

<b>Title</b>	Recreation & Tourism Policy	<b>Version</b>	3
<b>Policy No.</b>	P2014/09	<b>Effective date</b>	1/10/2014

## 1. OVERVIEW

Forestry Corporation (FCNSW) occupies a unique position in the recreation and tourism (R&T) arena in NSW. State forests provide a distinct blend of leisure and visitor opportunities, different from any other NSW land managers and/or NSW public lands.

The FCNSW Business Strategy highlights some broad themes that are of relevance to recreation and tourism. While the timber production side of the business is driven primarily by financial objectives, the R&T components are more aligned with community and social outcomes. However, there are clear opportunities for innovation in the R&T area through the development of commercial and other opportunities. R&T can positively contribute to the FCNSW Business Strategy through diversifying the forest product. FCNSW R&T can also contribute to NSW State Plan targets for health, social/community and tourism.

While FCNSW recognises that the traditional camping, picnicking and bushwalking experience will remain important, the development of commercial R&T opportunities is seen as a key means by which FCNSW can provide on-forest experiences of a high standard that promote FCNSW and State forests as a brand.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The term recreation applies in a FCNSW context to those activities undertaken by people for pleasure or relaxation. Tourism is defined as the temporary, short term movement of non-residents along transit routes to and from a destination, and is often undertaken in the pursuit of recreation.

R&T under the objectives of the *Forestry Act 2012* should be guided by the aims of the FCNSW to:

- Be a successful business
- Have regard to the interests of the community in which it operates
- Conduct activities in an ecologically sustainable manner, and
- Contribute toward regional development.

Community Service Obligation (CSO) funding provides a basis from which community expectations around provision of R&T opportunities can be met. To encourage and promote the use of forests for recreation, FCNSW will:

- Provide FCNSW-managed recreation sites on State forests to the people of NSW free of charge.
- Enable Forest Permits for activities undertaken by an array of organisations, clubs, recreational and other user groups.
- Enable Forest Permits to be issued to community and commercial organisations to occupy agreed State forest sites for a variety of purposes, including recreation.
- Use strategically applied CSO funding to assist in achieving the government's social objectives, including an increase in community use of forests.

FCNSW is a commercial entity and must deliver services and/or products that generate income or at least are cost neutral to the organisation. The delivery of R&T services on State forest are seen as complementary to, but not the same as, those conducted by National Parks, local government recreation services and the commercial sector. FCNSW commands a unique place in the R&T market and this policy seeks to align the management of this aspect of the business with the primary objectives of the organisation.

### 3. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all Business Units involved in the R&T and/or tourism activities and services on State forest. It applies to local, regional and corporate levels of service provision.

### 4. POLICY

#### **FCNSW Corporate Vision**

To be Australasia's best forestry business.

#### **FCNSW Recreation and Tourism Goals**

- To provide for safe and enjoyable use by the community of the forest-based recreational services of Forestry Corporation of NSW; and
- To establish NSW State Forests as a recognised manager of, and destination choice for, nature-based visitor recreation and tourism activities in NSW.

State forests offer a wide variety of desirable nature-based and eco-tourism destinations and experiences, where visitors can appreciate and enjoy the forest environment. In the delivery of these experiences, a key aim of the FCNSW is to better understand the R&T assets (both current and potential) so they can be appropriately managed, enhanced where appropriate, and promoted to achieve the broader goals of the organisation.

To provide safe, professional and efficient forest-based R&T services for the people of NSW, and to establish NSW State Forests as a destination of choice, FCNSW will:

1. Provide R&T services as an integral part of the business of FCNSW.
2. Deliver R&T services to promote FCNSW values and messages.
3. Identify, enhance and promote high profile visitor areas [identified tourism sites and destinations].
4. Maintain and enhance, where appropriate, local sites for community use.
5. Develop FCNSW partnerships with clubs and community groups to facilitate management of forest use for mutual benefit.
6. Monitor, collate and report on usage of FCNSW managed visitor sites, including economic contribution to local and regional communities, to support relevant NSW public policy.
7. Administer appropriate CSO funding for R&T to deliver cash-neutral recreation services.
8. Facilitate commercially-oriented activities that are consistent with FCNSW objectives to provide high quality recreation services and to generate revenue.
9. Ensure consistency in the use of permits and fees and the appropriate delivery of CSO activities and funding.
10. Ensure consistent use of corporate standards for suppliers, contracts and management.
11. Address OH&S factors relevant to the provision of R&T.

#### **FCNSW approach to Recreation and Tourism is based on the following Principles**

- R&T management is integral to the role of FCNSW as a land manager, as a member of local and regional communities, and as a stakeholder in the NSW tourism industry.
- R&T management is considered vital in providing a means by which FCNSW can distinguish itself from other agencies providing similar services, and thereby promote the organisation and the values of multiple-use forestry.

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- R&T services are provided within an appropriate legal framework – ensuring consideration of liability, equity and probity.
- R&T activities are used to promote key corporate communication messages.
- Partnerships with local interest groups and service providers are established and/or maintained, as are relationships with other government R&T providers. Partnerships with the commercial sector are identified as a key opportunity and are pursued.
- R&T is undertaken in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Commercial R&T activities are cash-positive.
- Consistent corporate standards guide signage, provision of facilities, communication processes and permit provision, as delivered at a regional level.
- Local R&T circumstances are accommodated within a corporate model, to ensure that local innovation will continue to occur.
- FCNSW recognises that at times there will be some tension between different forest uses and some management objectives. This Policy recognises the need to determine the appropriate use for each forest area and activity as part of the Policy implementation.

This policy is enacted through the use of a variety of mechanisms, where appropriate fee structures and funding or partnership arrangements apply. These include:

- *Forest Permits* – Designed to manage the use of State forests by a variety of organisations for a variety of organised events. Fee structures are based on cost-recovery for non-commercial activities, whilst a cash positive approach will be taken with commercial business occupation and/or commercial activities.
- *Recreation Sites* – State forest recreation sites (picnic, camping, lookouts, and walking trails) are managed by FCNSW for the benefit of the community. These services are traditionally offered at no cost to the user and resourced under the NSW Treasury CSO grant.
- *Visitor Sites and Tourism Destinations* – Areas of identified tourism potential where competitive processes are applied such as EOIs, tenders..
- The provision of guidance material and tools for consistent implementation across NSW through the *Recreation and Tourism Forest Permit Toolkit*.

This Policy recognises the benefit of local knowledge and regional stakeholder relationships in the management of recreation and tourism. Support will be provided to regionally-based staff via the provision of standards and guidelines, advice and resources. A network of staff involved in R&T matters will also be maintained.

## 5. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Forestry Act 2012
- Forestry Regulation 2012

## 6. RELATED POLICIES

- Forestry Corporation of NSW Volunteer Policy
- Industry and Investment Tendering Policy
- Forestry Corporation of NSW Forest Management Policy.

## 7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- NSW 2021
- FCNSW Corporate Business Strategy
- FCNSW Tourism Strategy
- FCNSW Sponsorship Guidelines
- FCNSW Recreation and Tourism Forest Permit Toolkit

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**8. REVISION HISTORY**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>
02	September 2013	Recreation & Tourism Policy

**9. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW**

September 2016

**10. CONTACT OFFICER**

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