

**Memorandum of  
Administrative Arrangement**

**for the provision of**

**Community Service Obligations  
by ForestrySA**

**Annual Report 2012-13**

**ForestrySA / PIRSA**



**June 2014**

## **FOREWORD**

Funding of ForestrySA's Community Service Obligations (CSOs) supports native forest management, community use of its forest estate, and programs for industry development and fire protection.

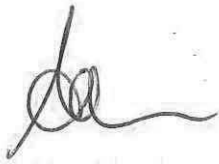
ForestrySA has continued to deliver a range of community service obligation programs and projects across the Green Triangle and Mount Lofty Ranges in 2012-13.

ForestrySA has worked with a number of other agencies and land owners to bring an integrated landscape management approach to environmental issues.

The dedication of ForestrySA staff and their efforts to seek improvements in the operation of the CSO program continues to be noteworthy.

ForestrySA manages about 25,000 ha of native vegetation across its estate, receives recreational use by almost 200,000 visitors, hosts up to 300 events each year and contributes over 35,000 volunteer hours through its community engagement program.

Across all its operations, ForestrySA remains committed to achieving the greatest benefit from the management of plantation and native resources for the people of South Australia. This report summarises ForestrySA's CSOs conducted throughout 2012-13.



Adrian Hatch  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
FORESTRYSA**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

ForestrySA manages:

- the State owned commercial plantations in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid North
- the commercial plantations in the Green Triangle on behalf of OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd (OFO), and
- areas of native vegetation (most of which is gazetted as Native Forest Reserve) within and surrounding the areas of commercial plantation.

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

CSO funding supports:

- Native forest management
- Community use of forest reserves
- Forestry industry development
- Community protection (including fire) and forest industry support activities.

## 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 for community use of its forests, conduct forest industry development (primarily research) and provide community fire protection.
- 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.
- A **Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement (MoAA)** that identifies the services ForestrySA will deliver with the CSO funding it receives and which describes specific reporting requirements. This MoAA is an agreement between ForestrySA and Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA).

## 3. POLICY FRAMEWORK

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

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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 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 managed by ForestrySA
- 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

The full version of the ForestrySA **Policy for Sustainable Forest Management** is available at [www.forestrysa.com.au](http://www.forestrysa.com.au).

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

This annual report provides an overview of the CSO funded programs delivered by ForestrySA and a summary of the activities that have been undertaken by ForestrySA during 2012-13, and fulfils one of the reporting requirements under the MoAA.

#### **5. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS**

##### **5.1 Native forest management**

This program supports the management of native vegetation on ForestrySA's Forest Reserves through the development and implementation of landscape scale measures that protect and enhance biodiversity and heritage values. This includes not only the native forests themselves, but more broadly the protection of both indigenous and European heritage sites that provide connections between people, events and our estate.

ForestrySA manages 25,269 ha of native forest and other native vegetation, 15,994 ha of which is gazetted as Native Forest Reserves under the *Forestry Act 1950*. 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. A diverse range of plants and animals are found, including a number of rare and threatened species. ForestrySA continues to undertake flora and fauna surveys, and maintains species lists for each Native Forest Reserve.

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

Forest Management Plans have been prepared for the Northern Forests (2008), Mount Burr (2010), Mount Gambier (2011) and Penola (2011) Forest Reserves. A plan for the Mount Lofty Ranges is being prepared and will be released for public comment during 2013-14. Forest Management Plans describe the resources and values of each forest reserve and identify appropriate management actions.

## 5.2 Community use of forest reserves

Forest Reserves provide the setting for a wide range of recreation activities including: walking, nature study, picnicking, camping, cycling, cave diving, horse riding and motor sport events. The community use program enhances the visitor experience by providing and maintaining a range of visitor facilities, and by providing educational and information materials and opportunities.

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, [www.forestrysa.com.au/Recreation.aspx](http://www.forestrysa.com.au/Recreation.aspx).

A number of high profile events take place on Forest Reserves including the Bundaleer Festival at Bundaleer, and the Pines Enduro at Mount Burr, as well as local club car rallies and horse endurance rides.

Services delivered under this program include:

- Development and maintenance of appropriate visitor facilities
- Provision of forest information
- Management and permitting of forest events
- Employment of Rangers for compliance and education activities
- Visitor management

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 and to learn more about the values contained within these important native forest remnants.

Recreational activities are managed to avoid commercial forestry operations and to ensure the protection of environmental values.

## 5.3 Forest industry development

ForestrySA continues to be nationally recognised by the forest industry for developing and maintaining a forest research capability of a higher standard and breadth than it would otherwise undertake as a purely commercial business. CSO funded research constitutes about 40% of ForestrySA's total forest research budget.

Research and the dissemination of information for the benefit of the State and forestry industry, including forestry demonstration and gene conservation plantings are at the core of the program:

- Projects to improve forest productivity and sustainable forest management sourced from defined areas of interest
- Provision of information and communication services (fact sheets, articles, field days)
- Management of forestry demonstration and gene conservation areas in accordance with management plans developed by PIRSA

The forest industry development program undertakes research projects in research priority areas identified in a number of published research strategies and as agreed with PIRSA.

Research priority areas have been identified by organisations such as:

- The Research Priorities and Coordination Committee, a sub-committee of the Forest and Forest Products Committee
- Forest and Wood Products Australia

Areas of research conducted under the MoAA include:

- Environmental impact
- Tree improvement and genetics
- Product improvement and innovation
- Climate change
- Bio-energy

#### **5.4 Community fire protection**

ForestrySA provides a level of fire protection to the community greater than required for the protection of its own commercial assets and greater than provided by equivalent private sector forestry companies.

ForestrySA maintains and operates seven fire spotting towers in the Green Triangle, which provide early detection of fires occurring on both ForestrySA land, and on other plantation growers' land and farmland. ForestrySA fire crews respond to fires occurring on ForestrySA land, other forest owners' land and on other nearby land. ForestrySA also provides trained incident management personnel to assist with the management of fires on other land tenures.

Fire protection of the community is also enhanced through the annual programs of fire break maintenance and protection work which are carried out on main roads, council roads, power line easements, and other public land. This on-the-ground work variously comprises slashing, grading, herbicide application and ploughing to reduce potentially dangerous fuel loads.

## **6. ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2012-13**

The following is a brief overview of CSO activities delivered during 2012-13.

### **6.1. Native forest management**

#### **Pasture Strip**

In 2011-12 ForestrySA implemented the first stage of a five year project to re-plant an area of former grazing land in the Green Triangle near Glencoe, known locally as the Pasture Strip. When restored, this 160 ha parcel of land will link the Wandilo and Hackett Hill Native Forest Reserves.

Parts of the Pasture Strip will be replanted with native plants and other areas of degraded wetland will be rehabilitated. In 2012-13, 11 hectares of direct seeding was established and several thousand seedlings were planted by the three schools that have an ongoing involvement in the project. These schools are: Millicent High School, Glenburnie Primary School and Newbery Park Primary School.

The Pasture Strip project compliments ForestrySA's ongoing wildlife corridor project.

#### **Wildlife corridor project**

ForestrySA has already established over 9 km of corridors covering an area of 78 ha. Six hectares of additional corridor were established in 2012/13 linking Native Wells Native Forest Reserve to Glencoe Hill Native Forest Reserve. The objective is to establish over 20 km of corridors by the time the project is completed.

Wildlife monitoring to measure the value of the corridors began in 2006. Bird populations are being used as an indicator of the corridors' effectiveness.

The sixth year of bird monitoring was undertaken including searches for banded birds. The bird banding component of the project has been operating since 2011.

#### **South Para River rehabilitation field trip**

ForestrySA representatives joined staff from DEWNR, SA Water, the Kersbrook Landcare Group and South Para Biodiversity Natural Resources Management Committee on a field trip along the South Para River which focussed on recent rehabilitation works carried out within the area.

The significant riparian corridor within the forest reserve stretches from the Centennial Drive campground in the east, to the YHA campground in the west.

Grant funding of \$22,000 was sourced from the Federal Government for weed control to protect biodiversity values. This funding extends and compliments coordinated weed control work that has been ongoing along the rivers since 2008, carried out in cooperation with adjoining landowner, SA Water.

The work has led to a significant reduction in woody weeds such as Blackberry and Gorse, as well as almost total elimination of the invasive bulbous weed, Watsonia. Large thickets of Silky tea tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*), which is rated as uncommon for the Southern Lofty region, are now regenerating along permanent waterholes in the river.



Removal of wild pines and blackberries has also allowed for improved recreational access to the river.

## **6.2 Community use of forest reserves**

Forest Reserves continue to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for local communities. Camping, horse riding, walking and mountain biking are popular activities undertaken in either native forest or plantation areas. Permits are issued for camping, horse riding, cave diving and firewood collection.

### **Pines Enduro**

The Pines Enduro, a round of the Australian Off-Road Championship for off road buggies, was held in the Mount Burr forest during September. The 400 km long race comprised six laps of a 66 km course. More than three quarters of the length of the course ran through ForestrySA land, with the start / finish line and main spectator areas located on adjacent private land. The event attracted competitors and spectators from across Australia.

Local car rally clubs also staged a number of events on ForestrySA land during the year. Events are conducted in accordance with conditions that ensure that environmental damage is minimised and events do not disrupt forest operations. Local events usually attract up to 20 competitors.

### **May – A busy month in the Mt Crawford ForestrySA**

During May 2013, three major community events took place in the Mount Crawford Forest, attracting an estimated 15,000 visitors to the area. The events included:

#### Kona Dirty Weekend

Run by BikeSA, this event has been held annually since 2001. The competition is a 24-hour endurance event for mountain bikes held in the Cudlee Creek Forest. This year's event attracted 316 competitors and an estimated 2,500 spectators.

#### Birdwood Farm Day

This is a major community event run by students, staff and parents of Birdwood Primary School at Chalks Campground. Over 8,000 visitors attended the day.

#### Scouts RallySA

The 13<sup>th</sup> Scouts RallySA event was held in the Mt Crawford Forest in late May. This iconic event is a stage of the Australian Rally Championships. A part of the forest was closed for five days to allow competitors to study the course and undertake mapping and testing. The event culminated in two days of competition along some 40 kilometres of forest roads.

An estimated 5,000 people attended the forest during the weekend of competition.

## **Tallying the number of forest users**

In 2011, ForestrySA began a concerted effort to improve the tallying procedures for automatically reporting visitor numbers. Inductive loop vehicle counters were installed at three locations and infra-red people counters were installed at four locations.

Data from these counters reveal that:

- over 41,000 visitors entered the Mt Crawford Forest at Forties, the main public vehicular entrance to the forest.
- Over 18,000 detections were measured at the cross-country mountain bike trails at Cudlee Creek meaning that between 25 and 30 bikers are using the trails area every day.

## **Scientists in Schools program**

A number of ForestrySA staff shared their scientific knowledge and skills with students during the CSIRO's annual *Scientists in Schools* event which was held across Australia from September 10 – 14.

ForestrySA staff lead interactive sessions with students from Mt Gambier High School on topics including LiDAR, the Pigmy Perch water monitoring program and biodiversity.

The success of the program relies on the creation and support of long-term partnerships between school teachers and scientists in the workforce.

## **6.3 Forest Industry Development (Research)**

### **ForestrySA annual research field days**

All the latest in forest technology and field trials was presented during ForestrySA's annual research field days in the Green Triangle on 24 and 25 October.

Almost 50 forest managers, small forest growers, research scientists, chemical company representatives and members of the public attended from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Day one was open to the public and featured a half day office seminar on advances in LiDAR technology, mobile mapping and a presentation on *Eucalyptus globulus* coppice control research. The Australian Forest Products Association also presented information on the National Industry Safety Statistics Reporting System.

The afternoon session featured field trips to look at research trials conducted on the application of L-Arginine nitrogen applied to nursery stock to improve post planting survival and early fine root development, under canopy woody weed control using the Cassottii boomless sprayer in *E. globulus*, the impacts of post thinning bracken control on stand productivity in radiata pine and a Glencoe Nursery tour.

Day two was dedicated to inspections of the seven Australian Plantation Industry Herbicide Research Consortium trials which the ForestrySA research section has established in South Australia and Western Victoria since 2010.

These trials are used to screen experimental herbicides as well as existing registered products for use in plantation forestry with the data produced used by chemical manufacturers to aid in the registration process via the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

Event organizer, ForestrySA Research Coordinator Wayne Richardson said the annual event was high on the priority lists of forest organisations and large chemical companies across the country.

## **6.4 Community Fire Protection**

### **Season 2012-13**

ForestrySA operates seven fire towers in the Green Triangle region for early fire detection. Due to the dry conditions experienced over the 2012-13 fire season, the towers were operated on 112 days – a higher than average number of days.

ForestrySA fire crews attended 79 fires for the season, including 29 fires on private land or land managed by other agencies.

Seven prescribed burns totalling 292ha were completed during spring and autumn. Prescribed burns reduce the hazard in areas of native forest, help to protect adjoining assets and contribute to biodiversity conservation objectives.

ForestrySA is a member of three fire cooperatives in the South East, Southern Flinders and Mount Lofty Ranges regions. The cooperatives were formed in 2009 and comprised of ForestrySA, CFS, DEWNR and SA Water. The agencies work together to develop and implement integrated prescribed burning programs, and to deliver integrated bushfire response arrangements.

ForestrySA continues to participate in the Heads of Agencies for Public Land Fire Management Committee, the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee and regional Bushfire Management Committees.

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

### Operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2013

	COMMUNITY FORESTRY <sup>2</sup>	FOREST INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT	COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION	2012-13	2011-12
<b>INCOME</b>					
CSO funds	2 189 002	462 004	466 067	3 117 073	3 004 000
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Salary & wages	1 135 144	265 452		1 533 921	1 369 927
Plant & equipment	16 028			16 028	18 973
Materials	62 435	6 469		70 578	71 130
Contracts & services	569 488	89 149		676 042	652 969
Vehicles	260 747	31 934		366 439	257 694
Staff related expenses	24 923	5 529		34 248	31 718
Information technology	23 494	4 146		27 640	21 658
Building & property	32 353			32 353	55 595
Administration & finance	34 762	6 346		1 238 430	57 884
Fire Protection (total)			1 427 280		1 290 315
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 159 374</b>	<b>409 025</b>	<b>1 427 280</b>	<b>3 995 679</b>	<b>3 827 863</b>

<sup>2</sup> Native forest management & community use of forest reserves combined.

## 8. KEY STATISTICS

### Native Forest Management Program

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Native forest conservation	Total area of Gazetted Native Forest Reserve	Maintained or increased target	15,994 hectares
Assess and extend biodiversity and heritage values	Works plan achieves CSO outcomes	Works plan achieved and reviewed	Yes
Pest plant and animal control	Relevant actions completed from Forest management Plans	>75% of scheduled actions complete	Yes
	Works plan achieves CSO outcomes	Works reviewed	Yes
Provision of natural history information to the public	Public Events	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Butterfly Walk – Honan Native Forest Reserve</li> <li>2. Community Planting Day – Valley Lake</li> </ol>
	Native Forest Reserve resource documents available online	All completed documents available	Yes
Collaboration for landscape scale outcomes	Representation on peak groups	16 Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Team</li> <li>2. Threatened Plant Recovery Team</li> <li>3. Green Triangle Regional Plantations Committee - Natural Resources Management Sub-committee</li> <li>4. Living Flinders Planning Committee</li> <li>5. Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Cooperative</li> <li>6. Mount Lofty Ranges Fleurieu Swamps and Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren Recovery Program</li> <li>7. Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery</li> </ol>

			Program 8. South Lofty Block Threatened Orchid Recovery Program 9. South Para Natural Resources Management Committee 10. Mount Bold / Scott Creek Biodiversity Hotspots Group 11. Sixth Creek Catchment Group 12. Mount Compass Oak-bush and Marsh Gum Recovery Team 13. SA Trail Coordination Committee 14. Walking SA 15. Bicycle SA 16. South East Fire Cooperative
Prescribed burning for ecological purposes	Areas planned, scheduled and burnt	>75% burns achieved (within prescription) over 3 years	No ecological burning was planned or completed

## Community Use of Forest Reserves Program

Provision of a range of permitted non-commercial activities	Number of permits by category  Website shows activities available	No specific target set for this period  Website up to date	Camping nights – 10,422 Horse riding – 151 people Cave diving – 1670 user days Firewood – 308 loads  Total number of events – 289  Total number of people covered by permits – 13,449  Yes
Public usage	Visitor numbers recorded	>200 000	188 696
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	>25	40
Rangers available for compliance, facilitation, education, support	Rangers employed  Ranger contacts	7 FTE  >previous year	7 FTE  Yes
A system of monitoring use in compliance with forestry regulations	Number of compliance incidents	No specific target set for this period	31
Volunteer hours attributed to Community Engagement Program	Hours	>20 000	35,000
Comments from the community with regard to community use	Media coverage	No specific target set for this period	Media coverage of many events held on ForestrySA land throughout the year.
Projects to address visitor management	Works Plan achieves CSO outcomes	Works Plan achieved and reviewed	Yes

## Forest Industry Development

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	Yes
Agreed information and communication services provided (factsheets, articles, field days)	Project communications	100% of proposed factsheets etc. and 2 field days per year	Field Days - 2
Forestry demonstration and gene conservation areas are managed consistent with management plans developed by PIRSA	Agreed annual works programs (Gumeracha, Wandilo, Bundaleer)	90% target dates met	Yes

## Community Fire Protection Program

Contribution to state wide or landscape scale fire protection initiatives	Attendance at State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) and Bushfire Management Committee (BMC) meetings	80% attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBCC 40%</li> <li>• Limestone Coast BMC 100%</li> <li>• Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges BMC 75%</li> </ul>
Contribution to regional fire suppression	Fires attended by ForestrySA on lands other than Forest Reserves	Number of fires	25
Prescribed burning undertaken for fuel reduction	Areas planned scheduled and burnt	>75% of scheduled burns achieved as a three year average	Green Triangle -149/600ha = 25% Ranges - 87/190ha = 46%
Comments from the community with regard to fire management (whether positive, negative or neutral)	Media coverage	No specific target set for this period	Both positive and negative comments were included in media coverage of bushfire response and prescribed burning