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| **BIODIVERSITY EVALUATION SHEET** **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 operations (roading, harvesting and reforestation) are taken into account in the preparation of a forest practices plan (FPP). This includes operations which involve conversion of plantations to pasture or back to native forest.

###### For plantations < 10ha in size, or for plantation thinning operations (any size) you can use the biodiversity evaluation sheets for plantation thinning and small scale operations.

###### 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 (completed sections 1-4) and any supporting information (e.g., maps, database outputs, specialist advice) to the FPA notification database. Once advice is received, complete the sheets and upload the final biodiversity evaluation sheets (including the final management prescriptions in section 5 and any supporting information) to the FPA coverpage database for monitoring purposes.
* If advice is not required please complete sections 1-6 of this biodiversity evaluation sheet and upload the sheets (including the final management prescriptions in section 5 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 of the area assessed 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 uploaded to the FPA coverpage database as part of the biodiversity evaluation).
* Forest Practices Officers must check that the recommended actions delivered by the Threatened Fauna 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.

**SEEKING ADVICE FROM THE FPA BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM**

Provide information in the box below on the specific request for advice and any extra background information to help with the provision of advice.

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# SECTION 1: THREATENED VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Use the Forest Botany Manual and field observations to identify the vegetation communities within or adjacent (within 100m) to the FPP area.

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| 1. Are there any threatened vegetation communities within or directly adjacent to the FPP area? | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

If YES to question 1, complete following table. If NO, move straight to Section 2.

**Table 1 Threatened native vegetation communities**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *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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Contact the FPA biodiversity program if the operation will have a direct or indirect impact on a threatened vegetation community **and** actions cannot be taken to mitigate potential impact. Mitigation actions must be documented in the table above.

**Is advice from the FPA needed for SECTION 1? YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]

**Management prescriptions**

Using the information gathered, develop management prescriptions for threatened native vegetation to meet the relevant provisions of the *Forest Practices Code* andprovide these in Section 5.

# SECTION 2: THREATENED FLORA SPECIES

Obtain database information on known localities of threatened flora species **within 100 m** of the FPP area and undertake a field survey. It is recommended that the BVD or the NVA is checked; FPA cannot guarantee the accuracy of other databases. Indicate the source of information used, attach database reports and any field information (e.g. FPO survey map, consultant report).

**Databases:** [ ]  BVD [ ]  NVA [ ]  CONSERVE [ ]  Other (specify): ……………………………. Date checked: ..………………….……….

**Field sources:** [ ]  FPO/forester field survey [ ]  Consultant survey/report [ ]  Other (specify): ………………………..….. Date of survey: ………………….……….

It is recommended that the FPA Biodiversity Values Database (BVD) or the Natural Values Atlas (NVA) Database is checked. FPA cannot guarantee the accuracy of other databases. Attach a database report and any field information (e.g. consultant report)

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| 2.1. Are there any threatened flora species records within the FPP area or within 100 metres of the FPP area? | Yes [ ]  No [ ]   |

If YES, list all threatened flora species with known localities within the FPP area and/or within 100 m of the proposed operations in Table 2, and complete the risk assessment for each species. Use the Threatened Species Adviser (TSA) to deliver recommended actions relevant to the operation.

 **Table 2 Threatened flora risk assessment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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:

* 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.

**Is advice from FPA needed for SECTION 2? YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]

**Management prescriptions**

Using the information gathered above develop management prescriptions for threatened flora species to meet the relevant provisions of the *Forest Practices Code*. Provide these prescriptions in Section 5.

# SECTION 3: WEEDS, DISEASE, REMNANTS and RESERVES

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| 3.1. Is there a Phytophthora sensitive community directly adjacent or within 100m downslope of the operational area?  | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

If YES, apply the hygiene procedures in FPA Flora Technical Note 8. Contact the FPA Biodiversity Program for advice if the hygiene procedures cannot be applied.

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| 3.2. Will the proposed operation (including roading) result in the clearing and conversion of any patches of native forest (includes individual trees and larger remnants)? | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

If YES, complete the table below.

The *Forest Practices Code 2020* states: ‘*Where native forest occurs mainly as relatively small patches of forest in substantially modified landscapes, consideration will be given to retention of native forest remnants to maintain local biodiversity’* (Section D4, page 66).

The *Forest Practices Code 2020* defines remnants as *‘the native vegetation remaining from the 'original' forest or non-forest vegetation in a landscape after land clearance/alteration. A remnant can be of any size or condition, including individual trees, both live and dead.’*

**Table 3 Remnant forest risk assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Description of native forest (including forest community, number of trees or size of patch/remnant)* | Provide details of the **potential impacts** from the proposed operations*Provide reasons if impacts are* ***unlikely*** | *Proposed actions to manage potential impacts* |
|  |  |  |

Contact FPA biodiversity program for advice if the proposed operation will result in clearance of a native forest community.

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| 3.3. Will the proposed operation have a direct or indirect impact on a reserve? | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

If YES, complete the table below.

**Table 4 Reserves risk assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Reserve (name) and type of reserve | Potential impacts from the proposed operations (e.g. disease, weeds, wildlings, fire, mechanical damage, disturbance to threatened species) | Proposed management actions to mitigate potential impacts (e.g. applying buffers, machinery wash down) |
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Reserves include:

* Formal reserves (e.g. World Heritage Area, State Reserve, Forest Reserve);
* Informal reserves (that have been dedicated as such for their flora 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.).

Contact FPA biodiversity program for advice if the proposed operation within the FPP area will impact a reserve **and** actions cannot be taken to mitigate the impact.

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| --- | --- |
| 3.4. Does the operation include re-establishment of *Eucalyptus nitens* plantation within 500 metres of:threatened native eucalypts with a high risk of hybridisation, ora threatened forest community with a high risk of hybridisationSee FPA flora technical note 12 for definitions of threatened eucalypts or threatened forest communities at high risk of hybridisation with *Eucalyptus nitens.*  | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

Contact FPA biodiversity program for advice if YES **and** the monitoring guidelines in FPA flora technical Note 12: Management of gene flow from plantation eucalypts cannot be applied.

**3.5** **The *Forest Practices Code* includes provision for the consideration of weed management in forestry operations. Please refer to the Code for guidelines on managing weeds. Use the box below to record any notes and/or management actions to be included for the management of weeds.**

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**Is advice from FPA needed for SECTION 3? YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]

**Management prescriptions**

Using the information gathered, develop management prescriptions for other flora issues (PC, weeds, remnants, reserves) to meet the relevant provisions of the *Forest Practices Code* and provide these in Section 5.

# SECTION 4: THREATENED FAUNA SPECIES

Use the FPA Biodiversity Values Database (BVD) **[ ]**  DPIPWE Natural Values Atlas (NVA) **[ ]** or Conserve **[ ]**  and field assessments (of the FPP area and within 100m) to obtain information on threatened fauna species and their habitats that are likely to occur within 2 km of the proposed FPP area and summarise the information in the following table. It is recommended that the BVD or NVA is checked as a minimum. FPA cannot guarantee the accuracy of other databases.

**4.1 Threatened fauna known localities, range and habitat information (include all species listed on the BVD report).**

Use the information from the database report and on-ground surveys to determine if there are any **known localities** of threatened fauna, the species **range category**, and if the FPP area supports **potential or significant habitat** for a threatened species. Provide this information in Table 9 below.

Use Table 5 to assist with undertaking a risk assessment for each species. Use the Threatened Species Adviser (TSA) to obtain a management recommendation for species with known localities or habitat present that may be impacted by the proposed operation. Provide information on the management actions relevant to the operation, and details on whether or not the actions can be applied.

Please be aware that if within the range of the following species there are precautionary management recommendations in the TSA even if no habitat or known localities are present: masked owl (rec 2), eagles (rec 4), grey goshawk (rec 2 or 3), quolls (rec 2) and Tasmanian devil (rec 3). The precautionary recommendation should be included in tables 5 and 6, and in the FPP.

**Table 5 Threatened fauna risk assessment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species name | Range category | Known localities\* specify in/outside FPP area Is potential and/or significant habitat present? Describe presence or absence of 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 that are **relevant to the operation** | Can the management actions be applied? 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.*

**\*\*\* 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.

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| 4.3. Are you within the core range of masked owl or swift parrot and the operation will result in clearing of any paddock trees (any native eucalypt species) >70cm DBH or *Eucalyptus globulus* or *E. ovata* trees (not plantation trees) > 40cm DBH?If yes, contact FPA for advice as these trees may constitute significant habitat for the swift parrot or masked owl under the FPA planning guideline 2008/1. | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

**When to seek advice from FPA Biodiversity Program**

Advice must be sought from FPA if:

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

**If a threatened species is not included in the TSA, please apply interim guidelines (e.g. administrative instructions issued by the CFPO) or seek advice from FPA.**

**Is advice from FPA needed for SECTION 4? YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]

If a TSA recommended action requires a specialist survey to locate a particular habitat feature at risk from a planned forest practices (e.g. eagle nest survey) then note here if the survey has been undertaken prior to certifying the FPP and attach the required report (or indicate file/document number).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Is a specialist survey required?  |  **YES** [ ]   | **NO** [ ]   |  |
| Is a survey report attached?  |  **YES** [ ]   | **NO** [ ]  | Document number/title: |

Management prescriptions

Using the information gathered above, develop management prescriptions for priority fauna species (includes threatened species) to meet the relevant provisions of the *Forest Practices Code*. Provide these prescriptions in Section 7 below.

# SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Using the information gathered in the above sections (1-4) 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.**

Note that the recommended action delivered by the TSA and other planning tools should be translated into a management prescription in the FPP. The management prescriptions relevant to the operation area **must** be worded such that the action is clear to those responsible for conducting the operation (e.g. contractor and supervisor). Maps, photos and illustration should be provided to clarify actions required (e.g., eagle nest, tree hollow).

Forest Practices Officers **must** check that the recommended actions delivered by the Threatened Fauna Adviser 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). For some species (e.g. swift parrot, wedge-tailed eagle), it may be appropriate to re-check known locality information and the currency of nest searches just prior to the start of the operation. **Contact the FPA for advice** if there is new information that might influence actions required.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Biodiversity value | Management prescriptions  |
| 1. Vegetation communities  |  |
| 2. Threatened flora species  |  |
| 3. Weeds, disease, remnants and reserves  |  |
| 4. 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.

# SECTION 6: DUTY OF CARE

If the management prescriptions for biodiversity values developed for the plan area (listed in Section 5) result in an area excluded from harvest that is above the Duty of Care threshold (see Guiding Policy of the Forest Practices Code) **and** the landowner/forest manager is not willing/able to meet the prescription through voluntary mechanisms then **seek further advice from the FPA**.

Modified actions may need to be formulated to achieve the management objective for the species within the duty of care thresholds or the matter may need to be addressed through strategic planning, offsets or other legislative mechanisms.

STT’s forest planners should seek advice from the Sustainability Branch on the estimation of Duty of Care thresholds in PTPZL.

**Is advice from FPA needed for SECTION 6? YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]

###### Upload the final version of this biodiversity evaluation report and any supporting information (e.g., maps, database outputs, specialist advice) to the [FPA coverpage database](https://coverpage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/account/login) for monitoring purposes..

###### It is recommended that FPOs also keep a final version of this biodiversity evaluation and any supporting information, with the FPP.

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