



NSW Forest Monitoring and Improvement Program

Stakeholder and Community Engagement 2019-21

The NSW Forest Monitoring and Improvement Program has committed to engage the community in an open and transparent manner.

The Program has engaged stakeholders and community:

- **Program Framework**¹ – to seek public submissions on a draft framework in June 2019
- **Regional Forums** – to explain the Program Framework and seek early feedback on the proposed Coastal IFOA monitoring program in September and October 2019.

The Program Framework establishes the high-level goals, principles and deliverables for the Program including community engagement.

This paper provides more detail on what our engagement aims to do, how we will achieve it and further opportunities to engage.

A specific **Aboriginal Engagement Plan** for the Program will also be developed to outline the Program's approach to Aboriginal stakeholder engagement.

What are we aiming to achieve?

1. **Be transparent and open.**
2. **Build and maintain trust in a genuine manner.**
3. **Understand the need and concerns of the community.**
4. **Leverage expertise and knowledge from the community.**
5. **Test thinking with the community.**

Who should be interested in the program?



¹ Available at https://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/literature_251363/program%20framework

How will the program be open?

The Program will engage the community in design and evaluation

- Seek feedback on plans and approaches.
- Hold annual forums to discuss monitoring, research and evaluation outputs.
- Seek partnerships with organisations for monitoring and research.

The Program will publish independent analysis and recommendations

- Publish reports including recommendations for potential improvements to forest management in NSW.
- Publish any independent reports or evaluations prepared as part of the Program.

The Program will track reporting obligations

- Ensure Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) and the Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals (IFOAs) commitments and obligations are monitored.
- Ensure information is available on NSW's Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal by end-2021.

Opportunities for further engagement 2019-21

Milestone and timeframe	Engagement
The Commission will notify registered stakeholders via email at milestones	
October 2019 Draft Coastal IFOA monitoring program framework - Inform and consult stakeholders on the draft Coastal IFOA monitoring program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website release of draft Coastal IFOA monitoring program for comment • Stakeholder feedback through submissions • Summary of stakeholder feedback and response
December 2019 to May 2020 Strategic cross-tenure plot network design with remote sensing - Discuss key design issues with interested stakeholders throughout the design process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholder consultation group • Website release of proposed design by April 2020 • Stakeholder feedback through submissions • Summary of stakeholder feedback and response • Meetings held with interested stakeholders
February 2020 State-wide priority evaluation questions - Consult stakeholders on priority evaluation questions for the state-wide forest monitoring program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website release of draft priority evaluation questions for comment • Stakeholder feedback through submissions • Summary of stakeholder feedback and response
March 2020 Citizen science - Discuss opportunities for citizen science under the Program with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website release of draft approach to citizen science under the Program • Stakeholder feedback through submissions • Summary of stakeholder feedback and response • Meetings held with interested stakeholders • Identify potential future partnerships for citizen science

Milestone and timeframe	Engagement
The Commission will notify registered stakeholders via email at milestones	
<p>June 2020</p> <p>Draft Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) monitoring plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform and consult stakeholders on the draft RFA monitoring plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website release of draft Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) monitoring plan for comment • Stakeholder Submission analysis • Meetings held with interested stakeholders
<p>September 2020 and 2021</p> <p>Annual Forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage stakeholders on monitoring, evaluation and research findings, and insights for adaptive forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-stakeholder forum to jointly review research, monitoring and evaluation information and discuss insights for adaptive management
<p>December 2020 and 2021</p> <p>Annual Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform public and interested stakeholders of insights and adaptive management outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish annual program insights report