

## Indicator 4.1e: Management of the risks to water quality in forests (2025)



This indicator measures the extent to which the risk to water quality has been explicitly identified and addressed in forest management. Water quality is important for forest ecosystem health and water supply for human use.

### Supporting information for Indicator 4.1e: Management of the risks to water quality in forests

**Table 4.1e-1: Legally binding and non-legally binding instruments that address management and protection of water resources (water quantity and quality)** Note: This table is identical to Table 4.1d-1.

State/territory	Instrument (full title)	Legally binding (Yes/No)	Tenure categories to which it applies	Explicitly addresses Water Quantity/Quality or Both
Australian Capital Territory	ACT Code of Forest Practice (updated 2022)	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Both
	ACT Water Resource Plan 2019	Yes	All tenures	Quantity
	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	<i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Environment Protection Regulation 2005</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i>	Yes	All tenures	Indirectly*
	<i>Planning Act 2023</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quantity
	<i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i>	Yes	All tenures	Indirectly*
	Strategic Plantation Management Plan (updated 2025)	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Both
	Water quality environment protection policy 2008	No	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Water Resources Act 2007</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quantity
Water Resources Environmental Flow Guidelines 2019	No	All tenures	Quantity	
Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2019 – 2024	No	All tenures	Both	
New South Wales	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code 2021	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	Environment protection licences (under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> )	Yes	Multiple-use public forest	Quality
	<i>Forestry Act 2012</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Other Crown land	Quality
	Forest Practices Code Part 1 - Timber Harvesting in Forests NSW Plantations 2005	No	Multiple-use public forest	Both

	Forest Practices Code Part 2 - Timber Harvesting in Native Forests 1998	No	Multiple-use public forest	Both
	Forest Soil and Water Protection - A Manual for Forestry Operators 2000	No	Multiple-use public forest	Both
	Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals made under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Other Crown land	Both
	<i>Pesticides Act 1999</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Pesticides Regulation 2017</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	<i>Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Both
	Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice 2022	Yes	Private forest	Both
	<i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>	Yes	All tenures	Indirectly*
	<i>Rural Fires Regulation 2008</i>	Yes	All tenures	Indirectly*
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Water resource plans	Yes	All tenures	Quantity
	Water sharing plans	Yes	All tenures	Quantity
<b>Northern Territory</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Private forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Private forest	Indirectly*
	Sustainable Forestry Practices: Guidelines for the Northern Territory 2021	No	Private forest	Quality
	<i>Water Act 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Water Allocation Plans declared by the Minister under section 22B of the <i>Water Act 1992</i>	No	All tenures	Both
	<i>Water Regulations 1992</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
<b>Queensland</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	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	Both
	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Forestry Act 1959</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest, Leasehold forest, Other Crown land and Private forest	Both
	Managing native forest practice: A self-assessable vegetation clearing code 2014	Yes	Leasehold forest and Private forest	Quality
	Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland 2015	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Quality
<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both	

	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
<b>South Australia</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	<i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015	No	All tenures	Both
	<i>Forestry Act 1950</i>	Yes	All tenures	Indirectly*
	<i>Forestry Regulations 2013</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Guidelines for plantation forestry in South Australia 2009	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Both
	Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation and Regrowth Vegetation 2019 (amended 2020)	No	All tenures	Both
	<i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Native Vegetation Regulations 2017</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Track and Sign Standards Guidelines	No	All tenures	Both
<b>Tasmania</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest	Indirectly*
	<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Forest Practices Code 2020	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Water Management Act 1999</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Water Management Regulations 2019</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
<b>Victoria</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2025	Yes	Multiple-use public forest	Both
	Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 (amended in 2022)	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	Management guidelines for private native forests and plantations Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014	No	Private forest	Both
	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>	Yes	Multiple-use public forest	Quality
	State Emergency Management Plan Bushfire Sub-Plan	No	All tenures	Quality
	Sustainable Water Strategies	No	All tenures	Quantity
	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy	No	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Water Act 1989</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
Water for Victoria	No	All tenures	Both	
<b>Western Australia</b>	The Australian and New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021), Responsible Wood	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*

	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia, Forest Stewardship Council	No	Multiple-use public forest and Private forest	Indirectly*
	Code of Practice for Fire Management 2008	No	Multiple-use public forest and Nature conservation reserve	Quality
	Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia 2006	No	All tenures	Both
	<i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>	Yes	All tenures	Quality
	<i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	Forest Management Plan 2024-2033		Multiple-use public forest and Nature conservation reserve	Both
	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both
	<i>Waterways Conservation Act 1976</i>	Yes	All tenures	Both

\*The instrument addresses broader sustainable management goals but does not contain explicit dedicated clauses on managing water quantity and/or quality.

## More information

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

Web [agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/](http://agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/)

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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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