NSW FOREST MONITORING & IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Delivering the evidence we need for the forests we want*

NSW GOVERNMENT Natural Resources Commission

Decision makers will have reliable and relevant information for decision making

- Management performance
- Post-fire, drought and dieback recovery
- Forestry rules
- Forest management priorities
- Decisions on tenure
- RFA and IFOA reporting

Deliver state-wide:
- Forest extent, condition and health (DPI science, Spatial Vision, RMIT)
- Fauna and flora species distribution and occupancy (UNE, DPI Science, DPIE)
- Forest carbon (Mullion Group)
- Soil stability and health (Syd University, DPIE)
- Water quality and quantity (University of Melbourne)

- Continue cross-tenure fauna monitoring (DPI science, FCNSW)
- Deliver post-fire impacts on koalas and their habitat (ANU, DPI science)
- Establish cost-effective and long-term monitoring and datasets for forest extent and health, fauna and flora, water and soil and forest dependent jobs
- Aboriginal led on-ground cultural values & renewal assessments' (Firesticks, Coffs LALC, Tamworth LALC, Tumut-Brungle LALC)
- Evaluate effectiveness of forest road network (Alluvium)
- Develop post-fire forest recovery index to model recovery time and refugia

- Develop and use emerging technologies such as fauna call recognisers, drones, LiDAR, SENTINEL-2, Artificial Intelligence classification and prediction models

The program will democratise data and renew trust

- Visible and open data and advice

- Program data will be available on data portals for use by researchers and the community (e.g. SEED, NSW spatial collaboration portal)

- Engage stakeholder and community on data, findings and implications for forest management (Steering Committee)
- Deliver annual health check on Coastal IFOA (Steering Committee)
- Deliver annual reviews of species management plans (Steering Committee)

The program will provide oversight and dialogue

- Annual community forums
- Independent chair cross-agency committees
- Annual insight and recommendation reports

- Develop state-wide evaluation to guide program direction and investment (Steering Committee)
- Develop and oversee twenty-year monitoring, evaluation and reporting plans for Coastal IFOA and Regional Forest Agreements (Steering Committee)

- Develop future scenarios as decision support tool for strategic and adaptive forest management (Steering Committee)

The program will develop coordinated plans and transparent decision frameworks

- Scenarios and forecasts
- Monitoring and evaluation plans
- Management thresholds and triggers

- Develop frameworks to align decision settings with different approaches to monitoring (multi-agency technical working groups)
- Identify and apply decision and evidence thresholds to trigger management response (multi-agency technical working groups)

The program will use data to model and verify the past and future

- Baselines & historical drivers of change
- Monitoring & Research
- Technology

The program will join-up science across government and community

- Foundational datasets
- Citizens science & partnerships
- Standard methods & protocols
- Pilot innovative approaches

- NRC delivers independent advice to government
- NRC advice is publicly available

- NRC provides independent oversight including design, direction and accountability
- Multi-agency + independent experts committee steers strategic direction and coordination (DPI, DPIE, Aboriginal Affairs, FCNSW, EPA, LLS, Uni of Canberra, ANU, University of Melbourne)

- Pilot cost effective cross tenure remote sensed and forest plot network, fauna using acoustics and cameras and forest water catchment health (multi-agency technical working groups)
- Pilot forest-dependent jobs method (Synergies Economics and Verterra)

- Develop and coordinate standard approaches and methods for cross-tenure forest and fauna monitoring (multi-agency technical working groups)
- Develop standard approach to quantify forest dependent jobs aligned with ABS methods (multi-agency technical working groups)
- Develop standard method to assess forest road network water sensitivity across tenures (multi-agency technical working groups + Alluvium)
- Develop model to assess Aboriginal cultural values across tenure (Firesticks + multi-agency technical working groups)

- Develop and implement strategic approach to engage citizen scientists (Australian Citizen Science Association)
- Partner with universities, agencies, community groups and consultancies to deliver monitoring and research projects (e.g. Frog ID, waterwatch)

- Develop authoritative, open forest foundation datasets for use by researchers, community and decision-makers (Spatial Vision)

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