

Indicator 4.1b: Management of the risk of soil erosion in forests (2025)



This indicator assesses the extent to which the risk of soil erosion has been explicitly identified and addressed in forest management. The avoidance of soil erosion reflects the extent to which associated values, including soil fertility and water quality, are protected.

Supporting information for Indicator 4.1b: Management of the risk of soil erosion in forests

Table 4.1b-1: Legally binding and non-legally binding instruments that address conservation and maintenance of soil resources (soil physical properties and risk to soil erosion). Note: This table is identical to Table 4.1c-1.

State/territory	Instrument (full title)	Legally binding (Yes/No)	Tenure categories to which it applies
Australian Capital Territory	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	ACT Code of Forest Practice (updated 2022)	No	All tenures
	<i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Environment Protection Regulation 2005</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i>	Yes	All tenures
New South Wales	Strategic Plantation Management Plan (updated 2025)	No	All tenures
	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	<i>Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest
	Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code 2021	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Forest Practices Code Part 1: Timber harvesting and haulage in Forestry Corporation of NSW softwood plantations 2022	No	Multiple-use public forest
	Forest Soil and Water Protection - A Manual for Forestry Operators 2000	No	Multiple-use public forest
	<i>Forestry Act 2012</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Other Crown land
	<i>Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Forestry Regulation 2022</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Other Crown land
	Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (made under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i>)	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Other Crown land
	<i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i>	Yes	Private forest
	<i>Mining Act 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Mining Regulation 2016</i>	Yes	All tenures
<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	Yes	Nature conservation reserve	
<i>National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019</i>	Yes	Nature conservation reserve	
<i>Pesticides Act 1999</i>	Yes	All tenures	

	<i>Pesticides Regulation 2017</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	<i>Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice 2022	Yes	Private forest
	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Rural Fires Regulation 2008</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Soil Conservation Act 1938</i>	Yes	All tenures
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 (under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>)	Yes	All tenures
Northern Territory	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Private forest
	<i>Pastoral Land Act 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Planning Act 1999</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1969</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Sustainable Forestry Practices: Guidelines for the Northern Territory 2021	No	Private forest
	<i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Water Act 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Water Regulations 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures
Queensland	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest
	Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's State forest estate 2020	Yes	Multiple-use public forest, Leasehold forest, and Other Crown land
	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Forestry Act 1959</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest, Leasehold forest, Other Crown land and Private forest
	Managing native forest practice: A self-assessable vegetation clearing code 2014	Yes	Leasehold forest and Private forest
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Soil Conservation Act 1986</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland 2015	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Yes	All tenures
South Australia	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	Guidelines for plantation forestry in South Australia 2009	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation and Regrowth Vegetation 2019 (amended 2020)	No	All tenures
	<i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>	Yes	All tenures
	South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Track and Sign Standards Guidelines	No	All tenures
Tasmania	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest

	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest
	<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Forest Practices Code 2020	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i>	Yes	Reserves declared under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>
	<i>Natural Resource Management Act 2002</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Private Forests Act 1994</i>	Yes	Private forest
Victoria	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2022</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2025	No	All tenures
	Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 (amended in 2022)	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Management guidelines for private native forests and plantations: Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014	No	All tenures
	State Emergency Management Plan Bushfire Sub-Plan 2023	No	All tenures
Western Australia	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest
	Code of Practice for Fire Management 2008	No	Multiple-use public forest and Nature conservation reserve
	Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia 2006	No	All tenures
	<i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>	Yes	All tenures
	<i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i>	Yes	All tenures
	Forest Management Plan 2024-2033	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Nature conservation reserve
	<i>Mining Act 1978</i>	Yes	All tenures

More information

Learn more about the [Criterion 4 of Australia's State of the Forests Report](#).

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Citation and cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia (MIG) and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee (NFISC) 2025, Indicator 4.1b: Management of the risk of soil erosion in forests, *Australia's State of the Forests Report*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, December. CC BY 4.0.

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