



Forestry Australia Carbon Summit

Forest Management Plans
and the role of the Registered Forestry Professional

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Outline

- What is a Forest Management Plan (FMP)?
- When does a FMP have to be reviewed and signed-off?
- What is the RFP looking for?
- What are the common issues when reviewing FMPs?

All in relation to the 2022 plantation forestry method



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- A document that sets out the management 'actions' and management 'activities' for each Carbon Estimation Area (CEA)
- **Actions** are those listed in the FullCAM guidelines. They have an impact on carbon estimations.
- **Activities** cover risk management, such as monitoring and controlling pests and disease. These are not listed in the FullCAM guidelines and don't have an impact on carbon estimations.



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- The FMP is a living document that will evolve over the life of the carbon project
- It sets out how the project has been and will be run
- The **management record** covers what has been done
- The **management regime** covers what will be done
- The format of the FMP is not prescribed



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- The content of the FMP varies with the type of project
- All projects require:
 - A Permanence Plan – states how the carbon sequestered and credited will be maintained for the entire permanence period
 - Complete management records and how these will be documented
 - An explanation of any changes to the management regime since the previous report was provided
 - Description of natural disturbances and events that have impacted the growth of the plantation (if any)
 - The FullCAM actions related to the regime, including timing
 - How all records related to the project will be stored and maintained



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- Schedule 2 project FMPs also require
 - Further details when an undetermined rotation species is in the project – have to explain what management is changing to transition from short to long rotation
 - When thinning or pruning has occurred before the application date, must be able to justify why this has occurred (e.g. drought or ecological reasons)



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- Schedule 3 project FMPs also require
 - Evidence that the management actions are consistent with a viable plantation forest, over successive rotations
 - Statement from a qualified independent person that endorses the above point



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- Schedule 4 project FMPs also require
 - Evidence that the management actions and management activities:
 - Will minimise the risk of adverse impacts from a permanent planting
 - Will ensure the health and viability of the permanent planting
 - Are consistent with a permanent planting



What is a Forest Management Plan?

- Schedule 4 project FMPs also require
 - A risk assessment of potential adverse impacts, including:
 - Pests, disease, fire, wildings, and anything else regionally related
 - How these risks will be mitigated through management actions and activities
 - Statement from a qualified independent person that endorses the above points
 - Statement by the Project Proponent and responsible landholder that they will implement the FMP



When does a FMP have to be reviewed and signed-off?

- Schedule 1 projects
 - No requirement for RFP sign-off at any stage of a new plantation project
 - Don't require an FMP to be submitted when registering a new project
 - FMP must be submitted with each offsets report



When does a FMP have to be reviewed and signed-off?

- Schedule 2 projects
 - FMP required when registering a project
 - Sign-off required only if:
 - An undetermined rotation species is used OR
 - When thinning or pruning has occurred before the application date
 - FMP must be submitted with each offsets report – only needs sign-off if there are changes to management activities or actions



When does a FMP have to be reviewed and signed-off?

- Schedule 3 & 4 projects
 - FMP and sign-off required when registering a project
 - FMP must be submitted with each offsets report – only needs sign-off if there are changes to management activities or actions
 - Every 10 years, the (updated) FMP must be signed-off



What is the RFP looking for?

- An introduction or background to the project
 - Where is the project?
 - What Schedule is it?
 - What species?
- All aspects that are required for each Schedule have been adequately covered
- The FMP matches the FullCAM plo files



Common issues when reviewing FMPs

- Incomplete management records for Schedules 2, 3, 4. Often relates to a change of ownership. Need full records, or explanation of why they are incomplete
- Maps are hard to read because they have been compressed to fit the page
- No signed statement from proponent for Schedules 3 and 4



Common issues when reviewing FMPs

- Although not required within the FMP, it is common to include the evidence of previous vegetation
- These images need to be time stamped and georeferenced, and clear enough to validate this requirement
- They also need to cover the full seven year period



Thank you 😊

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