



2024 ecological thinning plan

Introduction

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) manages Western Australia's national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests, and timber reserves. The Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP 2024-2033) outlines the practices to support the forest's resilience and protect its unique biodiversity in the face of a drying climate. One of the adaptive management practices being used to achieve this is ecological thinning.

The FMP 2024-2033 has identified Forest Enhancement Areas (FEAs) that may benefit from ecological thinning. This ecological thinning plan outlines the FEAs that have been identified as suitable for thinning in 2024.

Context

The 2024 ecological thinning plan has identified 6,390 hectares as candidate FEAs within three forest categories - jarrah regrowth, karri regrowth and mining rehabilitation. The FMP allows up to 8,000 hectares to be thinned annually.

The final area thinned in 2024 is likely to be considerably less as planning processes, operational practices and monitoring processes are established for this initial year of the ecological thinning program.

FEAs will be planned and approved using the department's Disturbance Approval System (DAS). This system assesses the impact of proposed disturbances and enables strategies to be developed to avoid or mitigate the impact on the environment. The timing of this planning phase can vary considerably depending on the complexity of individual FEAs.

Selecting areas for ecological thinning

The FMP 2024-2033 identifies densely stocked regrowth forest areas as potential areas for ecological thinning (refer to Map 13). Tables 10 to 12 (on pages 67 to 70) categorise approximately 146,000 hectares of area that meets the criteria for ecological thinning. This includes mining rehabilitation, jarrah regrowth and karri regrowth forests; as well as a small area of wandoo regrowth forest (Table 13, page 70).

Factors influencing which FEAs are included in the 2024 ecological thinning plan include:

- defined categories (as shown on Map 13)
- landscape hydrology and topography, including any historic decline in the groundwater
- vulnerability of the landscape in response to future climate change
- biodiversity elements to maintain in the landscape
- age, stocking density and condition of the regrowth area
- operational boundaries including extent of post-thinning silvicultural burns

The locations of prescribed burning in 2023 along with planned burning in 2024 are also major considerations.

Location of ecological thinning in 2024

In the Swan Region, where there is a lower overall area of densely stocked jarrah regrowth, only a few areas have been selected for thinning.

Areas with jarrah trees established in mining rehabilitation in the late 1980s will be prioritised for ecological thinning in the early years of the FMP.

Selection of karri regrowth areas will focus on locations naturally regenerated or planted in the 1980s, with some older and younger age classes.

Ecological thinning plan revision and variations

This plan is based on consultation with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Water Corporation, Noongar regional corporations, mining companies, conservation groups, and forest-based industries and businesses. Ongoing assessment of the FEAs will take place and variations will be considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval from DBCA's Conservation and Ecosystem Management Executive Director.



Forest Management Plan 2024–2033

Listing of FEAs

The Tables below list the FEAs according to forest category and ecosystem.
(Area figures are rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.)

Forest category: Regrowth jarrah

Forest ecosystem	Forest block	FEA label	Net area (hectares)
Jarrah north-west	Barton	PHBT030024	20
	Occidental	PHOC010024	80
	Hamilton	CHA0521	640
Jarrah north-east	Barton	PHBT030024	20
	Occidental	PHOC010024	20
Jarrah south	Gregory	BLGG040024	400
	Crowea	DOCW110024	40
	Dordagup	DODD030024	80
	Flybrook	DOFB010024	140
	Gordon (Warren)	DOGO010023	350
	Lewin	DOLE040024	230
	Yardup	DOYR020024	520
	Mattaband	WMA0620	40

Forest category: Mining rehabilitation

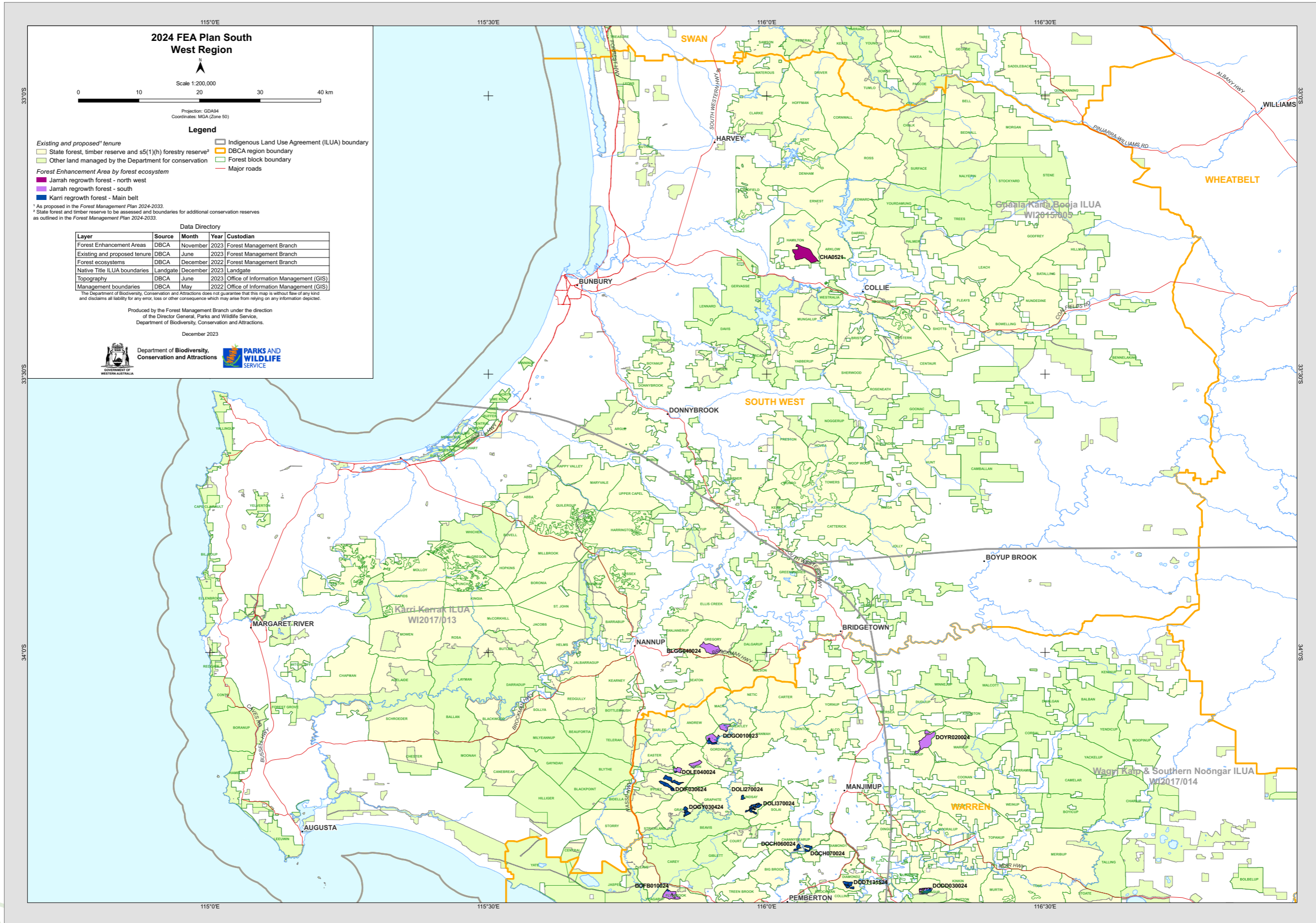
Forest ecosystem	Forest block	FEA label	Net area (hectares)
Jarrah north-west	Turner/Urbrae	DTN02MN	380
	Urbrae/Turner/Scott	PHUR03MR24	400

Forest category: Regrowth karri

Forest ecosystem	Forest block	FEA label	Net area (hectares)
Karri main belt	Brockman	DOBR120024	100
	Channybearup	DOCH060024	60
	Channybearup	DOCH070024	90
	Crowea	DOCW110024	30
	Diamond 2	DODT131524	140
	Dombakup	DODM21M324	250
	Dordagup	DODD030024	90
	Gordon (Warren)	DOGO010023	60
	Gray	DOGY030424	100
	Iffley	DOIF030624	300
	Lewin	DOLE040024	10
	Lindsay	DOLI270024	30
	Lindsay	DOLI370024	170
	Nairn	DONA030024	70
	Nairn	DONA090024	240
	Poole	DOPL050024	260
	Sutton	DOSU060024	140
	Sutton	DOSU071524	210
	Sutton	DOSU140024	120
	Sutton	PSU1118	250
Warren	PWR0623	220	
Mattaband	WMA0618	50	
Mattaband	WMA0620	40	

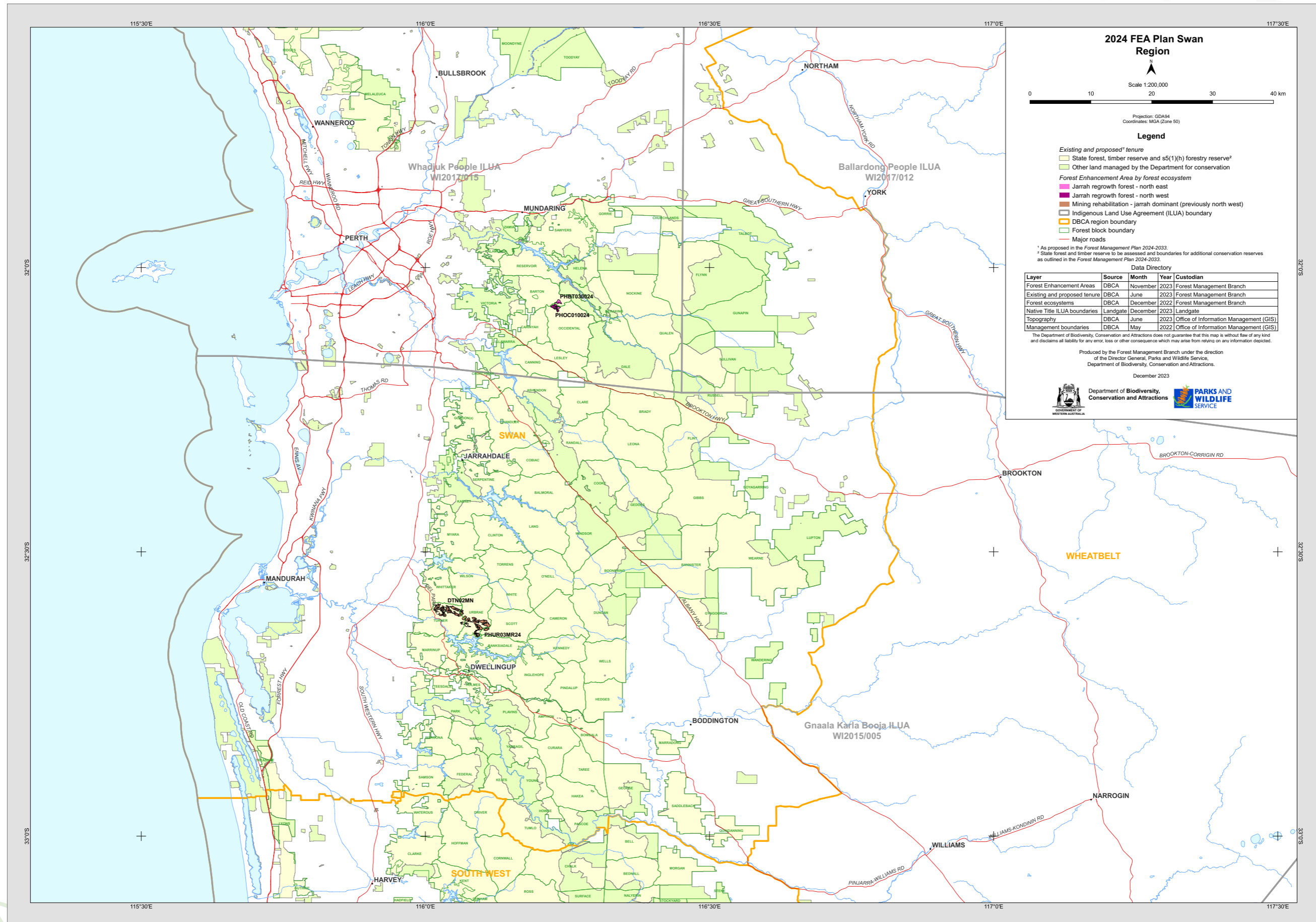


Forest Management Plan 2024–2033





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2024 FEA Plan Swan Region

Scale 1:200,000
Projection: GDA94
Coordinates: MGA (Zone 50)

Legend

- Existing and proposed¹ tenure
 - State forest, timber reserve and s5(1)(h) forestry reserve²
 - Other land managed by the Department for conservation
- Forest Enhancement Area by forest ecosystem
 - Jarrah regrowth forest - north east
 - Jarrah regrowth forest - north west
 - Mining rehabilitation - jarrah dominant (previously north west)
- Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) boundary
- DBCA region boundary
- Forest block boundary
- Major roads

¹ As proposed in the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033.
² State forest and timber reserve to be assessed and boundaries for additional conservation reserves as outlined in the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033.

Data Directory

Layer	Source	Month	Year	Custodian
Forest Enhancement Areas	DBCA	November	2023	Forest Management Branch
Existing and proposed tenure	DBCA	June	2023	Forest Management Branch
Forest ecosystems	DBCA	December	2022	Forest Management Branch
Native Title ILUA boundaries	Landgate	December	2023	Landgate
Topography	DBCA	June	2023	Office of Information Management (GIS)
Management boundaries	DBCA	May	2022	Office of Information Management (GIS)

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Produced by the Forest Management Branch under the direction of the Director General, Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
December 2023

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Forest Management Plan 2024–2033



2024 FEA Plan Warren Region

Scale 1:200,000
Projection: GDA94
Coordinates: MGA (Zone 50)

Legend

Existing and proposed¹ tenure

- State forest, timber reserve and s5(1)(h) forestry reserve²
- Other land managed by the Department for conservation

Forest Enhancement Area by forest ecosystem

- Jarrah regrowth forest - south
- Karri regrowth forest - Main belt

Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) boundary
 DBCA region boundary
 Forest block boundary
 Major roads

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