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| **BIODIVERSITY EVALUATION SHEET**  **PLANTATION THINNING AND SMALL PLANTATION OPERATIONS** |
| **Planner name:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |
| **Coupe Name:**  |  |
| **Location (Grid Reference):** |  |
| **Forest Practices Plan (FPP) if known:** |  |
| **Forest Practices Plan Area (FPP) (ha):** |  |
| **Operation Area (ha):**(e.g. harvesting area, within the FPP boundary) |  |
| **Operation type:** |  |

###### GENERAL INFORMATION

* This evaluation sheet is designed to ensure *Forest Practices Code* provisions for biodiversity values **relevant to plantation thinning operations; or harvesting of established plantations (where the total plantation area is less than 10 hectares)** are taken into account in the preparation of a forest practices plan (FPP). Note that this evaluation may not cover all biodiversity relevant provisions of the Forest Practices Code. The planner will need to consider any that are not covered here.
* Seek advice from FPA biodiversity program for any FPPs that involved activities on islands (excluding Bruny Island).
* **If advice is required** upload the draft biodiversity evaluation and any supporting information (e.g., maps, database outputs, specialist advice) to the FPA notification system. Once advice is received, complete the sheets and upload the final biodiversity evaluation sheets (including the final management prescriptions in section 3 and any supporting information) to the FPA coverpage database for monitoring purposes.
* If advice is not required please complete sections 1-3 of this biodiversity evaluation sheet and upload the sheets (including the final management prescriptions in section 3 and any supporting information) to the FPA coverpage database for monitoring purposes.
* Note that prior to completing this evaluation sheet a desktop and field assessment of the occurrence of biodiversity values within and immediately adjacent (within 100m) to the FPP area must be undertaken. An eagle nest search may be required within 1km of the boundary of the FPP and the results of the search recorded using the appropriate raptor search forms.
* A map should be created indicating the location of any biodiversity values that may be impacted on by the proposed operation (eg., remnant native vegetation communities, known localities for threatened species, habitat for threatened species etc). The purpose of the map is to (1) assist FPA staff in providing advice on management of habitat (where required), and (2) provide a record of how the habitat assessment was undertaken for future compliance monitoring (i.e. map should be kept on file as part of this biodiversity evaluation).
* Forest Practices Officers must check that the recommended actions delivered by the Threatened Species Adviser other planning tools are current prior to certifying a forest practices plan or variation to a plan. It is also recommended that biodiversity evaluations are reviewed if operations do not commence within, at most, six months of certification. This review will include, as a minimum, a check of the locality database information (e.g. known localities on the Biodiversity Values Database). Contact the FPA for advice if there is new information that might influence actions required.
* See the [Additional information](http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/fpa_services/planning_assistance/advisory_planning_tools/biodiversity_evaluation_sheet)  document for explanatory notes, planning tools and definitions to help with the completion of each section of this evaluation sheet.

**ADVICE REQUIRED FROM THE FPA BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM**

If advice is required, please provide information in the box below on the specific request/s for advice (e.g. I am seeking advice on the management of *Epacris virgata*), and provide any extra background information to help with the provision of advice

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# SECTION 1: FLORA ASSESSMENT

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| 1. Will the operation affect a threatened native vegetation community?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
|  **If ‘YES’ complete table 1 in SECTION 3 and contact the FPA Biodiversity Program for advice.** Use the FPA Biodiversity Values Database (BVD), DPIPWE Natural Values Atlas (NVA) or Conserve and field assessments to identify any threatened flora species within the FPP area. It is recommended that the BVD or NVA is checked as a minimum. FPA cannot guarantee the accuracy of other databases***Databases*: [ ]  BVD [ ]  CONSERVE [ ]  NVA Date checked: …………**  |
| 1. Are any threatened flora species sites inside the FPP area?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| 1. Are there any threatened flora species sites outside the FPP area that could be affected by the proposed operations?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

**If ‘YES’ to 1.2 or 1.3, complete table 2 in SECTION 3 (for those species which you answered ‘YES’) and contact the FPA Biodiversity Program for advice.**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Is *Phytophthor*a known to occur near the site or could machinery transport *Phytophthora*-infected soil during the course of the operation?
2. Does the operation include establishment (or re-establishment) of *Eucalyptus nitens* plantation within 500 meters of a threatened native eucalypts with a high risk of hybridisation, ora threatened forest community with a high risk of hybridisation?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ] Yes [ ]  No[ ]  |

**Contact the FPA Biodiversity Program if ‘YES’ and the hygiene procedures in FPA *Flora Technical Note 8* cannot be applied (question 4) or monitoring guidelines in *FPA Flora technical note 12: Management of gene flow from plantation eucalypts* cannot be applied (question 5).**

# SECTION 2: FAUNA ASSESSMENT

Use the FPA Biodiversity Values Database (BVD), DPIPWE Natural Values Atlas (NVA) or Conserve and field assessments to identify any threatened fauna species within or adjacent to the FPP area. It is recommended that the BVD or NVA is checked as a minimum. FPA cannot guarantee the accuracy of other databases

***Databases*: [ ]  BVD [ ]  CONSERVE [ ]  NVA Date checked: …………**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Are there any threatened fauna species localities known from within, or within 1km, of the FPP area?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| 1. Is there any potential and/or significant habitat for wedge-tailed eagle, white-bellied sea eagle or grey goshawk within the FPP area or within 1 km of the FPP area?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| 1. Is there any potential and/or significant habitat for Tasmanian devil within the FPP area?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| 1. Is there any potential and/or significant habitat for threatened burrowing crayfish or aquatic fauna (giant freshwater crayfish, hydrobiid snails, threatened fish) within or adjacent to the coupe?
 | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

**If ‘YES’ to question 2.1 - 2.4, complete table 3 and 4 in SECTION 3 for those species which you answered ‘YES’.**

**SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TABLES**

**FLORA INFORMATION**

**Table 1: Complete table 1 if answered ‘YES’ to Flora Assessment Question 1.1.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *RFA vegetation community (name and/or Code)* | *Area (ha) within FPP* | *Are there any potential impacts on this community from the operation – direct and indirect*  | *What actions are proposed to mitigate potential impacts?* |
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**Table 2: Complete Table 2 if answered ‘YES’ to Flora Assessment Question 1.2 or 1.3.**

Use the Threatened Plant Advisor (TSA) to deliver recommended actions relevant to the operation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Species (scientific name)* | *Known locality – specify in/outside FPP area (include grid refs).* | *Is potential habitat present\*? Describe habitat and give location details.*  | *Is the operation likely to impact a known locality or potential habitat? Give details.* | *TSA Rec\*\** | *Summarise management actions delivered through the TSA* ***where******relevant to the operation****.* | *Can the management actions be applied? Provide details.* |
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\* For **potential habitat** consider the **flora habitat descriptions** in the BVD and relate them to the vegetation/habitats observed during the field survey. If present, it can be useful to **attach a map** of the distribution of potential habitat to the evaluation.

\*\* **TSA Recommendation number:** more than one TSA recommendation may be required for a species if the operation may impact a known locality and also potential habitat.

Advice must be sought from the FPA if:

* A threatened native vegetation community (TNVC) will be impacted by the proposed operation
* the management actions delivered through the TSA for a threatened plant species **cannot** be applied;
* there is not a suitable TSA pathway for the species and/or operation type; or
* the species is not included in the TSA.

**FAUNA INFORMATION**

Complete Tables 3 and 4 if answered ‘YES’ to Fauna Assessment Question 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 or 2.4. Only record species for which you answered ‘YES’.

**Table 3:** **Threatened fauna known localities, range and habitat information.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Species* | *Range category* | *Is a known locality\* present? Specify whether inside/outside FPP area* | *Is potential and/or significant habitat\*\* present? Provide details* |
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***\*known locality:*** *Use the information from the database report to determine if there are any known localities of threatened fauna which may be impacted by the proposed operation. You are expected to list all localities within the operation area and all localities outside the FPP area which may be impacted by the operation. For example, an eagle nest within 1km line of site of the FPP area or a stream species locality immediately downstream of the operational area.*

***\*\*potential and/or significant habitat:*** *Use information from the database report and field surveys to determine if the FPP area supports potential or significant habitat for a threatened species. Provide description of the habitat and location details. Attach map of the distribution of habitat. Give details if no habitat present.*

**Table 4: Management actions**

Use the information from Table 3 to run the Threatened Species Adviser and obtain an endorsed management recommendation for species **with habitat or a known locality** **that may be impacted** by the proposed operation.

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| *Species* | *List TSA rec number/s and summarise management actions delivered through the TSA relevant to the operation* | *Can the management actions be applied? Provide details.*  |
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Advice must be sought from the FPA if:

* the management actions delivered through the TSA for a threatened fauna species **cannot** be applied;
* there is not a suitable TSA pathway for the species and/or operation type; or
* the species is not included in the TSA.

# SECTION 4: MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Using the information gathered in the above sections list the management prescriptions to be included in the FPP for each biodiversity value in the table provided below. Management prescriptions may not be required for all biodiversity values covered in this evaluation sheet. Attach a record of all specialist advice received and any other information used in the formulation of these prescriptions.

**Management prescriptions for biodiversity values to be included in the FPP**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Biodiversity value | Management prescriptions  |
| 1. Flora values |  |
| 2. Fauna values |  |
| Any other management prescription to meet the biodiversity provisions of the Forest Practices Code.  |  |

***Include the following wording in all FPPs –***

**Reporting new sites for threatened fauna and flora**

If new sites for threatened fauna (e.g., raptor nests, devil dens etc.) or flora are found during the implementation of a forest practices plan, the sites must be reported to the Forest Practices Authority as soon as practical.

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