

Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995 No 92

[1995-92]



New South Wales

Status Information

Currency of version

Repealed version for 3 December 1999 to 13 December 2001 (accessed 11 July 2024 at 20:22)

Legislation on this site is usually updated within 3 working days after a change to the legislation.

Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

Notes—

- **Does not include amendments by**
[Timber Plantations \(Harvest Guarantee\) Amendment Act 1997 No 150](#), Sch 1 [3], [8] and [20] (not commenced)
- **Repeal**
The Act was repealed by the [Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999 No 97](#), sec 71 (1) with effect from 14.12.2001.

Authorisation

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Contents

Long title	4
Part 1 Preliminary	4
1 Name of Act	4
2 Commencement	4
3 Object of Act	4
4 Application of Act	5
5 Definitions	5
6 Definition of timber plantation	6
7 Definition of harvesting operations	6
Part 2 Timber harvest guarantee	6
Division 1 Harvesting operations on accredited timber plantations	6
8 Harvesting operations not subject to Parts 4 and 5 of the EPA Act	6
9 Harvesting operations not subject to certain provisions of NPW Act, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and Heritage Act 1977	7
10 Harvesting operations not subject to certain orders under the Local Government Act 1993	8
11 Harvesting operations subject to Codes and other laws	8
Division 2 Accreditation of timber plantations	8
12 Application for accreditation of timber plantation or proposed timber plantation	8
13 Determination of applications for accreditation	8

14 Certificate of accreditation	9
15 Duration of accreditation	9
16 Cancellation of accreditation	10
17 Review by Minister	11
18 Notification of accredited timber plantations	11
Part 3 Timber plantation (environment protection) harvesting codes.....	12
19 Preparation of Codes	12
20 Matters to be regulated by Codes	12
21 Codes not to be inconsistent with laws applying to timber plantations.....	13
22 Adoption and amendment of Codes by regulations.....	13
23 Compliance with Codes	13
24 Timber plantation officers.....	13
Part 4 Miscellaneous	14
25 Act binds Crown.....	14
26 Proceedings for offences	14
27 Regulations.....	14
28, 29 (Repealed)	14
30 Review of Act.....	14

Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995 No 92



New South Wales

An Act relating to the harvesting of timber plantations.

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Timber Plantations (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

3 Object of Act

- (1) The object of this Act is to remove impediments to the harvesting of plantation timber (that is, trees that have been planted for the purpose of timber production) so as to encourage the establishment of commercial timber plantations.
- (2) In order to achieve this object, this Act:
 - (a) provides a scheme for the accreditation of timber plantations and proposed timber plantations, and
 - (b) removes the need to obtain licences under the NPW Act or the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* in connection with the carrying out of harvesting operations on accredited timber plantations, and
 - (c) removes the need for development consent under Part 4 of the EPA Act, or environmental assessment under Part 5 of that Act, in relation to the carrying out of harvesting operations on accredited timber plantations, and
 - (d) provides for the protection of the environment by requiring harvesting operations on accredited timber plantations to be carried out in accordance with timber plantation (environment protection) harvesting codes.

4 Application of Act

- (1) This Act applies to timber plantations established before or after the commencement of this section.
- (2) This Act does not apply to any land on which logging operations (within the meaning of the *Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992*) are prohibited by or under that Act.

5 Definitions

In this Act:

accredited timber plantation means a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation accredited for the time being under this Act.

Code means a timber plantation (environment protection) harvesting code in force under this Act.

Crown timber land has the same meaning as in the *Forestry Act 1916*.

Director-General means the Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

EPA Act means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

harvesting operations is defined in section 7.

manager of a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation means the person in charge of harvesting operations on the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.

NPW Act means the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

owner of a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation includes:

- (a) a lessee of the land comprising the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation, or
- (b) in the case of a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation which is a State Forest or other Crown timber land under the management of the Forestry Commission—the Forestry Commission, or
- (c) a person who has a forestry right (within the meaning of section 87A of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*) in relation to the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.

timber plantation is defined in section 6.

6 Definition of timber plantation

- (1) In this Act, **timber plantation** means an area of land on which the predominant number of trees forming, or expected to form, the canopy are trees that have been planted (whether by sowing seed or otherwise) for the purpose of timber production.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a natural forest is not a timber plantation. However, an area is not a natural forest merely because it contains some native trees that have not been planted.
- (3) A timber plantation can be a privately owned area of land, or it can be a State Forest or other Crown timber land, or any other land.
- (4) A timber plantation can comprise more than one area of land if those areas are under the same ownership or management.

7 Definition of harvesting operations

- (1) In this Act, **harvesting operations** means the cutting and removal of timber for the purpose of timber production, and includes:
 - (a) the provision of access roads after establishment of a timber plantation to enable or assist the cutting and removal of timber, or
 - (b) the carrying out of such activities as are necessary for the efficient cutting and removal of timber, or
 - (c) the carrying out of activities relating to the on-going management of the timber plantation (eg silvicultural thinning, weed control and similar maintenance operations).
- (2) An activity carried out for the purpose of establishing a timber plantation (eg, the clearing of natural forests and the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers in establishing a timber plantation) is not, for the purposes of this Act, an activity constituting harvesting operations.

Part 2 Timber harvest guarantee

Division 1 Harvesting operations on accredited timber plantations

8 Harvesting operations not subject to Parts 4 and 5 of the EPA Act

- (1) Development consent under Part 4 of the EPA Act is not required for harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation.
- (2) Part 5 of the EPA Act does not apply in respect of the carrying out of harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation (including the giving of any approval to carry out those operations).

- (3) Harvesting operations carried out on an accredited timber plantation cannot be prohibited or restricted by an environmental planning instrument (whether made before or after the commencement of this section) under the EPA Act.

9 Harvesting operations not subject to certain provisions of NPW Act, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and *Heritage Act 1977*

- (1) A person carrying out harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation is exempt from the following provisions of the NPW Act:
 - (a) section 98 (2) (relating to protected fauna),
 - (b) section 99 (1) (relating to threatened interstate fauna),
 - (c) section 117 (relating to native plants),
 - (d) section 118A (relating to threatened species, populations and ecological communities),
 - (e) section 118C (relating to critical habitats),
 - (f) section 118D (relating to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community).
- (2) Subsection (1) exempts the person only:
 - (a) if the harvesting operations are carried out in accordance with the Code (or Codes) applying to the timber plantation, and
 - (b) in relation to things that are reasonably connected with the carrying out of the harvesting operations.
- (3) An interim protection order (within the meaning of the NPW Act or the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*) may not be made so as to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation.
- (4) An order under Division 1 (stop work orders) of Part 6A of the NPW Act or Division 1 (stop work orders) of Part 7 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* may not be made so as to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation.
- (5) An interim heritage order cannot be made under the *Heritage Act 1977*, and listing on the State Heritage Register under that Act cannot be effected, so as to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation.
- (6) However, nothing in this section affects the making of any such order or instrument that is made for the purpose of protecting any Aboriginal relic or place specified in a Code applying to the timber plantation concerned.

10 Harvesting operations not subject to certain orders under the [Local Government Act 1993](#)

A local council may not give an order under section 124 of the [Local Government Act 1993](#) so as to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation.

11 Harvesting operations subject to Codes and other laws

Harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation are subject to the Code (or Codes) applying to the timber plantation and, except as provided by this Act, are subject to the provisions of any other law that relate to the management or harvesting of timber.

Division 2 Accreditation of timber plantations

12 Application for accreditation of timber plantation or proposed timber plantation

- (1) The owner or manager of a timber plantation, or of any area or areas of land on which it is proposed to establish a timber plantation, may apply to the Director-General for the accreditation of the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation under this Part, whether or not the timber plantation has been established at the time of application.
- (2) An application for accreditation must:
 - (a) be in such form, and be accompanied by such fee, as the Director-General may determine, and
 - (b) identify the area or areas of land comprising the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation by way of a map or other suitable means, and
 - (c) be accompanied by such particulars and supporting evidence relating to the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation as may be required by the Director-General, and
 - (d) in the case of an application for the accreditation of a timber plantation that has not been established, be accompanied by proof of any consent granted under the EPA Act, any law dealing with native vegetation management and control, or any other relevant law, in relation to the establishment of the timber plantation.

13 Determination of applications for accreditation

- (1) Within 60 days after receiving an application for accreditation, the Director-General is to determine the application:
 - (a) by accrediting the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation concerned, or
 - (b) by refusing to accredit the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.

- (1A) The accreditation of a proposed timber plantation may be granted subject to conditions relating to the manner in which the proposed timber plantation is to be established.
- (2) Written notice of the Director-General's decision is to be given to the owner or manager of the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation as soon as practicable after the decision is made.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (1), the Director-General may refuse to accredit the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation if the Director-General makes a determination that:
 - (a) it has not been established, or is not being established, in accordance with the requirements of the EPA Act and any other relevant law, or
 - (b) it has been, or is being, established in contravention of any law dealing with native vegetation management and control that applies to the timber plantation.
- (3A) Without limiting subsection (1), the Director-General must not accredit a timber plantation that has not been established unless any consent required under the EPA Act, any law dealing with native vegetation management and control, or any other relevant law, in relation to the establishment of the proposed timber plantation has been obtained.
- (4) To avoid doubt, the accreditation of a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation is not to be regarded for the purposes of any law as an approval under Part 5 of the EPA Act, and the Director-General is not a determining authority for the purposes of that Part when granting an accreditation.

14 Certificate of accreditation

- (1) The Director-General is to issue a certificate to the owner or manager of each timber plantation or proposed timber plantation accredited under this Part.
- (2) Such a certificate is:
 - (a) to be in a form approved by the Director-General, and
 - (b) to specify the date on which the accreditation was granted.

15 Duration of accreditation

- (1) The accreditation of a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation remains in force unless it is cancelled by the Director-General.
- (2) Any change in the ownership or management of an accredited timber plantation or proposed timber plantation does not affect the accreditation of the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.

- (3) The harvesting of an accredited timber plantation, or the removal or replanting of trees from or on the plantation, does not, subject to section 16, affect the accreditation of the timber plantation.

16 Cancellation of accreditation

- (1) The accreditation of a timber plantation (or any part of the timber plantation) may be cancelled by the Director-General at the request of the owner of the timber plantation or if the Director-General is satisfied:
- (a) that there has been a significant breach of the provisions of the Code (or Codes) applying to the timber plantation and that such a breach has not been remedied, or
 - (b) that the timber plantation has been abandoned, or
 - (b1) that the cancellation of accreditation is necessary to protect unique or special wildlife values and that compensation has been paid to the owner of the timber plantation in accordance with the Code in order to protect those wildlife values, or
 - (c) that harvesting operations have been completed and the area of land concerned is not intended to be continued as a timber plantation.
- (1A) In addition, the accreditation of a timber plantation (or any part of a timber plantation) that was not established at the time of its accreditation may be cancelled by the Director-General if the Director-General is satisfied:
- (a) that the timber plantation has not been established, or is not being established, in accordance with the requirements of the EPA Act or any other relevant law, or
 - (b) that the timber plantation has been, or is being, established in contravention of any law dealing with native vegetation management and control that applies to the timber plantation.
- (1B) In addition, the accreditation of a timber plantation (or any part of a timber plantation) that was not established at the time of its accreditation must be cancelled by the Director-General on a date that is 3 years after the date of the grant of accreditation unless, before that date:
- (a) the Director-General has been notified by the owner or manager of the timber plantation that the planting of trees forming the timber plantation has been completed, and
 - (b) the Director-General is satisfied, either by the evidence provided by the owner or manager or by his or her own investigations, that the planting of trees forming the timber plantation has been completed in accordance with any conditions of the accreditation imposed under section 13 (1A).

- (2) Cancellation of accreditation takes effect when a written notice by the Director-General of the cancellation is served on the owner of the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.
- (3) Nothing in this section (subsection (1) (b1) excepted) prevents the accreditation of a timber plantation that is re-established on the land or the accreditation of any proposed timber plantation to be established on the land.

17 Review by Minister

- (1) The owner or manager of a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation may, in writing, request the Minister to review a decision of the Director-General:
 - (a) not to accredit the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation, or
 - (b) to cancel the accreditation of the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.
- (2) Any such request can only be made within 60 days after notice of the decision was served on the owner or manager of the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation.
- (3) The Minister may, in reviewing the decision:
 - (a) confirm the Director-General's decision to refuse accreditation or to cancel accreditation, or
 - (b) direct the Director-General to accredit the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation, or
 - (c) revoke the Director-General's decision to cancel accreditation and direct the Director-General to reinstate the accreditation.
- (4) The Director-General must give effect to any such direction by the Minister.

18 Notification of accredited timber plantations

- (1) The Director-General must, when a timber plantation or proposed timber plantation is accredited, cause a notice to be published in the Gazette of the accreditation. Such a notice must identify the timber plantation or proposed timber plantation and include details describing its location.
- (2) The Director-General is to maintain a register of accredited timber plantations.
- (3) The register is:
 - (a) to include the details referred to in subsection (1), and
 - (b) to be made available for inspection by any person without charge at the head office of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning during ordinary office

hours.

Part 3 Timber plantation (environment protection) harvesting codes

19 Preparation of Codes

- (1) A draft timber plantation (environment protection) harvesting code is to be prepared by the Director-General as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Part.
- (2) A Code must be approved by the Minister before it is finalised by the Director-General.
- (3) More than one such Code may be prepared.

20 Matters to be regulated by Codes

- (1) A Code may, for the purposes of protecting the environment, regulate the carrying out of harvesting operations on an accredited timber plantation.
- (2) In particular, a Code may deal with the following matters:
 - (a) harvesting plans,
 - (b) works ancillary to harvesting operations,
 - (c) soil erosion and sediment control,
 - (d) native animals and plants,
 - (d1) threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and their habitats, within the meaning of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and critical habitats within the meaning of that Act,
 - (e) Aboriginal relics and places,
 - (f) post-harvest bush fire hazard reduction burning,
 - (g) the circumstances in which compensation will be available in order to protect unique or special wildlife values, and matters relating to the provision of, and entitlement to, such compensation.
- (3) A Code may:
 - (a) apply generally to all timber plantations or to a specified class of timber plantation, and
 - (b) apply differently according to different factors, and
 - (c) authorise any matter or thing to be from time to time determined, applied or regulated by any specified person or body.

21 Codes not to be inconsistent with laws applying to timber plantations

- (1) Except as provided by this Act, a Code may not contain provisions which are inconsistent with any Act applying to the carrying out of harvesting operations. Any such inconsistent provision in the Code is void.
- (2) In particular, the provisions of a Code may not be inconsistent with the provisions of the *Soil Conservation Act 1938* or the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* in their application to timber plantations.

22 Adoption and amendment of Codes by regulations

- (1) The regulations may adopt a Code in accordance with this Act.
- (2) A Code:
 - (a) does not have any effect unless it is so adopted, and
 - (b) is to be set out in the regulation that adopts it, and
 - (c) ceases to have effect if the regulation that adopts it is repealed.
- (3) A Code may be amended by the regulations.

23 Compliance with Codes

- (1) The owner and manager of an accredited timber plantation must ensure that harvesting operations on the timber plantation are carried out in accordance with any Code applying to the timber plantation.
- (2) In the case of an accredited timber plantation which is a State Forest or other Crown timber land, this requirement is a condition of any relevant licence, lease or other authority (whether issued before or after the commencement of this section).

24 Timber plantation officers

- (1) The Director-General may appoint appropriately qualified public servants (or such other qualified persons as may be prescribed by the regulations) as timber plantation officers to investigate and report to the Director-General on whether a Code is being complied with.
- (2) For the purposes of exercising those functions, any such officer may, on giving reasonable notice to the owner or manager, enter an accredited timber plantation and require the owner or manager to provide such information as the officer requires.
- (3) The information that can be required by a timber plantation officer must relate to matters that are reasonably connected with the administration of this Act, or be information that is required for the purposes of determining whether this Act, or a Code, is being complied with. This does not extend to information of a commercially

sensitive nature.

(4) The owner or manager must not:

- (a) fail without reasonable excuse to provide the information required by the officer, or
- (b) provide information to the officer which the owner or manager knows is false or misleading in a material respect.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

Part 4 Miscellaneous

25 Act binds Crown

This Act binds the Crown in right of New South Wales and also, so far as the legislative power of Parliament permits, in all its other capacities.

26 Proceedings for offences

Proceedings for an offence under this Act or the regulations are to be dealt with summarily before a Local Court constituted by a Magistrate sitting alone.

27 Regulations

- (1) The Governor may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that by this Act is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (2) A regulation may create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding 10 penalty units.
- (3) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of this Act.

28, 29 (Repealed)

30 Review of Act

- (1) The Minister is to review this Act to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
- (2) The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 5 years from the date of assent to this Act.
- (3) A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the period of 5 years.