



# Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement

For the provision of  
Community Service Obligations  
by ForestrySA

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



## FOREWORD

ForestrySA is mandated by the Charter of the South Australian Forestry Corporation to undertake a number of specific, non-commercial operations as Community Service Obligations (CSO).

Funding of ForestrySA's Community Service Obligations supports native forest management, community fire protection, community use of its forest estate, programs for industry development and management of the Mid North forests.

ForestrySA manages about 19,500 ha of native vegetation across its estate, receives recreational use by over 300,000 visitors, hosts up to 300 events each year and contributes to over 9,500 volunteer hours through its community engagement program.

ForestrySA continues to work with a number of agencies and land owners to bring an integrated landscape management approach to fire management and environmental issues.

ForestrySA remains committed to protecting forest assets, promoting public participation and achieving the greatest benefit from the management of plantation and native forest resources for the people of South Australia. This report summarises ForestrySA's CSOs conducted throughout 2017-18.



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**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
FORESTRYSA**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

ForestrySA manages:

- The state owned commercial plantations in the Mount Lofty Ranges (MLR).
- Recreational access to state-owned forest reserves across the state.
- Areas of native vegetation (most of which is gazetted as native forest reserve) within the Mount Lofty Ranges and Green Triangle region.

In addition to its commercial activities, and in accordance with its Charter, ForestrySA undertakes a number of non-commercial activities as a Community Service Obligation (CSO<sup>1</sup>) for which it receives funding from the South Australian Government.

CSO funding supports the following programs and activities:

- Native Forest Management Program.
- Community Use Program.
- Forestry Industry Development Program.
- Community Fire Protection Program.
- Management of the Mid North forests.
- Other activities as directed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

## 2. GOVERNANCE

ForestrySA operates in accordance with:

- The **Charter of the South Australian Forestry Corporation** which outlines ForestrySA's strategic commercial direction (commercial operations) and community service obligations to manage native forests, provide community fire protection, provide for community use of its forests and conduct forest industry development (primarily research).
- The South Australian **Public Corporations Act 1993** which requires that as a public corporation, ForestrySA must perform its commercial operations in accordance with prudent commercial principles and perform its non-commercial operations in an efficient and effective manner consistent with the requirements of its Charter.
- The **South Australian Forestry Corporation Act 2000** which allows ForestrySA to fulfil its statutory functions to be a business enterprise.
- The South Australian **Forestry Act 1950** that provides for the creation and management of State Forests and other related matters.
- A **Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement (MoAA)** between ForestrySA and Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA). The MoAA identifies

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<sup>1</sup> Community Service Obligations (CSOs) are non-commercial activities undertaken by government trading enterprises (GTEs) at the direction of government to achieve social policy objectives.



the services ForestrySA will deliver with the CSO funding it receives and describes specific reporting requirements.

### **3. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

ForestrySA's activities are undertaken in accordance with its Policy for Sustainable Forest Management (the Policy). ForestrySA is committed to sustainable forest management, a safe environment for employees and compliance with relevant legislative requirements, standards and codes.

The Policy seeks to:

- Provide the framework for Sustainable Forest Management practices, processes, systems and review.
- Optimise environmental, economic, social and cultural values of forests and lands.
- Improve organisational performance and forest management outcomes while ensuring the expectations of all customers, stakeholders and the community are considered.
- Protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons involved in ForestrySA activities.
- Promote and improve the delivery of the injury management and work health and safety by developing an interdependent safety culture, reducing risk and consulting with employees and external stakeholders.

The ForestrySA Policy for Sustainable Forest Management can be seen in Attachment 1.

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### **4. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The MoAA Annual Report 2017-18 details the delivery of the services and programs against the key performance indicators as required under the MoAA.

### **5. COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS PROGRAMS**

ForestrySA undertakes activities in the following areas:

- Native Forest Management
- Community Use
- Forestry Industry Development
- Community Fire Protection
- Management of the Mid North Forests

## 5.1 Native Forest Management

### 5.1.1 Overview

This Native Forest Management program supports the management of native vegetation on ForestrySA managed land through the development and implementation of landscape scale measures that protect and enhance biodiversity and heritage values. This includes native forests, but more broadly the protection of both Indigenous and European heritage sites that provide connections between people, events and the estate.

ForestrySA manages approximately 19,500 hectares of native forest and other native vegetation located within South Australia's Mount Lofty Ranges and Green Triangle regions, of which 12,688 hectares is gazetted as Native Forest Reserve under the *Forestry Act 1950*. These forests are managed and protected for conservation purposes and the majority of this native vegetation is surrounded by, or adjacent to, ForestrySA's commercial softwood plantations.

Native vegetation is managed primarily for the conservation of biodiversity values and contributes significantly to overall biodiversity conservation in South Australia. ForestrySA continues to undertake flora and fauna surveys and maintains species lists for each Native Forest Reserve. A diverse range of plants and animals can be found, including a number of rare and threatened species.

Activities delivered under this program include:

- Native forest management.
- Assessment of biodiversity values.
- Pest plant and animal control.
- Provision of natural history information to the public.
- Collaboration for landscape scale outcomes.
- Prescribed burning for ecological purposes.

### 5.1.2 Achievements 2017-18

#### Conservation Management Plans

All gazetted Native Forest Reserves have a management plan in place. ForestrySA is meeting its obligations for 100% coverage of gazetted native forest reserves to be covered by plans, however a gap has been identified in the current suite of management plans as they only document conservation assets and threats within native forest reserves. Documentation of significant biodiversity assets that exist in conservation zone and riparian areas located within plantation areas is also required to ensure effective long-term management.

The development of Conservation Plans for MLR forest reserves has commenced. The first plan is the Kuitpo Forest Reserve Conservation plan, due for completion in December 2018. The Mount Crawford and Second Valley forest reserve plans will then be developed.

## Biological Surveys

In November 2017, a biological survey conducted by Urrbrae TAFE Conservation & Land Management students found diggings attributed to bandicoots in Bone Gully, Kuitpo. Remote infra-red sensor cameras were installed in Bone Gully, in December 2017, hoping to capture images of the nationally endangered, Southern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*). Within two days the camera picked up images of bandicoots, the first visual confirmation of the small marsupial within Kuitpo Forest Reserve since the Ash Wednesday bushfire in 1983.

Camera monitoring will continue in other parts of Kuitpo and Second Valley as part of a regional monitoring program in partnership the Department for Environment and Water.



*Kuitpo Forest - Southern-brown bandicoot captured on remote camera in Bone Gully*

Flora surveys are also regularly undertaken by contractors or Friends of the Forest volunteers to update forest species lists. Surveys have found new occurrences of *Veronica gracilis* (rated Vulnerable SA; Endangered MLR) in Old Kersbrook and *Glycine latrobeana* (rated Nationally Vulnerable) in Little Mt Crawford. A comprehensive survey along the South Para river, in Mt Crawford, uncovered *Blechnum wattsii* (Hard water-fern) (rated Rare for SA), previously unknown from this area with the nearest population being in Waterfall Gully, Cleland and *Fimbristylis aestivalis* (Summer fringe-rush), (rated Rare in SA), and only recorded previously in the Mount Bold area.

## Revegetation and Rehabilitation

1,010 hectares of weed control maintenance across 107 sites was completed in conservation and plantation areas during 2017-18.

A rehabilitation project has commenced in Mount Hayfield, Second Valley, following clear fall harvesting around parts of Waterfall Creek and Ingalalla Waterfall. Part of the site is challenging with steep cliffs which requires weed control to be done by abseiling down from cliff tops.





*Second Valley Forest – Difficult and careful blackberry control completed at Ingalalla Falls, Mount Hayfield.*

### **ForestrySA Schools Program Green Triangle Region**

ForestrySA runs a successful community engagement program with three schools in the Green Triangle region including Millicent High School, Glenburnie Primary School and Newbery Park Primary School. Students participate in planting and maintenance of biodiversity corridors and are provided training and development in environment studies. The program also provides social support and development for students as they experience working together in an environment out of the classroom. In 2017-18, Nature Glenelg Trust delivered the program, with a strong environmental focussed curriculum. Field activities took place in the Caroline and Mount Gambier forest areas.

### **5.1.3 Key Performance Indicators**

The Objective of the Native Forest Management Program is to manage the quality and distribution of native forest through the development and implementation of landscape scale measures that protect and enhance the biodiversity and heritage values.

The KPI's are policies and programs that promote biodiversity and heritage conservation at landscape levels.

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Native forest conservation	Total area of Gazetted Native Forest Reserve	Maintained or increased area	12688 ha – decreased by 3389 ha due to the transition of Wirrabara Forest – Native Forest Reserve areas to the Department of Environment & Water.
Assess and extend biodiversity	Native Forest Reserve/Resource Managements Plans – Action	Works plan achieved and reviewed	Yes

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
and heritage values	from Native Forest Management Plans		
Pest plant and animal control	Relevant actions progressed from Forest Management Plans  Management Actions from Forest Management Plans achieves CSO outcomes	>75% of scheduled actions complete  Works reviewed	All planned pest plant control programs completed.  The feral animal control program has been on hold in 2017-18 due to a feral animal control documentation review linked to a safety incident. The program will recommence in 2018-19.
Provision of natural history information to the public	Native Forest Reserve resource documents available on line  Public events	All completed documents available  13	Yes  Yes  Field days, tours, presentations etc. = 8  Forest education programs supported = 5
Collaboration for landscape scale outcomes	Representation on groups/committees	17 Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Red Tailed Black Cockatoo Liaison.</li> <li>2. South Para Biodiversity Project.</li> <li>3. Washpool Feral Deer Control Program.</li> <li>4. Mount Lofty Ranges Fleurieu Swamps and Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren Recovery Program.</li> <li>5. Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Program.</li> <li>6. MLR Threatened Orchid Recovery Program.</li> <li>7. Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Committee.</li> <li>8. MLR as a Mountain Biking – Destination Committee.</li> <li>9. Recreation SA - Trails Forum.</li> <li>10. Mt Lofty Ranges Trails Working Group -Walking SA and Adelaide Hills Council.</li> <li>11. Reinvigorating the Heysen Trail – Fleurieu Peninsula.</li> <li>12. Barossa BC &amp; Para Wirra Trails Working Groups.</li> <li>13. Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Cooperative.</li> <li>14. Green Triangle Fire Cooperative.</li> <li>15. Southern Flinders Ranges Fire Cooperative.</li> <li>16. Bushfire Management Committee Meetings – Green Triangle, Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid-North.</li> </ol>
Prescribed burning for	Areas planned, scheduled and burnt	>75% burns achieved (within	Planning completed for GT and MLR.



ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
ecological purposes		prescription) over 3 years.	Spring burns completed: MLR - 1 x burn Mount Crawford (Dewells - 66ha).  Autumn burns completed: MLR - 1 x burn Kuitpo (Headquarters 12 ha), GT 1 x burn - Honan Native Forest Reserve (72ha).

## 5.2 Community Use of Forest Reserves

### 5.2.1 Overview

ForestrySA managed land provides the setting for a wide range of recreation activities including walking, nature studies, picnicking, camping, cycling, cave diving, horse riding and motor sports events .

ForestrySA is committed to, and has built its recreational brand on passive recreational activities which reduce impacts on the environment, and to visitors of forestry land. The Community Use Program enhances the visitor experience by providing and maintaining a range of visitor facilities, and provision of information and educational materials.

The Community Use Program also includes the ongoing improvement of general facilities and upgrade of ablutions at designated campgrounds. Visitor facilities include camping and picnic areas, tracks and trails, forest information centres and roadside stops, as well as purpose-built facilities such as the Cudlee Creek mountain bike trails.

Forest recreation information and educational materials are provided to the community via forest signs, brochures, maps and the ForestrySA website at the following link [www.forestrysa.com.au/Recreation.aspx](http://www.forestrysa.com.au/Recreation.aspx).

ForestrySA's Community Use Program provides school groups and other organisations with opportunities to assist in the management of native vegetation in a voluntary capacity.

### 5.2.2 Achievements 2017-18

Forest visitation increased during 2017-18, with more than 328,424 people recorded visiting ForestrySA forest reserves in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Green Triangle and Mid North.

#### Mount Lofty Ranges Infrastructure Projects

In 2017-18 saw a focus on facility development with new toilets constructed in the Rocky Paddock, Chalks and Chookarloo Campgrounds and an upgrade to the Thomas Hill House kitchen.



*Kuitpo Forest - Chookarloo Campground New Ablution Facility*

#### **Cudlee Creek Forest – Mawson Network Trails Mountain Bike Facilities**

Mountain biking activities continue to increase in popularity with Cudlee Creek offering world-class trails. ForestrySA continues to work with the South Australian Government, stakeholders and volunteer groups, to promote recreational use, competitive events and develop Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges as an international mountain bike riding destination.

The Cudlee Creek Trail network has been increased with the inclusion of two new competition level downhill trails with a Facilities Grant from the Office for Recreation Sport and Racing. The preparation of concept plans for a purpose-built event facility, toilets, and upgraded shed for storage and volunteer use has been completed. Further work is required to complete architectural plans and additional budget will be allocated in the 2018 -19 financial year for this project.

Two new cross-country trails have been constructed by a contractor and Friends of the Forests volunteers. Human Projectiles Incorporated (HPI) assisted ForestrySA with further trail development and signage to improve the mountain bike experience and trail maintenance. HPI also assisted with on-going maintenance of the trail network.

HPI also successfully secured an Office for Recreation & Sport grant for an Inclusive Intermediate Trail Project in the Cudlee Creek Forest. The project includes the construction of the Dream Weaver and Ducks Guts trails and extension of the New Blue Grove trail.

These projects contribute to establishing the Mount Lofty Ranges as an international mountain biking destination and increasing visitation to the area. They also contribute to ForestrySA's strategic goal of reinvigorating engagement with local communities and our other stakeholders.

### **Event Management**

Visitors participated in 221 events in the State Forest Reserves during the 2017-18 financial year. These events provided visitors with the opportunity to participate in a variety of recreational and educational activities including school, scout and university programs, motorsport competitions, mountain biking, horse endurance rides, sled dog racing, orienteering, defence training, film and photography shoots.

Of the 221 recorded events, there are some significant events which annually attract larger numbers of participants and spectators and provide social benefits for local and regional communities as well as generating funds for charity. Ghost Mushroom Lane located in the Green Triangle region was the event that attracted the largest number of visitors (20,000).

Other significant events included a Nature Play event at Kuitpo, Bicycle SA's Dirty Weekend, Birdwood Farm Day, RallySA, Creat-N Trax - KTM Three Forests Ride and the Tom Quilty Horse Endurance event. Trail Runners, Take A Breather Charity Challenge, Operations Flinders 100 and the Horror Movie Campout were also successful events held in 2017-18.

### **Bicycle SA's Dirty Weekend, Dirty Days Events and Nature Play Forest Festival**

The "Dirty Weekend" 24 hour Mountain Bike Challenge was held in early May 2018. Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the annual event conducted by Bicycle SA, attracted 275 competitors and a further 2,000 spectators for two days of mountain biking fun and competition. The "Dirty Weekend" was centred at the community village near Thomas Hill House.

The "Dirty Weekend" included competitors of all ages and cycling experience with some travelling from inter-state and overseas. This year ForestrySA provided sponsorship to support the event as well as significant in-kind support including improvements to the community village site.





*Cudlee Creek Forest - Promotional poster for the Dirty Weekend Event*

The first of the Dirty Days events held in Mount Crawford in May 2018 attracted over 100 riders. ForestrySA sponsors the events and aims to attract a range of recreational riders to the forest. Two other events are scheduled for later in 2018 in the Cudlee Creek and Kuitpo forests.



*Mount Crawford Forest – Dirty Days Event*

The Nature Play Forest Festival was held in the Kuitpo Forest in April 2018 and attracted more than 4,000 participants. ForestrySA provided a forest information stall to assist organisers. The event was a huge success with excellent social media exposure and public appreciation.

Feedback received from event partners Nature Play SA, Mount Barker & Alexandrina Council representatives and most importantly, the families who turned up in great numbers for this year's Nature Play Forest Festival, has been overwhelmingly positive. Nature Play SA estimated event tickets sales at 4,100 over the two days.

The lessons learned from last year's inaugural Forest Festival put us in good stead to ensure an even better organised event in 2018, and included the provision of additional toilet facilities, and improved car parking and community bus transporting the public to and from the event. The Nature Play Forest Festival is a great example of a state government corporation, local government and a not for profit organisation working collaboratively to deliver a successful event for the community.

Feedback received from participants indicate that a significant number of first time visitors to Kuitpo Forest expressed a desire to attend the festival again. This festival is a fantastic means of promoting the numerous recreational opportunities and experiences offered to families in our forest reserves.





*Nature Play*  
SA  
*turn play inside, out.*



Kuitpo Forest – Nature Play Event Promotional Poster and logo.

### **Ghost Mushroom Lane**

ForestrySA again presented Ghost Mushroom Lane to the community during May and June 2018. Recreational signage has been upgraded and for the first time, low cost guided tours were provided to the public each weekend over the season. A variety of merchandise products were also made available to the community.

20,000 visitors were recorded at the site over the eight week period. A photography workshop was also trialled.

The event was well received by the community and sponsoring organisations that include OneFortyOne Plantations, Tourism Mount Gambier, and the Discovery Centre Mount Gambier. Positive media coverage was also provided by The Living Room with Dr Chris Brown, ABC radio and television, The Border Watch newspaper, the Advertiser, and local radio stations.



*Mount Burr Forest – Ghost Mushroom Lane - Dr Chris Brown from the Living Room interviewing Ockert Le Roux, Board Member, Tourism Mount Gambier*





*Mount Burr Forest - The Ghost Mushroom (Omphalotus nidiformi)*

### **Mount Lofty Ranges Trails**

Four new trails in the Kersbrook area that traverse sections of forest reserve were officially opened in October 2017 and provide additional recreational opportunities in this location. Visitor information and signage have also been upgraded at the Mount Crawford Information Centre.



*Mount Crawford Forest - Mount Lofty Ranges Trails – totem sign, brochure cover and map*

## Honan Mint Trails

The launch of the Honan Mint Trails in Honan's Native Forest Reserve in the Green Triangle was held on 28 November 2017. The trails feature new signage and trails standards which are now used on all ForestrySA trail upgrades.



*Honan Native Forest Reserve – Walkers on the Honan Mint Trails at the trail launch and the Honan Mint Trails Boardwalk*

### 5.2.3 Key Performance Indicators

The Objective of the Community Use Program is to manage public access and recreation in the State's forest reserves and OFO Leased Lands and encourage community engagement and participation in activities that support implementation of the CSO.

The KPI's are programs that provide for public access and recreation, and create opportunities for community engagement in the forest lands.

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Provision of a range of permitted non-commercial activities	Number of permits by category	No specific target set for this period	Camping = 3,573 Horse Riding, day = 149 Horse Riding, year = 260 Fossicking, day = 440 Fossicking, year = 82 Firewood = 78 Other = 79 Cave Diving = 1,756 Total permits issued = 6,417 Total number of people covered by permits = 24,024 Number of Events = 221
	Website shows activities available	Website up to date	Yes

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Public usage	Visitor numbers recorded	>150,000	Recorded visitors including the South East = 300,000 + people recorded. (Figures exclude regular daily events where permits are not allocated, e.g. school group hikes, general walkers)
Opportunities for community engagement	Stakeholder consultation for CSO related activities	Stakeholder feedback received	Yes
Diversity of community groups involved	Number of different community groups engaged	>20	Interaction with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Agencies Volunteer groups</li> <li>• Friends of the Forests Schools,</li> <li>• Urrbrae TAFE</li> <li>• Department of Correctional Services</li> <li>• Human Projectiles Inc.</li> <li>• Bundaleer Forest Community Areas Association</li> <li>• Bicycle SA</li> </ul>
Rangers available for compliance, facilitation, education and support	Conservation and Recreational staff employed	5 FTE  Office open to the public Thursday to Sunday	Yes
A system of monitoring use in compliance with forestry regulations	Number of compliance incidents	Report on non-compliances	28 - recorded non - compliance incidents.  Damage to fences gates and other infrastructure by illegal access of vehicles and illegal rubbish dumping is an ongoing issue.
Volunteer hours attributed to Community Engagement Program	Hours	>20 000	Target not met  9,872  Note: The MoAA target for volunteer hours was set when employment training programs such as Green Corp and Green Army were operating. These programs could deliver 6,000 - 8,000 volunteer hours over a 26 - week program. Due to Federal Government funding changes these programs have not run for a number of years and therefore it has not been possible to meet the Annual Target of >20,000 hours.
Comments from the community with regard to community use  Promotion of conservation and recreation events	Media coverage and releases	No specific target set for this period	There was media coverage of many events and operational activities held on ForestrySA land throughout the year.  Number of media releases = 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghost Mushroom Lane opening – May 2018</li> <li>• First Bandicoot sighted in Kuitpo Forest since Ash Wednesday (issued by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges)</li> <li>• Honan Mint Walking Trails opening – November 2017</li> </ul>



ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Future for Mid North Forests (issued by the Office of the Minister for Forests).</li> </ul> <p>Notifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification of residue and some prescribed burning</li> <li>Fire Ban forest closures and other operational-related activity is communicated with media outlets directly and via the ForestrySA website,</li> <li>MLR prescribed burns are also communicated via the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Cooperative.</li> </ul> <p>Other media coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media enquiries and requests for interview have been many and varied during 2017-18</li> <li>ForestrySA forests, initiatives and sponsored events have featured heavily in blog and social media posts, SA Tourism Commission campaigns, television and news segments during 2017-18</li> </ul>
Projects to address visitor management and upgrade facilities	<p>Works Plan achieves CSO outcomes</p> <p>Visitor Infrastructure Plan</p>	<p>Program developed, achieved and reviewed.</p> <p>Upgrades to picnic and campgrounds</p> <p>Advertise and promote upgrades through publications</p> <p>Website updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target met.</li> <li>Restoration of Old Wirrabara Forest House as part of the transition to DEW.</li> <li>MLR Visitor Infrastructure Plan implementation of identified projects for upgrade facilities including – Three new toilets located at the Rocky Paddock, Chalks and Chookarloo Campgrounds and upgrade of the Thomas Hill House kitchen.</li> <li>Construction of a new downhill, gravity enduro and 2 x cross country mountain bike trails in the Cudlee Creek Forest.</li> <li>Construction of the Honan Mint Trails.</li> <li>Remarking and opening of four new Mount Lofty Ranges Trails damaged during Sampson Flat Fire.</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Forestry Industry Development

### 5.3.1 Overview

The Government, through ForestrySA, has long supported forest research via the Community Service Obligation fund. This activity will continue in regional South Australia with a collaboration between University of South Australia (UniSA,) the Federal Government, State Government and the forest industry.

The South Australian Government's contribution matches the Federal Government's \$2 million investment over four years. The portion of ForestrySA's Community Service Obligation funding specifically allocated to forest industry development (approximately \$0.5m annually) is now being channelled into the research centre via this mechanism.

The Forestry Research Mt Gambier Centre (the Centre) was established with the assistance of ForestrySA in late 2017-18. Additional support included the transfer of research staff valued at \$0.6m per annum and research projects valued at \$0.125m.

ForestrySA also undertakes research activities in the following areas of interest:

- Environmental and Social Impacts
- Tree Improvement and Genetics
- Alternate Products Innovation
- Climate Change and Bioenergy

### **5.3.2 Achievements 2017-18**

The launch of the Forestry Research Centre, Mt Gambier, is a major advancement in the research capabilities for both the South Australian and the wider Australian forest industry. ForestrySA collaborates in research projects with University of South Australia and Forests and Wood Products Australia including:

- Tree water use measurement
- Evaluation of a (Mount Burr) fire tower camera detection system
- Low cost remote sensing for mapping and timber volume estimation
- Growth and yield models developed using LIDAR metric change analysis as a predictor for future yield (LIDAR is a surveying method that measures distance to a target by illuminating the target with pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected pulses with a sensor. Differences in laser return times and wavelengths can then be used to make digital 3-D representations of the target)
- Fusion of LIDAR, thermal infrared and hyperspectral imaging to access structure and health of trees

Other research projects include:

- *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* seed source trial to determine suitability for farm forestry. Replicated trials in Bundaleer, Mt. Crawford, Kuitpo and Wattle Range
- Manuka honey trial in Wirrabara Forest. Joint research is being undertaken by Spring Gully Foods and PIRSA trialling suitability of *Leptospermum scoparium* shrubs for honey production in a low rainfall environment

ForestrySA has also conducted the following projects in the 2017-18 year:

#### ***Eucalyptus leucoxylon* Seed Source Trial**

The *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* Seed Source Trial involves investigation into alternative Eucalypt species as a viable timber resource. Four trials have been conducted of which

two are based in the Mount Lofty Ranges and managed by ForestrySA. One is managed by OneFortyOne Plantations in the Green Triangle and the fourth is located in the Mid North on ForestrySA land under a private lease arrangement. Once an analysis has been completed the information will be used to cull poorly performing tree individuals and families and convert these trials to seed production areas. Future measurement and thinning of the two trials located in the Mount Lofty Ranges is scheduled for late 2018 or early 2019.

### Forest Health Surveillance and Reporting

ForestrySA undertakes a biological control program against Sirex - an introduced North American species of the wood boring wasp. The annual Sirex monitoring and control program using nematode inoculation of trap trees throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges, has been completed as required over the autumn/winter period. Trap-tree plot programs in all locations within the Mount Lofty Ranges forests are ongoing. The benefits of these programs flow to the wider radiata pine plantation industry and farm forestry community through maintenance and improvement of regional forest health.

### 5.3.3 Key Performance Indicators

The Objective of the Forest Industry Development Program is to support forest related research and the dissemination of information for the benefit of the State and Forest Industry.

The KPI's are forest research activities that seek to improve forest productivity and sustainable management of forest resources.

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Projects to improve forest productivity and sustainable forest management sourced from defined Areas of Interest	Project proposal justification points directly to area of Interest	100% new projects are in accordance with the identified areas of interest	Yes
Agreed information and communication services are provided (fact sheets, articles, field days)	Project communications	2 field days / workshops /seminars per year  Provide information to appropriate parties on request  Update web pages on Forestry Research	Limited activity undertaken in this area due to the transition of Forestry Industry Development to the new Centre.

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Forestry demonstration and gene conservation areas are managed consistent with management plans developed by PIRSA	Agreed annual works programs (Gumeracha, Wandilo, Bundaleer)	90% of target dates met	Met  An action plan of the CSO trials was developed and reviewed by PIRSA Forestry and ForestrySA to determine future responsibility and management.  Portions of the Gumeracha demonstration area destroyed have been converted to production plantation areas.

## 5.4 Community Fire Protection

### 5.4.1 Overview

ForestrySA has responsibility for fire prevention, protection and suppression activities on all land managed by ForestrySA, and is committed to supporting fire management activities with other fire agencies, industry and the community by:

- Meeting fire-related legislative responsibilities
- Reducing the risk of damage from fire to life, property and community assets
- Managing the ecological viability of a species or a community of species via prescribed burning activities
- Influencing fire management outcomes on lands adjacent to Forest Reserves
- Maintaining ForestrySA's presence in the community

All ForestrySA fire operations align with the following community priorities established by the CFS:

- Protection of the health and safety of firefighters and emergency service personnel
- Protection of life
- Protection of the environment

ForestrySA maintains and operates seven fire spotting towers in the Green Triangle, which provide early detection of fires occurring on both ForestrySA land, other plantation growers' land and farmland. A fire tower at Mount Crawford is activated on days of high fire danger.

ForestrySA fire crews respond to fires occurring on ForestrySA managed land, other forest owners' land and on neighbouring properties within defined response zones. ForestrySA also provides trained incident management personnel to assist with the management of fires at the request of the Country Fire Services.

Fire protection of the community also includes the annual program of fire break and track maintenance, and prescribed burning and protection work carried out on ForestrySA managed land. This on-the-ground work covers over 1,000 hectares per annum and comprises of slashing, grading, herbicide application and ploughing to dissect the landscape of contiguous fuel levels and reduce potentially dangerous fuel loads.

#### **5.4.2 Achievements 2017-18**

ForestrySA attended a total of 25 fires across South Australia during the 2017/18 fire danger season. Four (4) of these fires were caused by lightning strikes and the remainder were either accidentally or deliberately lit.

In the Green Triangle the Forest Owners Conference spotter plane was on active standby for 17 days and flying its flight path for 16 days over the course of the season amounting to approximately 73 hours flying time. This complemented the successful operation of the fire tower network. The fire response across the season was active for 134 days in the Green Triangle and 137 days in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

ForestrySA continued to work collaboratively with forest owners in the Green Triangle including OneFortyOne Plantations.



*Kuitpo Forest - Christmas Hill Native Forest Reserve – Quick Response Vehicle*

ForestrySA continues to participate in the following committees and groups:

- Heads of Agencies for Public Land Fire Management Committee
- State Bushfire Coordination Committee



- Regional Bushfire Management Committees
- CFS committees
- AFAC national committees including the Forest Fire Management Group
- Rural and Land Managers
- Fire Equipment Development Officers groups

ForestrySA maintained a fire management capability to meet its responsibilities under legislation and continued to implement fire management that reflects best practice. This included our fire management activities with other agencies, our quick and efficient response to fires threatening assets and supporting the local communities that neighbour ForestrySA land.

The fire management capability also included the addition of an extra three (3) Quick Response Vehicles with some of the best technologically possible fire and safety features available.

Prescribed burning was successfully conducted in both the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Green Triangle. This included strategically important prescribed burns in native vegetation at Mount Crawford (Dewells - 66ha), Kuitpo (Headquarters - 12 ha) and Honan Native Forest Reserve in the Green Triangle (72ha).



*Kuitpo Forest - Christmas Hill Native Forest Reserve Prescribed Burning November 2017*

ForestrySA continued to participate in the Fire Cooperatives established under the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Lands to which ForestrySA are a signatory.

ForestrySA Fire Management Plan and Manual are reviewed and updated annually prior to the fire season.

Residue burning associated with commercial plantation reestablishment was conducted to reduce fuel levels during autumn and early winter 2018 in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Communication and engagement with our stakeholders is an important part of ForestrySA's business and of our certification to Australian Forestry Standards (AFS).

ForestrySA remains committed to undertaking fire management responsibilities to deliver the best possible safety, environmental, asset protection and financial outcomes.



*Kuitpo Forest - Kuitpo HQ Prescribed Burn - Fuel Reduction Outcome April 2018*

### 5.4.3 Key Performance Indicators

The Objective of the Community Fire Protection Program is to provide fire protection (through planning, preparedness and emergency response) for the community, above that needed for ForestrySA's own commercial asset management requirements.

The KPI's are evidence of the Corporation's contribution to community fire protection beyond that needed for its own asset management.

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Contribution to state wide or landscape scale fire protection initiatives	State Bushfire Coordination Committee	80% attendance	Met
	Bushfire Management Committee meetings.	Operational works program achieved	Met
			Met

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
	Regional Fire Cooperative Meeting.	Staff available and trained to agreed standard of fire cover	
Contribution to regional fire suppression	Fires attended by ForestrySA on lands other than Forest Reserves	Number of fires Support provided to CFS – IMT, response	Total Fires Attended = 25 Fires attended by ForestrySA on lands other than Forest Reserves = 9
Prescribed burning primarily undertaken for fuel reduction	Areas planned, scheduled and burnt	75% by area of scheduled burns achieved over 3 year period	3 burns completed
Community engagement	Media releases on fire protection activities	2 media releases	2 media releases

## 5.5 Management of the Mid North Forests

ForestrySA supports the implementation of the Mid North Forests Future Strategy (MNFFS) regarding ongoing recreational access for trails and facilitating grazing and access licence agreements.

A significant portion of ForestrySA's Wirrabara Forest Reserve transitioned to management by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) in 2018. This included 3,531ha of native forest, the historic Wirrabara Forest headquarters and work depot, Ippinitchie Campground, Wirrabara Picnic Ground and Old Wirrabara Nursery. A major renovation of the Old Forester's House and Office at the Wirrabara Headquarters was also completed.

ForestrySA continues to be involved in the MNFFS including finalising the transition to DEW, managing lease and licence agreements, recreational Greenways and fire management.

The process of land divestment commenced and a number of Crown Leases were entered into across Bundaleer, Leighton and Yarcowie forests. When the process is complete these leases will cover the entirety of these forests, except the Bundaleer Forest Picnic Ground and community areas (20ha) which remain under ForestrySA management, and the Bundaleer Sport and Recreation Association who received freehold title to their grounds.

In Wirrabara Forest, Crown Leases and a sale agreement have been entered into with some leases yet to be executed due to the need to adjust and define land parcel boundaries in relation to public roads. This involves surveying, consultation and new plans being registered through the Lands Titles Office. Grazing licences remain in place for areas not covered by leases.



ForestrySA continues to work with PIRSA and other organisations to assist Spring Gully Foods establish their Manuka honey trial site in the Wirrabara Forest. Establishment of this trial has received significant support from the ForestrySA including planning and establishment operations. Planting was conducted late August 2018 and a sign identifying and promoting the site was installed.

ForestrySA continues to work with PIRSA on the development of a management plan and other documentation for the Bundaleer Picnic Ground and community areas and a management arrangement with the Bundaleer Forest Community Areas Association (BFCAA). ForestrySA provided a \$100,000 grant to the BFCAA, for the construction of a new event facility.

Annual weed spraying, slashing and track clearing were undertaken in the Wirrabara and Bundaleer Forests as part of pre-fire season operations.

### 5.5.3 CSO Outcomes

The CSO outcomes for the management of the Mid North Forests are:

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Contribute towards Strategic Review administration and due diligence	Staff administrative assistance	NA	Yes
Participation in inter-agency committee meetings	Meeting attendance	NA	Met: CE is a member of and participates in MNFFS Steering Committee
Support implementation of the Government's Mid North Forests Future Strategy plan, as required	Implementation support	NA	FSA administers and manages the leases and sales agreement



## **ATTACHMENT 1: ForestrySA Policy for Sustainable Forest Management**

## **POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

### **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

ForestrySA is committed to sustainable forest management, a safe environment for employees, and compliance with relevant legislative requirements, standards and codes.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

ForestrySA manages plantations and native forests and provides forestry services in South Australia. ForestrySA has taken pride in the development and implementation of forestry standards and sustainable practices for over 130 years and continues to do so.

### **3. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

This policy seeks to:

- Provide the framework for Sustainable Forest Management practices, processes, systems and review;
- Optimise economic, environmental, social and cultural values of forests and lands;
- Continually improve organisational performance and forest management outcomes while ensuring the expectations of all customers, stakeholders and the community are considered;
- Protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons involved in ForestrySA activities; and
- Promote and improve the delivery of Injury Management and Work Health and Safety by developing an interdependent safety culture, reducing risk and consulting with employees and external stakeholders.

### **4. STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

ForestrySA will:

- Resource and maintain a Forest Management System to ensure a systematic approach to forest management;
- Regularly review the Forest Management System to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness;
- Maximise efficiencies, efficiently use fossil fuels, prevent pollution, eliminate or control hazards and effectively manage risks;
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of native forests and maintain cultural, historical and scientific assets and areas of conservation significance;
- Protect soil and water resources in the regions in which ForestrySA operates;
- Monitor and protect flora and fauna in the regions in which ForestrySA operates;
- Manage forest pests and diseases to minimise impact upon plantations and native forests, and to minimise the risk of entry or spread across declared boundaries;
- Proactively engage and consider the views of stakeholders, the community and agencies;
- Maintain long term productive capacity of our forests and lands;
- Manage and develop plantations in an economically sound manner whilst ensuring environmentally, socially and culturally responsible outcomes;
- Provide recreational, educational and community use opportunities that are compatible with commercial operations;
- Provide a safe and healthy working environment by promoting employee welfare, reducing the impact of workplace injuries and illnesses, supporting effective rehabilitation and equitable injury management;
- Ensure employees have the skills and resources required to carry out their duties safely by identifying and documenting responsibilities and accountabilities; and
- Use internal and/or external expertise when required.

### **5. RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION**

[Charter for Customer Service](#)

**Approved**  
Jerome Coleman  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**FORESTRYSA**

# ForestrySA

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