

Process for the development, review and continual improvement of the provisions of the *Forest Practices Code*

The forest practices system's adaptive management process, in relation to many biodiversity values, can be summarised as follows:

- The most up-to-date information is gathered from published and non-published sources to determine the 'expert opinion' with respect to the value in question and its likely response to various forms of forest management.
- The information gathered is used to develop management actions for the value. This may be done through a technical working group (e.g. fauna/flora strategic planning groups, hollows working group) convened for the particular value or issue.
- Comment is sought from all stakeholders, particularly practitioners (FPOs), on the proposed management actions and any associated implementation tools (e.g. policies, DSS, technical notes, etc.).
- The final decision on adoption or amendment of the management actions and any associated implementation tools is made by the Board of the Forest Practices Authority (and Secretary of DPIPWE in the case of actions relating to threatened species) who may seek advice from the Forest Practices Advisory Council, Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee and any other advisory bodies as required and in accordance with the Agreed Procedures under the *Forest Practices Code*.
- Training, education and awareness programs are conducted on a regular basis for forest practices officers, other planning and supervisory staff employed throughout the forest industry and landowners.
- The management actions are incorporated into forest practices plans through approved planning tools and procedures.
- The implementation of forest practices plans is monitored by Forest Practices Officers and FPA Compliance Officers.
- Research is conducted to improve understanding of the value in question and its response to different impacts.
- Monitoring is carried out by specialists to assess the efficacy of management actions.

The management actions are reviewed and revised on a regular basis to incorporate the findings of new research, results from monitoring and operational experience.

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