



2025 indicative 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) provides for up to 8,000 hectares of ecological thinning to be undertaken annually in State forest and timber reserves.

Ecological thinning commenced in early 2024 and occurs in Forest Enhancement Areas (FEAs), where the primary objective of thinning is to promote forest health and resilience to conserve biodiversity. This 2025 ecological thinning plan outlines the FEAs that may be thinned during the year.

Context

The 2025 ecological thinning plan identifies 7,900 hectares as candidate FEAs within three forest categories – jarrah regrowth, karri regrowth and mining rehabilitation.

The final area made available during 2025 is likely to be less as subsequent detailed planning processes refine boundaries and exclusion areas within each FEA. The larger area on the annual plan provides flexibility to accommodate changes in location or timing of thinning that may arise during the detailed planning and field preparation phases.

Individual FEAs are assessed through the Disturbance Approval System (DAS) as part of the pre-planning process. This system assesses the impact of proposed disturbances and enables strategies to be developed to avoid or mitigate the impact on the environment. Thinning operations will not commence in an area without approval through DAS. The timing of this pre-operations phase can vary considerably depending on the complexity and local settings for individual FEAs.

Selecting areas for ecological thinning

The planning, approval and operational stages of thinning an FEA can extend beyond 12 months. The 2025 annual plan therefore includes a selection of FEAs that will ‘carry forward’ from the 2024 plan because they are at varying stages of pre-planning or field operations. Some FEAs were also removed from the 2024 plan due to bushfire or drought impacts, or constraints identified at the detailed planning stage. New candidate areas have been added to the 2025 plan.

Selection of candidate FEAs for the 2025 plan was informed by the following factors, using a general risk assessment hierarchy.

- General assessment of forest health, including mapped extent of vegetation ‘die-off’ resulting from the 2023/24 summer and autumn drought.
- Definition and extent of candidate categories (as shown on Map 13).
- Landscape hydrology and topography, including observed or reported declines in depth to groundwater.
- Vulnerability of the landscape to climate change, including changes in annual rainfall.
- Biodiversity elements to maintain in the landscape.
- Regrowth patch extent and condition, including age and relative stocking density.
- Practical operational boundaries, including post-thinning silvicultural burns.

The location of prescribed burning undertaken in 2024 and planned for 2025/26, and providing suitable locations for research projects and adaptive management trials to inform ecological thinning practices were also considered.

Location of ecological thinning in 2025

The following maps show the geographical location of candidate FEAs in the three DBCA administrative regions within the FMP area.

In the Swan Region, where there are fewer areas of densely-stocked jarrah regrowth potentially available, only a few candidate FEAs have been identified. Ongoing forest stratification work will refine candidate areas for consideration in subsequent annual plans.

Jarrah-dominant areas established mining rehabilitation in the late 1980s remain a priority for thinning in the early years of the FMP. The importance of thinning these stands has been emphasised in multiple independent panels informing silvicultural guidelines for Forest Management Plans. Further consultation with mining companies may refine boundaries and operational settings in these FEAs.

Ecological thinning plan revision and variations

This plan is provided following consultation with the Noongar regional corporations. Ongoing assessment of the FEAs will take place and variations will be considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval from DBCA Executive Director, Conservation and Ecosystem Management.





Forest Management Plan 2024–2033

Listing of FEAs

The tables below list the FEAs by forest category and forest ecosystem in each DBCA region.
(Area figures are rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.)

Table 1: Candidate Forest Enhancement Areas for 2025 within the Swan Region

Year	Forest ecosystem	Forest block	FEA label	Net area (hectares)
Areas carried over from 2024	Jarrah north-east	Barton 03	PHBT030024	20
		Occidental 01	PHOC010024	20
	Jarrah north-west	Barton 03	PHBT030024	20
		Occidental 01	PHOC010024	80
	Mine rehabilitation – jarrah	Turner 02, Urbrae 02	DTN02MN	380
		Urbrae 03, Turner 02, Scott 04	PHUR03MR24	400
Mine rehabilitation – exotic	Urbrae 03, Turner 02, Scott 04	PHUR03MR24	60	
New areas added for 2025	Mine rehabilitation – jarrah	Chandler 04	PHCH04MR24	10
	Mine rehabilitation – exotic	Chandler 04	PHCH04MR24	100

Table 2: Candidate Forest Enhancement Areas for 2025 within the South West Region

Year	Forest ecosystem	Forest block	FEA label	Net area (hectares)
Areas carried over from 2024	Jarrah south	Gregory 04	BLGG040024	400
	Jarrah north-west	Hamilton 05	CHA0521	100
New areas added for 2025	Jarrah north-west	Cornwall 02	WECW020025	310
		Ross 03	WERS030025	230
		Warner 07	BLWN070025	650
	Jarrah sandy basins	Wilga 06	BLWI060025	680



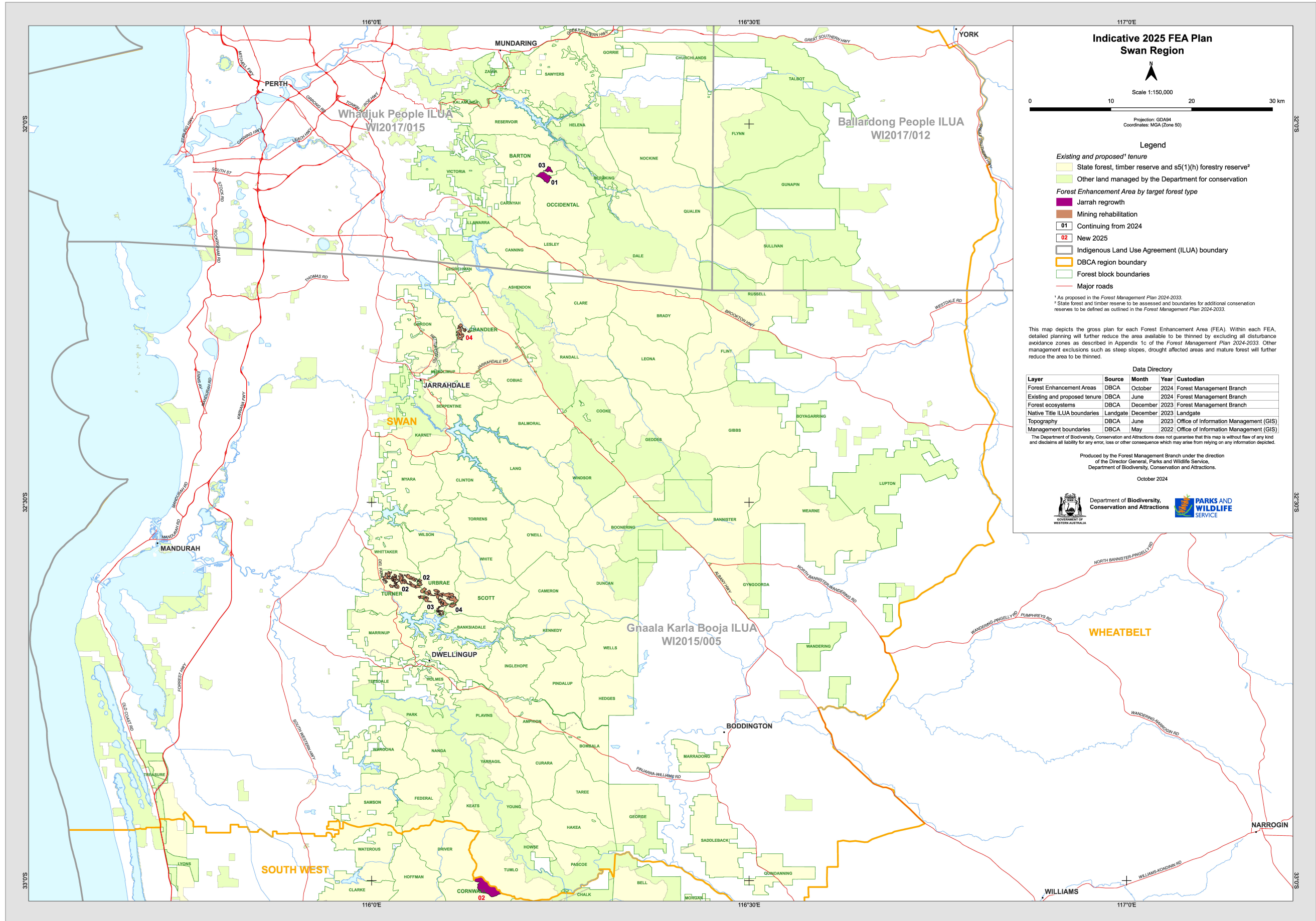
Forest Management Plan 2024–2033

Table 3: Candidate Forest Enhancement Areas for 2025 within the Warren Region

Year	Forest ecosystem	Forest block	FEA label	Net area (hectares)	
Areas carried over from 2024	Jarrah south	Flybrook 01	DOFB010024	140	
		Lewin 04	DOLE040024	230	
		Yardup 02	DOYR020024	520	
		Crowea 11	DOCW110024	60	
		Dordagup 03	DODD030024	80	
		Gordon 01	DOGO010023	180	
		Mattaband 06 (2020)	WMA0620	40	
		Karri main belt	Brockman 12	DOBR120024	100
			Channybearup 06	DOCH060724	60
			Diamond Two 13, 15	DODT131524	140
	Gray 03, Gray 04		DOGY030424	100	
	Iffley 03, Iffley 06		DOIF030624	120	
	Lindsay 27		DOLI270024	30	
	Lindsay 37, 38, 42, 43		DOLI37M424	170	
	Mattaband 06 (2018)		WMA0618	50	
	Nairn 03		DONA030024	70	
	Nairn 09		DONA090024	20	
	Poole 05	DOPL050024	260		
	Sutton 07, 15	DOSU071524	20		
	Sutton 11	PSU1118	250		
	Sutton 14	DOSU140024	90		
	Warren 06	PWR0623	10		
	Crowea 11	DOCW110024	50		
	Dordagup 03	DODD030024	90		
	Gordon 01	DOGO010023	50		
	Mattaband 06 (2020)	WMA0620	40		
	New areas added for 2025	Jarrah south	Iffley 09	DOIF090025	140
			Wheatley 06	DOWH060025	210
			Crowea 04	DOCW040025	20
		Karri main belt	Brockman 03	DOBR030025	220
Court 01			DOCU010025	60	
Graphite 08			DOGP080025	150	
Gray 05			DOGY050025	160	
Mattaband 02			FRMA020025	100	
Mattaband 11			FRMA110025	10	
Mattaband 12			FRMA120025	50	
Nairn 02			DONA020025	100	
Nairn 09			DONA090025	50	
Wattle 12			DOWT120025	150	
Crowea 04			DOCW040025	50	



Forest Management Plan 2024–2033



**Indicative 2025 FEA Plan
Swain Region**

Scale 1:150,000
Projection: GDA84
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 target forest type

- Jarrah regrowth
- Mining rehabilitation

FEA Management

- 01 Continuing from 2024
- 02 New 2025

Other boundaries

- Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) boundary
- DBCA region boundary
- Forest block boundaries
- 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 to be defined as outlined in the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033.

This map depicts the gross plan for each Forest Enhancement Area (FEA). Within each FEA, detailed planning will further reduce the area available to be thinned by excluding all disturbance avoidance zones as described in Appendix 1c of the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033. Other management exclusions such as steep slopes, drought affected areas and mature forest will further reduce the area to be thinned.

Data Directory

Layer	Source	Month	Year	Custodian
Forest Enhancement Areas	DBCA	October	2024	Forest Management Branch
Existing and proposed tenure	DBCA	June	2024	Forest Management Branch
Forest ecosystems	DBCA	December	2023	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)

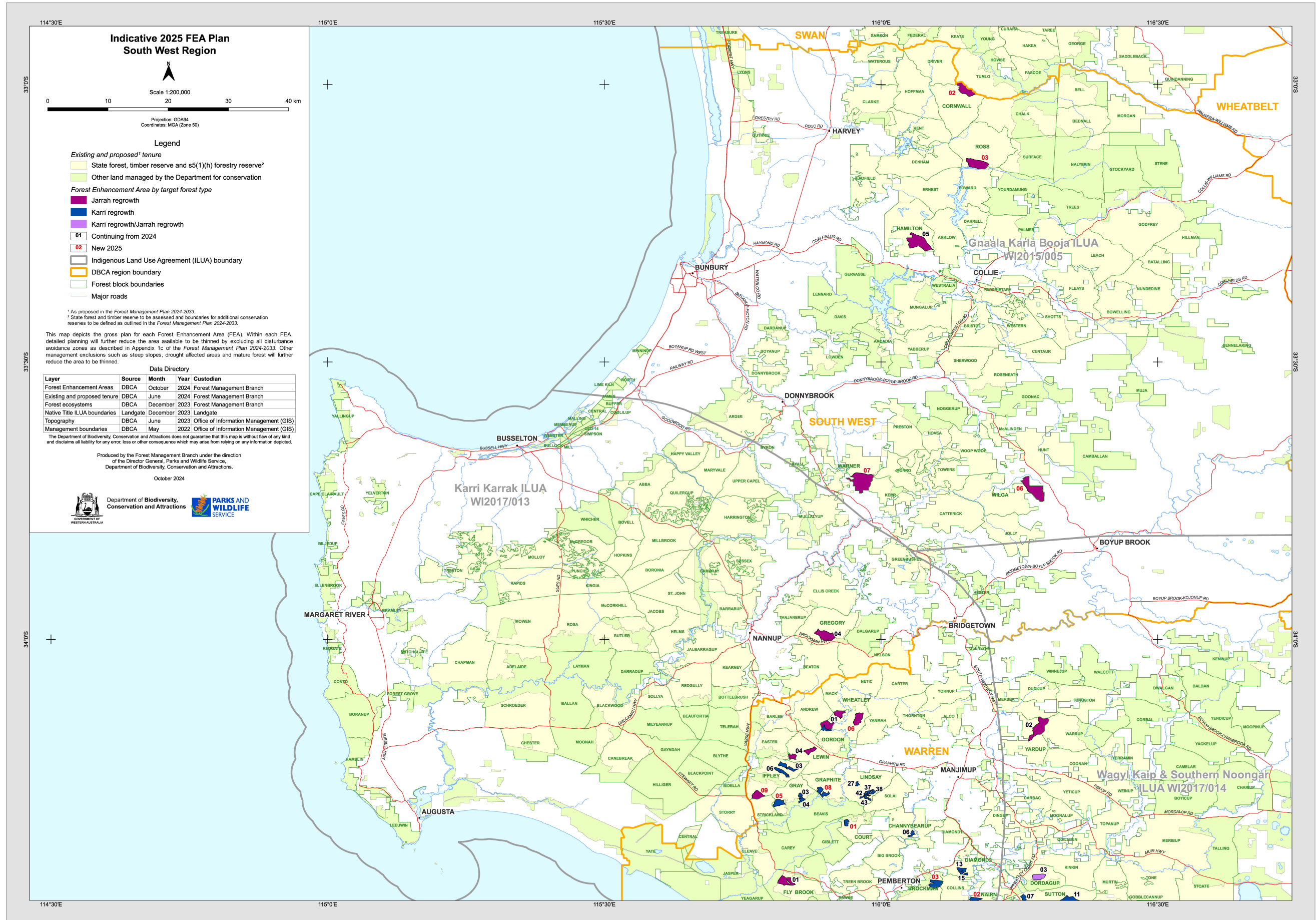
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Produced by the Forest Management Branch under the direction
of the Director General, Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
October 2024

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

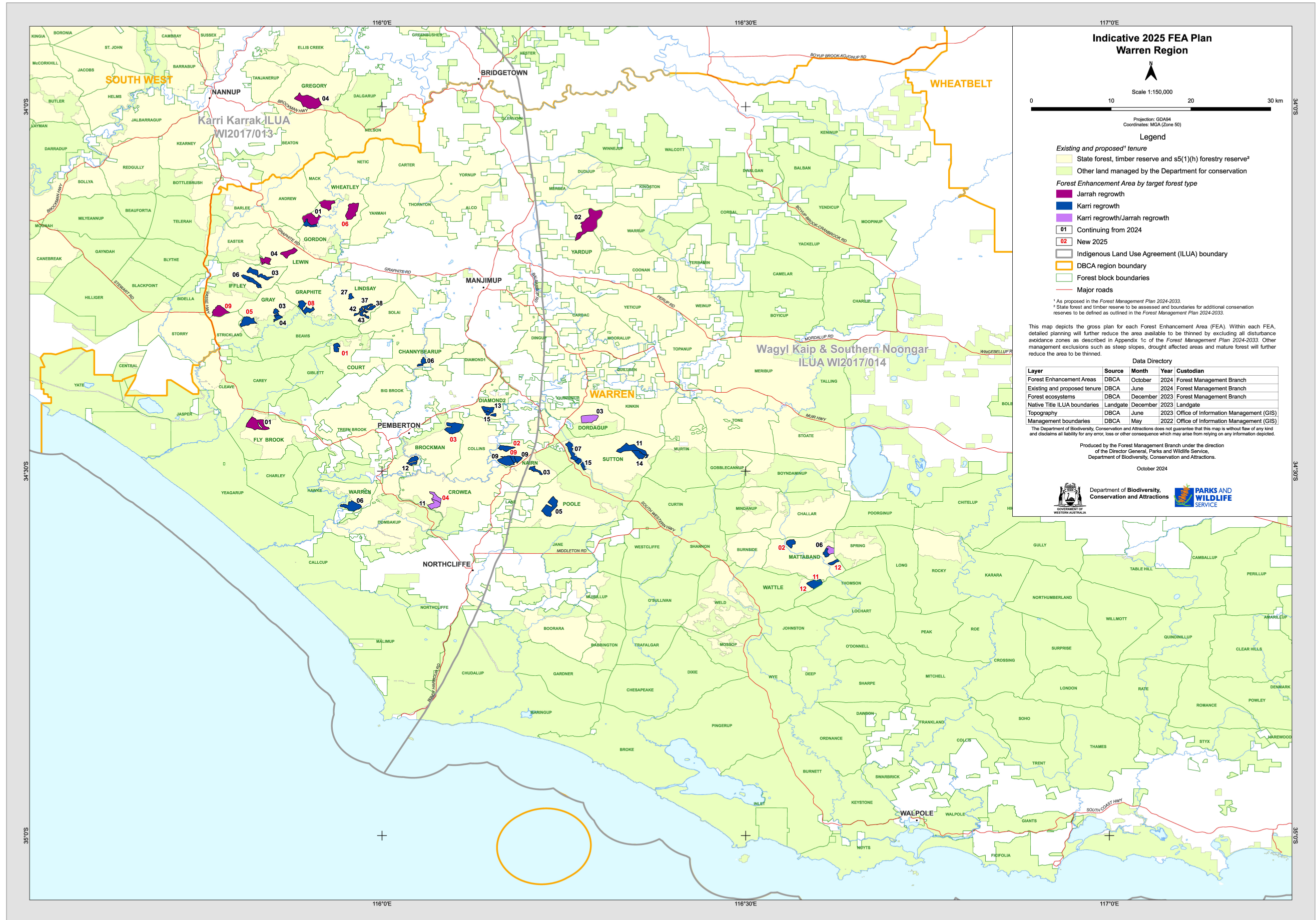


Forest Management Plan 2024–2033





Forest Management Plan 2024–2033



Indicative 2025 FEA Plan Warren Region

Scale 1:150,000
Projection: GDA84
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 target forest type

- Jarrah regrowth
- Karri regrowth
- Karri regrowth/Jarrah regrowth

FEA Status

- 01 Continuing from 2024
- 02 New 2025

Boundaries

- Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) boundary
- DBCAs region boundary
- Forest block boundaries
- Major roads

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