



Regional Forest Agreements

## The Scenarios

The report 'Towards an Eden RFA' is intended to inform interested parties on the range of possible outcomes from the RFA process and allow them to express their view about the final RFA outcomes. None of the scenarios represents the preferred position of either government.

The four scenarios detailed in chapter 9 outline a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System including dedicated and informal reserves and set out the implications for social and economic values, conservation and heritage values and ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM).

The scenarios provide for wood volume outcomes ranging from 19,000 cubic metres to 26,000 cubic metres for sawlog and 265 000 tonnes to 368 000 tonnes for pulp logs. The potential social and economic implications of these different wood volumes are canvassed in the report. Conservation outcomes also vary across the scenarios and these outcomes are compared in the text and in greater detail in the tables at the end of chapter 9 and in the larger summary table enclosed with the report.

It should be noted when comparing scenarios that, in addition to the different approaches to the design of a CAR Reserve System, they differ in the proposed forest harvesting practices, the application of conservation protocols and the assumptions made about the future availability for harvesting of the current long-footed potoroo management zone.

In order to allow more direct comparison of scenarios each has been reassessed assuming current harvesting practices and applying draft NSW conservation protocols for fauna and old growth. These modified assessments are shown in shaded boxes in the report and reflected in the alternative figures for wood volumes in options A and C..

In relation to the conservation goals of the NFPS the report focuses on the achievement of environmental protection through the reserve system. This is consistent with the nationally agreed reserve criteria.. There are also various measures applying to forests outside conservation reserves, including the draft conservation protocols, in order to provide 'off-reserve' protection to fauna and flora. These measures also have significant impact on available wood volumes.

The scenarios are summarised overleaf.

## SCENARIO A

- The addition of 57,506 ha to conservation reserve including significant areas of Coolangubra, Nalbaugh, Tantawangalo, and Yurramie. Other additions include Biamanga, Bournda, Ben Boyd, Mt Imlay, Mimosa Rocks National Park and Nadgee Nature Reserve and the long-footed potoroo management area within dedicated reserves.
- A Special Management Zone proposed for selective logging of sawlogs and reduced use of heavy machinery to provide resource for small scale sawmills and portable sawmills, and access for mineral exploration and apiary, while maintaining many conservation values.
- Supply of 20,000/19,000m<sup>3</sup> per annum of quota sawlog, including 2,000m<sup>3</sup> allocated to small sawmillers and 265,000/291,000t per annum of pulpwood.
- Initial reduction in employment of 48 jobs, with 4 jobs created with allocation to small millers.

## SCENARIO B

- The addition of 42,747ha to dedicated reserve including significant areas of Coolangubra, Tantawangalo, Waalimma, Yurammie and Genoa. Further additions to Biamanga NP, Bournda NP, Ben Boyd NP, Mt Imlay NP, Mimosa Rocks NP, and almost all of the long-footed potoroo management area within dedicated reserves.
- Recognition of the impediments associated with proposing some lands for inclusion within a dedicated reserve system such as areas with high mineral potential, leasehold lands, and areas under Aboriginal land claims.
- Supply of 22,500m<sup>3</sup> per annum of quota sawlog and 318,000t per annum of pulpwood.
- Initial employment reduction of 24 jobs, with 10 jobs created from 2000 if a projected recovery mill proceeds.

## SCENARIO C

- The addition of 33,616ha to conservation reserve including additions to the Tantawangalo, Waalimma, Yurammie and Genoa. Additions to Biamanga NP, including the Murrah corridor (linking the coast and Mimosa Rocks NP), Bournda NP, Ben Boyd NP, Mt Imlay NP, Mimosa Rocks NP. The Scenario relies on timber harvesting within a significant part of the long-footed potoroo management area.
- Conservation protocols and management which propose reduced habitat protection in dry stringybark forest types, some low intensity harvesting within and adjacent to streamside filter strips and fewer connection corridors.
- Supply of 26,000/24,900m<sup>3</sup> per annum of quota sawlog and 378,000/362,000t per annum of pulpwood.
- Initial increase of two jobs, with 10 jobs created from 2000 if a projected recovery mill proceeds.

## SCENARIO D

- The addition of 20 048 ha of areas proposed for conservation including additions near Biamanga National Park (NP). Several other smaller reserves are proposed throughout the Region.
- Recognition that some uncertainty exists regarding the long-footed potoroo management area. As a result, and so as not to pre-empt formal acceptance of the draft recovery plans, the timber in the area is not considered to contribute to available volume nor are the conservation values considered as reserves for environment and heritage implications.
- Scenario designed to minimise issues affecting uncertainty in resource supply. Supply of 26,000m<sup>3</sup> per annum of quota sawlog and 363 000t of pulpwood.
- Maintains current employment with 10 jobs created from 2000 if a projected recovery mill proceeds.