

Questions and answers

Webinar 1: Data driven forest management

The program has committed to host annual stakeholder forums. This is an opportunity for people to learn more about the program, ask questions and provide feedback.

The Commission hosted a webinar in October 2020 with a panel of members from the NSW Forest Monitoring Steering Committee.

This paper:

- responds to questions not answered in the webinar
- lists questions answered in the recorded webinar.

The webinar is available on the Commission's website.

Response to questions not answered in webinar

| Question | Response |
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| 1 Will there be any real time capturing of data or is it only historic data? | The program will capture new data – for example fauna monitoring, post-fire forest condition and health and measures to protect in-stream waterway health. The program will use historic data to develop baselines and trends and evaluate the performance of management plans. |
| 2 Will assessment of forest dependent jobs include the possibility that we will pay for ecosystem restoration through public payment for regulating ecosystem services - not just timber production values? | This project will develop a robust method to estimate forest-dependent jobs - for example timber and wood production, non-timber forest products, recreation and tourism, forest management and support services. This will provide quality assured data and evidence to inform government decision making and policy. |
| 3 How many attendees are there to this webinar today? | Fifty-four (54) attendees. |

| Question | Response |
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| <p>4 Following on from previous question about EPA Bushfire Affected Operations Site Specific Conditions (BAO SSC). A resident who received a letter advising South Brooman Cpts 52A,53A and 54A will be logged from end of September rang FCNSW. The person was advised that the Bushfire Affected Operations Site Specific Conditions will not be applied. Is this possible as these conditions mean unburned canopies are not logged, fourth order creeks buffers are increased from 5 to 20m and all other creeks increased 10m, rainforest buffers increased 10m and EEC increased 35m and all HBTS retained - all essential for surviving wildlife that survived in creek lines with intact canopy. Much of South Brooman creek lines has unburnt canopy.</p> | <p>This question is beyond the scope of the monitoring program.</p> <p>The EPA issues additional site-specific conditions under the coastal IFOA that tailor protections for the specific circumstances of burnt forests. The EPA have asked the Commission to oversee monitoring of burnt area harvesting sites. More information at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations</p> <p>The most up-to-date information can be found at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations/update-september-2020</p> |
| <p>5 Normal CCIFOA are not enough for burnt forests which is why the EPA imposed Bushfire Affected Operations Site Specific Conditions - why are they no longer being applied - the forest is still burnt, and wildlife decimated?</p> | <p>This question is beyond the scope of the monitoring program.</p> <p>The EPA issues additional site-specific conditions under the coastal IFOA. The EPA inspect sites for compliance. More information at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations/inspections-of-burnt-forestry-operations.</p> <p>The most up-to-date information can be found at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations/update-september-2020</p> |

| Question | Response |
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| 6 IS FCNSW insisting with the EPA that Bushfire Affected Operations Site Specific Conditions not be applied? | <p>This question is beyond the scope of the monitoring program.</p> <p>The EPA issues additional site-specific conditions under the coastal IFOA. FCNSW must comply with conditions. The EPA inspect sites for compliance. More information at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations/inspections-of-burnt-forestry-operations</p> <p>The most up-to-date information can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations/update-september-2020</p> |

Questions answered in webinar

| Question |
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| 1 Given the massive impacts of wildfires burning whole catchments from ridgetops to river edges, why is the protection of forest waterways focussed on roads, instead of wildfires as a first priority? |
| 2 Will these assessments be way too late and pointless given that NSW Forest Corp are currently ignoring the proscriptions developed by NSW EPA for compartment logging since the 2019/20 wildfires? |
| 3 Is one of the future scenarios being explored the transition out of logging of the NSW public native forests so that they can be managed for other values that align with community expectations? |
| 4 What is the starting point for assessing balance - balanced "use" of the remaining fragments? Or balance as we would have done it if starting damage from now? |
| 5 The Koala DA Mapping had numerous errors, mapping non-native vegetation as high-quality koala habitat. What processes will be used to ensure the forest health analysis, using imagery from previous decades, will provide reliable baseline data? |
| 6 The Steering Committee doesn't appear to have NPWS or NFF representation. Why is this given they manage most of the forest are managed by these? |
| 7 What mechanisms are there actually going to be following on from the monitoring to change forest management? In particular forests in RFAs or CIFOA? I was of the understanding there was limited mechanisms for requiring forestry management change? |
| 8 Hi, I am an ecologist, vegetation, in relation to soil & water doing my doctorate at UOW looking at influence of woodland and native forest to adjoining agriculture. Please can I be engaged in the monitoring where it is close to my sites? |

Question

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- 9 How much emphasis will actually be placed on Aboriginal values, knowledge, monitoring (current & historical) & employment?
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- 10 What definition of forest does NSW use?
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- 11 Re economic values again - are these based on current values for products and services or potential alternative economies that include full environmental services assessment and how will values be assigned. For example, what value for carbon will be used to assess the value of carbon storage?
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- 12 DPIE is currently undertaking a review of regional water strategies -- this is looking at how water should be managed and regulated for the next couple of decades. This project seems to be taking an approach of neatly stepping around the constraints of existing policy and legislation. This forest project seems to be taking the base line that is not able to change existing policy. One of the scenarios that should be explored is to transition out of logging in public forests ... so they can be managed for biodiversity and other values aligning with current community expectations. Is consideration of this scenario possible in this program?
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- 13 Is the forest health project purely a remote sensing project or are you aiming to use other datasets, eg permanent growth plots, that predate 1988?
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- 14 RE: the five environment baseline projects the use of base reference data from the late 1980's was mentioned. My question is if in the future plan, 'forward to the past' if you like, is the NRC looking at producing the sort of forests that existed at 1980 involving current use of forest or at the time of white occupation which reflected many years of aboriginal burning practices or is the NRC looking at producing forests that might have existed prior to aboriginal occupation?
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- 15 How will sustainability be defined? Will it allow for species extinction?
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- 16 How is forest management of the reserve system being evaluated? It is clear post 2019/2020 that the management of the reserve system has been inadequate to maintain the biodiversity values.
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- 17 RE: not looking to change the forests to what they were - doesn't that preclude recommendations for increased indigenous burning to improve forest and ecosystem health??
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