

Additional information to support biodiversity evaluation sheets

NOTE: This is explanatory information only and should not be included in the notification information sent to the FPA.

Steps in the biodiversity evaluation process

These are summarised in the [Biodiversity evaluation flow diagram](#) on the FPA's website.

Details to be sent to FPA Biodiversity Program

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When you require advice from FPA's Biodiversity Program, you need to send a completed evaluation sheet. You also need to send the following maps and information (when relevant):

1. Maps at 1: 10 000 map (or similar) indicating:
 - floristic and/or RFA vegetation types (as a minimum, the location and extent of any vegetation types with a high priority for conservation management at either the floristic or RFA level of classification must be shown)
 - PI types (or broad age class and level of disturbance)
 - stream class (and any additional stream management prescriptions)
 - habitat types for threatened or priority fauna (as a minimum, the location and extent of any vegetation types representing suitable habitat for priority species)
 - location of any threatened or priority species within the proposed operation area or those that may be affected by the proposed operations (e.g. PC management issues; WTE nest issues – this should include consideration of carting routes)
 - distribution of any potential habitat for threatened species identified during field assessment
 - locations of wildlife habitat clumps (**Note: must be retained within the FPP area**), wildlife habitat strips, streamside reserves, or any other areas to be retained for biodiversity values or other special values
 - locations of retained aggregated prescribed under an aggregated retention silvicultural system, if applicable
 - harvest areas and silvicultural prescription to be applied
 - any specific prescriptions for flora and fauna (e.g. vegetation types and habitats proposed for exclusion, widened streamside reserves, etc.).
2. A 1:25 000 map showing the location of the proposed operation area and surrounding land use.
3. Eagle nest search reports (see FPA [Fauna technical note 1](#)).

4. Specialist reports or advice, where available. This may include details of flora or fauna surveys conducted in the area (e.g. by FPA, FT, DPIPW or consultants).

Note: For any operation involving native vegetation, the community distribution map should show the approximate route followed for the assessment of biodiversity values in the FPP area. If possible, locations where communities were specifically sampled or keyed out should also be shown – this is more important for communities of conservation interest (e.g. threatened communities).

The following information may also be useful to FPA specialists in some situations:

- aerial image (e.g. Google Earth) of FPP area, showing relevant features of the operation
- photographs of the coupe, particularly photos relevant to the biodiversity issue being referred to FPA.

Notes: If you are unsure of terms used in the evaluation sheet, check the glossaries in different planning tools, or contact FPA Biodiversity Program.

Use the additional details section on the first page of the online FPP notification form to indicate your reason for contacting FPA's Biodiversity Program, if it is not clear from information in the biodiversity evaluation sheet.

Send FPP notification, biodiversity valuation sheet and supporting documents to FPA through the online [notification system](#) or notifications@fpa.tas.gov.au.

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR SECTIONS 1–3 OF THE BIODIVERSITY EVALUATION SHEET

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FLORA

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES ([Step 1 in flow diagram](#))

Native forest vegetation

- *Floristic communities*: Use the keys in section 2 of the [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules to identify floristic communities in the proposed operation area (after field inspection). Most native forest coupes will have three or more communities. Indicate the conservation priority for each community (A, B or np).
- *RFA communities*: Use the tables in section 2 of the [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules to determine the equivalent RFA communities, based on the identified floristic communities. Most coupes have fewer RFA communities than floristic communities. Indicate the conservation priority and area for each RFA community (Y, Yog or N). There is no need to give areas of individual floristic communities if they combine into one RFA community.

Note that the planned harvest area of each RFA community is needed for the FPP cover page.

Other vegetation

- Use section 2 of the [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules to determine whether other native non-forest vegetation types occur in or adjacent to the proposed operation area. The FPA website has information sheets on [threatened non-forest communities](#) (note that all native non-forest vegetation communities are priority A communities).
- List exotic vegetation (e.g. plantations, pasture) by categories used in the FPP coversheet database. Include brackenfields in this section. All exotic vegetation types are non-priority (N) communities.

PRIORITY SPECIES ([Step 2 in flow diagram](#))

List any known localities of priority species that may be affected by the proposed operations. This includes all known sites within the FPP area, any sites potentially affected by associated activities (e.g. carting), and any known sites within 2 km of the FPP area that occur in similar habitats present in the proposed operation area.

Use section 3 of the [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules for information on threatened and priority species. Many threatened and priority species are distinctive and will be recognised by FPOs if encountered in the field, but others are seasonal or difficult to identify. **It is essential to check a threatened species database for known records in or near the area (within a minimum distance of 2 km).**

SITES OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR FLORA ([Step 3 in flow diagram](#))

Use section 4 of the [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules (Table 4A and 4B) to determine if the FPP area supports any sites of potential significance for flora.

OTHER FLORA ISSUES ([Step 4 in flow diagram](#))

For other flora issues see section 5 of [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules.

PHYTOPHTHORA CINNAMOMI (PC)

- Check FPA [Flora technical note 8](#) and section 2 of [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules for a list of PC-sensitive vegetation types and species.
- For operations on State forest, refer to Forestry Tasmania's MDC mapping for PC management areas.
- Refer to FPA [Flora technical note 8](#) for PC management recommendations.

REMNANT FOREST

Refer to section 5 of the [Forest botany manual](#) regional modules for a definition of remnant forest. Please note that a technical note is currently being developed to further define the values of remnant forest.

EFFECTS ON RESERVES**Reserves for the purpose of completing this section include**

- Formal reserves (e.g. World Heritage Area, State Reserve, Forest Reserve)
- Informal reserves (that have been dedicated as such for their biodiversity values e.g. CAR informal reserves)
- Special Management Zones for Flora or Fauna
- Private land reserves (e.g. Private Forest Reserves Program, Protected Areas on Private Land, etc.)

FAUNA

PRIORITY SPECIES (including threatened species) ([Step 5 in flow diagram](#))

This section deals with threatened species and priority species that may be affected by the proposed operations. This includes all sites within the proposed operation area, sites potentially affected by associated activities (e.g. carting), and sites adjacent to the proposed operation area that occur in similar habitats to those present in the proposed operation area (or as indicated in the [Threatened Fauna Adviser](#) e.g. within 500 m or 1 km line-of-sight of an eagle nest, within a catchment of threatened hydrobiid snails, etc.).

Consult the [Biodiversity Values Database](#) to determine whether or not the FPP area is within the range of a priority species and to obtain information on known priority species locations and potential habitat descriptions. Use the [Threatened Fauna Adviser](#) to obtain a recommendation for each species listed in tables 'known localities' and 'potential habitat'. List the recommendation number and include the audit path for each species.

Note that:

- The audit path (and recommendations) can be printed on separate pages.
- **Please do not send the printouts of the TFA to FPA.**

Add the relevant prescriptions into Section 3 of the evaluation sheet.

Note that the Threatened Fauna Adviser may need to be used a number of times for each species:

- where there are several stream classes present (e.g. aquatic species)
- in an operation where there are several activities proposed (e.g. roading, harvesting).

If a recommended management action cannot be applied, or there is no management action for a species or operation type, seek advice from the FPA.

WILDLIFE HABITAT STRIPS (WHSs) ([Step 6 in flow diagram](#))

Section D3.2 of the *Forest Practices Code* and FPA [Flora technical note 8](#) provide guidelines on the establishment and management of WHSs. WHSs have been established for most areas of State forest and some areas on private property. WHSs may need to be considered for larger private properties.

The following guidelines will be considered during FPP preparation involving **roading through a WHS**

- *The road should pass through the strip at right angles where practical, rather than diagonally or longitudinally. Operational issues (e.g. class of road, safety, topography, geology, slope, drainage) may impose constraints on the location of roads through WHSs. Note that where roads do not pass through at right angles, the shortest possible route should be found.*
- *The width of clearing of vegetation should be minimised where the road passes through the WHS (as a guideline, where practicable, the total width of vegetation clearing through a WHS should not exceed 15 m).*
- *Where the road passes through the WHS, trees should be felled parallel to the road and not into the adjacent intact vegetation, wherever practicable (or unless authorised by an FPO for safety or other operational reasons). Where a tree accidentally falls into the WHS a decision should be made by an FPO as to whether the tree will be pulled out or left in place (depending on the particular circumstances).*

The following guidelines will be considered during FPP preparation where operations are **adjacent to a WHS:**

- *The coupe should be designed to ensure that fires from high intensity regeneration burns do not enter the WHS. The FPP or burning plan may need to include additional prescriptions to minimise the risk of fire entering the WHS (e.g. scrub rolling, placing windrows as far as practical away from boundary).*
- *No trees should be felled into or out of the WHS unless authorised by an FPO for safety reasons. Where a tree accidentally falls into a WHS a decision will be made by an FPO as to whether the tree will be pulled out or left in place.*
- *No machinery should enter the WHS.*

WILDLIFE HABITAT CLUMPS (WHCs) ([Step 7 in flow diagram](#))

Section D3.2 of the Forest Practices Code and FPA [Fauna technical note 7](#) provide guidelines on the establishment and management of WHCs. Specifically, the flow chart in the technical note should be used to answer the questions in section 2.3.

If WHCs are required, refer to FPA [Fauna technical note 7](#) for management guidelines. Indicate in section 3 the number of WHCs to be retained, the composition of the WHCs (if specific requirements are needed for priority fauna or due to silvicultural/operational issues), the location of the WHCs, or the approximate area of the proposed FPP area where WHCs will be required. If there has been an adjoining FPP area with previously retained clumps, ensure these clumps are retained by marking on the FPP map and flagging in the field. Note that WHCs must be retained WITHIN the area covered by the FPP.

Document control log table

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Version control

Version	Date	Author(s)	Summary of changes
0.1	May 2012	Anne Chuter and Sarah Munks	Original version.
1.0	January 2013	Chris Grove	Deleted flow chart from document and added hyperlinks

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Stages required for release outside FPA

Category of advice	C	
Stages	Required/not required	Completed (date)
Specialist	Required	21.9.12
Line Manager	Not required	26.9.12
Peer/FPO/stakeholder review	Required	21.9.12
CFPO	Required	27.9.12
FPAC	Not required	
Board	Not required	