p>The Act places the primary health and safety duty on a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU). The PCBU must ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers at the workplace.</p> <p><i>Continued on next page</i></p> | <p>Act: S274</p> | <p>2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7</p> |

Current as of June 2015

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|-------------|--------|--|----------------------|---------------|
| | | <p>The <i>Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007</i> is an approved code of practice (Code) under section 274 of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>. Plantation operators are required to have regard to this Code to achieve the required standards of health, safety and welfare required under the Act and the regulations. Compliance with the Act and regulation may be achieved by following another method, such as a technical or an industry standard, if it provides an equivalent or higher standard of work health and safety than the Code.</p> <p>Other codes of practice may also be relevant depending upon the task e.g. <i>Hazardous Manual Tasks Code of Practice 2011</i> and <i>Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace Code of Practice 2013</i>.</p> <p>Related sites: Work Health and Safety Laws and Legislation</p> | | |

Appendix 4: Australian Legislation Summary

Current as of June 2015

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| <p><u>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</u></p> <p><u>EPBC Act Referral guidelines for the vulnerable koala (Combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory).</u></p> | Department of the Environment and Water Resources | <p>The EPBC provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places—defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance.</p> <p>Plantation operators are required to refer a proposed action to the Australian Government when a proposal has the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.</p> <p>Plantation operators carrying out forestry operations outside of a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) Region (i.e. Queensland) are required to comply with Part 3 of the EPBC Act – “Environmental Approvals”.</p> <p>Koala referral guidelines for the vulnerable koala apply in areas that the koala, or koala habitat, occurs in Queensland. If a plantation operator proposes to take an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the koala or koala habitat, the plantation operator may be required to refer the proposed action to the Australian Government prior to commencing the action.</p> <p>Related sites:</p> <p><u>About the EPBC Act</u></p> <p><u>Listed threatened species and ecological communities</u></p> <p><u>World Heritage Properties and National Heritage Places</u></p> <p><u>EPBC Act referral guidelines for the vulnerable koala</u></p> <p><u>Protected Matters Search Tool</u></p> | <p>Act:</p> <p>Part 3</p> <p>Part 7</p> <p>Part 13</p> | <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> |
| <p><u>Export Control Act 1982</u></p> | Department of Agriculture | <p>Plantation operators may require an export licence for the export of various regulated products, including unprocessed wood, woodchips and sandalwood.</p> <p>Related sites:</p> <p><u>Export of Unprocessed Wood (Wood Export Licensing)</u></p> | Part II | 2.6 |

Current as of June 2015

| Legislation | Agency | Application and related sites | Legislation sections | Code sections |
|---|---------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------|
| <u>Forest Practices Related to Wood Production in Plantations</u> | Department of Agriculture | In accordance with the <i>1992 National Forest Policy Statement</i> , in February 1995, the Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture, representing the states, territories and the Australian Government forestry authorities, prepared a statement of national principles to be applied in the management of plantations. These principles set the framework for a consistent and scientific basis for sound plantation management to which states and territories subscribe. Related sites: <u>National Principles Related to Wood Production in Plantations</u> | All | All |
| <u>Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012</u> | Department of Agriculture | It is an offence to process 'domestically grown raw logs' that have been illegally harvested. Processors must meet due diligence requirements to mitigate the risk of illegal processing. Related sites: <u>Illegal logging</u> | Part 3 | 2.6 |
| <u>National Forest Policy Statement</u> | Department of Agriculture | The management of Australia's forests is guided by the <i>1992 National Forest Policy Statement</i> (NFPS). The NFPS was signed by the Australian Government and all mainland state and territory governments in December 1992 and by the Tasmanian Government in April 1995. As signatories to the NFPS, the Australian, state and territory governments are committed to the sustainable management of all Australian forests, whether the forest is on public or private land, or reserved or available for production. Related sites: <u>National Forest Policy Statement</u> | All | All |

Appendix 5: Self-audit checklist

| Self-audit details | | |
|--|---|--|
| Plantation operator: | Name: | |
| | Company: | |
| | Description: (e.g. landowner, plantation owner, plantation manager, harvest manager, contractor, other) | |
| Scope of audit (e.g. plantation group, coupe, operation): | | |
| Audit location/s: | | |
| Description of plantation: | Gross area (approximate): | |
| | Net plantation area (approximate): | |
| | Species: | |
| | Operation type/s: | |
| | Other information: | |
| Status of activities (e.g. new, ongoing, completed): | | |
| Period of activity being audited: | | From: / / To: / / |
| Audit date/s: | | / / / / |
| Other relevant information: | | |
| Auditor/s: | Name: | Signature: |
| | Name: | Signature: |

Note: When auditing the extent to which individual Code actions may have been implemented and/or met, the auditor/s should take into account the nature of the activity/ies and the overall potential risk, based on the scale (extent of impact) and intensity (degree of impact) of operations.

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|---|--------|----------|
| <p>Plantation planning and management:</p> <p>Goal 1: Plantations should be planned and managed to optimise the socio-economic and environmental benefits for Queensland.</p> | | |
| 2.1.1 The planning and management of plantations will be undertaken in accordance with all applicable Statutory and legal instruments. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.1.2 The environmental, social and economic impacts of all plantation operations envisaged for an area should be considered during the planning process. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.1.3 Values such as intensive recreation, high scenic quality, significant geomorphic, biological, or cultural sites, should be recognised and considered for protection during the planning and management of plantation forest operations. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.1.4 Buildings, roads, powerlines, gas pipelines and other applicable assets or features on the plantation property should be taken into consideration when planning and managing plantations. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.1.5 The impacts of forest management on water management should be considered in accordance with authorised catchment management plans. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.1.6 A plantation should be managed according to an operational plantation management plan (PMP). Note: Not considered mandatory for small, independent plantation operators managing timber plantations <= 30 hectares (in aggregate). * | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| <p>Follow up actions required:</p> | | |

* Further guidance provided within the Code

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| <p>Environmental and cultural values in plantations:</p> <p>Goal 2: Significant environmental and cultural values should be considered at all stages and adverse impacts minimised by appropriate planning and management.</p> | | |
| 2.2.1 Environmental and cultural values on plantation land should be identified, protected and maintained in accordance with authorised conservation and catchment management plans, relevant planning schemes and legislation. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.2 Plantations should be established on already cleared land. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.3 Protected plants and/or regulated native vegetation will be protected from clearing except where allowed under approval or exemption. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.4 Native wildlife and its habitat will be protected. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.5 Plantations should be appropriately located and set back (using buffer strips where appropriate) to minimise impacts on areas of environmental interest. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.6 Water quality values (physical, chemical, or biological) should be maintained in plantations by minimising disturbance to waterways. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.7 Soil erosion and water pollution will be minimised by avoiding timber production in inappropriate areas or slopes and by undertaking necessary preventive measures. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.2.8 All reasonable and practicable measures will be taken to ensure that plantation activities do not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage or other heritage places. * | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| <p>Follow up actions required:</p> | | |

* Further guidance provided within the Code

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|---|--------|----------|
| <p>Plantation roading:</p> <p>Goal 3: Plantation roads should be designed and managed to a standard capable of carrying anticipated traffic with reasonable safety while minimising impacts on environmental and cultural values.</p> | | |
| 2.3.1 Planning and management of road systems in plantations will be based on the economic principle of minimising the combined cost of roading and extraction while maintaining environmental and cultural values in plantations. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.2 The specifications (e.g. size, location and spacing) of drainage outlets along a road will take into account soil erodibility, the rainfall erosivity, proximity of the road to waterways and the incline of the road. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.3 Energy dissipating structures or silt traps should be used where necessary to reduce water velocity and trap sediments. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.4 All fill disposal areas and embankments should be planned and designed to minimise soil erosion, mass movement and potential water quality deterioration. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.5 Road construction should ensure that any disturbance to watercourse beds and banks is kept to a minimum. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.6 Watercourse crossings should be designed according to the nature, size and period of flow (both pre- and anticipated post-harvest) and the characteristics of the bed and banks of the watercourse. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.7 Watercourse crossings must be appropriately designed to minimise barriers to the passage of fish and other aquatic fauna and to comply with waterway barrier works requirements. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.8 Adequate temporary stabilisation should be employed to deal with site earthwork drainage and erosion control if road construction is halted or suspended for any reason. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.9 Quarry materials known to be infected with any pest plant or pathogen will not be used. | Y/N/NA | |

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| 2.3.10 Heavy vehicle traffic will not use roads in plantations when persistent wet weather compromises road drainage and water quality (in the absence of suitable preventative/remedial actions to manage risks to water quality) | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.11 Heavy vehicle traffic will not use roads in plantations when persistent dry weather causes surface materials to unravel to a degree that poses a threat to water quality (in the absence of suitable preventative/remedial actions to manage risks to water quality). | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.3.12 Roads should be closed (either temporarily or permanently) and effectively rehabilitated and drained where they are no longer required or where their continued use will threaten environmental values. | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| Follow up actions required: | | |

* Further guidance provided within the Code

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| <p>Establishment and maintenance:</p> <p>Goal 4: Plantation establishment and maintenance activities should be appropriate for successful tree establishment and growth and undertaken with care for the protection of environmental and cultural values and immediate neighbouring land uses.</p> | | |
| 2.4.1 Plantation establishment methods should be economically and environmentally appropriate for the particular requirements of the species to be planted and the specific site conditions. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.2 Intensive management practices, such as site preparation, fertilising, weed control, pest and disease control and other operations will be carried out in accordance with all relevant legislation, regulation, policies, standards and codes of practice. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.3 Establishment of plantations should aim to constrain or prevent the introduction of wildlings into surrounding areas. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.4 Where windrows or heaps are created, soil within them should be kept to a minimum. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.5 For second (or subsequent) rotation plantation establishment, where practicable, harvest debris should not be burnt on site in order to conserve nutrients and reduce erosion risk. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.6 If waste timber and debris are to be burnt, damage to retained native vegetation should be minimised. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.7 Burning of windrows or heaps will not be conducted in the vicinity of power lines except with approval from the land owner and the manager/owner of the power line asset. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.8 Chemical use will be restricted to those chemicals registered for use or that have an off-label permit. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.4.9 Chemical use will be in accordance with applicable legislation and permit details and conditions, as well as recognised silvicultural, agricultural and environmental practices and techniques. * | Y/N/NA | |

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|---|--------|----------|
| 2.4.10 All rubbish or waste brought onto the plantation area and used in relation to plantation activities is disposed of in an appropriate manner. | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| Follow up actions required: | | |

* Further guidance provided within the Code

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|---|--------|----------|
| <p>Forest protection:</p> <p>Goal 5: Forest protection measures should be taken to minimise the impact of damage agents on plantations and surrounding assets, lands and communities.</p> | | |
| 2.5.1 Plantations and adjacent native forests should be protected to minimise the adverse effects of fire and the introduction and spread of pests and diseases. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.2 Plantation health should be maintained by employing appropriate preventative, protective and remedial measures. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.3 Plantation health surveillance should be undertaken on a regular basis. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.4 Where there is a known risk of introducing pests and pathogens, the risk will be minimised through appropriate treatment of equipment when moving from known infected areas. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.5 Plantation owners/managers will minimise the use of chemicals consistent with the availability of practical and cost-effective alternatives. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.6 Damaged or diseased trees in the vicinity of a power line easement or corridor will be removed where they are at risk of falling and making contact with power lines (where removal is approved by the land owner and the manager/owner of the power line asset). | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.7 The risk of fire to plantations and adjoining premises and infrastructure will be minimised through the provision and maintenance of firebreaks and fire tracks and roads. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.8 Where possible, fire breaks, fire access tracks and roads should be established on already cleared land. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.5.9 Fire protection planning should be undertaken in coordination with relevant land management agencies and with local bush fire control organisations. | Y/N/NA | |

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| 2.5.10 Appropriate fire control measures, undertaken in accordance with applicable legislation and permit details, will be implemented to protect plantation and surrounding areas from uncontrolled fire. * | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| Follow up actions required: | | |

* Further guidance provided within the Code

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| Timber harvesting: Goal 6: Timber harvesting will be conducted legally and safely and managed to minimise the impact of harvesting operations on environmental and cultural values. | | |
| 2.6.1 The plantation operator will establish that a legal right exists to harvest the trees situated on a plantation. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.2 Forest harvesting operations will be conducted in a manner which does not compromise safety, environmental or cultural values. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.3 A harvesting plan should be developed and signed off by all relevant parties prior to the commencement of operations. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.4 Any in-field chemical treatment of harvested timber will only utilise those chemicals registered for use or that have an off-label permit. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.5 The location of harvest boundaries should be easily distinguishable in the field. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.6 Plantation harvest infrastructure should be designed, located, constructed and maintained to minimise potential adverse impacts on environmental and cultural values, without compromising safety. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.7 Appropriate harvesting methods (e.g. cable harvesting or modified excavator based methods) should be used where conventional harvest methods are considered unsafe or may threaten the stability of the soil or may have potential for adverse off-site effects. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.8 Progressive rehabilitation and drainage of plantation harvest infrastructure will be undertaken. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.6.9 Harvesting operations will be modified, restricted or stopped where there is a risk to environmental values, particularly during or following wet weather conditions. | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| Follow up actions required: | | |

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|--|--------|----------|
| <p>Safety and training:</p> <p>Goal 7: Establishment, management and harvesting activities will be conducted in a safe and responsible manner by trained operators who have the skills, knowledge and tools relevant to the activity being undertaken.</p> | | |
| 2.7.1 All establishment, management and harvesting activities will be conducted to comply with work health and safety legislation, regulation, standards and codes of practice. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.7.2 All operators will be trained in the safe and responsible use of equipment, machinery and chemicals, and be inducted as required. | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.7.3 All operators will be trained in safety and environmental care. * | Y/N/NA | |
| 2.7.4 Plantation operations should be supervised and monitored by experienced and/or suitably qualified persons and be subject to self-audit and periodic review. * | Y/N/NA | |
| Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification) | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| <p>Follow up actions required:</p> | | |

* Further guidance provided within the Code

| Goal/Actions | Met | Comments |
|---|--------|----------|
| <p>Stakeholder relations:</p> <p>Goal 8: Plantation operators will actively engage with affected stakeholders and adopt appropriate communication and complaint management strategies.</p> | | |
| <p>2.8.1 Plantation operators will comply with this Code and should strive to build effective working relationships with affected stakeholders (including neighbours) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining in a PMP (see Appendix 2 of Code) or having another system in place which includes the names and contact details of neighbours, other affected stakeholders and relevant services; • consideration of the impacts of planned forest operations on affected stakeholders; • timely notification to affected stakeholders that may be directly affected by planned forest operations prior to their commencement; • taking actions to mitigate adverse impacts on affected stakeholders; and • addressing any legitimate complaints in a timely manner. | Y/N/NA | |
| <p>Other ways adopted/followed that meet the Goal (e.g. FSC / AFS Forest Management Certification)</p> | | |
| | Y/N/NA | |
| <p>Follow up actions required:</p> | | |

