

EXTENDING REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS – OVERVIEW

The NSW and Australian governments have commenced work to improve and extend the duration of NSW Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs), which was a key commitment in the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap 2016.

The NSW and Australian governments are encouraging all stakeholders to have their say on what shape the future extended RFAs should take.

The NSW and Australian governments are committed to working closely with all parties in getting the balance right in the long-term management of our forest resources.

Stakeholder suggestions and feedback will be considered by the NSW and Australian governments in the development of changes and improvements to the extended RFAs. The changes the governments are considering include:

- A rolling extension mechanism where the RFAs will be automatically extended for a further five years if the five-yearly review is undertaken and a satisfactory outcome is achieved
- Streamlining reporting requirements
- Updating the RFAs to reflect contemporary policies and legislation and removing completed or no longer relevant commitments.

Consultation on the extension of RFAs is being undertaken at the same time as a review is being undertaken on the past performance of the RFAs – and a comprehensive implementation report about the performance of existing RFAs has been released.

The RFA review will provide a full appraisal of the past performance of the RFAs and drive optimal implementation of amended agreements, including what we can learn from our experience over the past 20 years.

As part of the extension process, the NSW and Australian governments will also be considering feedback given to the RFA review, which will help us to understand which parts of the existing RFAs worked well and which parts could be improved.

We invite people to have their say on the development of the draft principles:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/have-your-say/>

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au