

SANDALWOOD LICENCES

Summary of changes since 2024/2025 season

The CEO Guideline Sandalwood Licensing (CEO Guideline) and the Flora taking (Sandalwood) Licence wild stands application kit (application kit) were reviewed ahead of the 2025/2026 season. Significant changes to the licensing process were introduced for the 2024/2025 season. However, further amendments have been made to improve the process and provide further guidance for applicants. This document outlines the key changes introduced for 2025/2026 season. The changes outlined in Table 1 and 2 do not include minor changes and/or editorial changes.

Table 1. Changes applicable to the CEO Guideline

Item	Description of change	Justification
1.	In relation to the criteria to ensure sufficient evidence that the applicant has obtained consent to enter lands proposed in their application, further elaboration has been made regarding lands that are subject to Native Title.	The additional information provides a recommendation that where lands are subject to Native Title, the licence applications are submitted by the Native Title holders (i.e. Prescribed Body Corporate) or that an Indigenous Land Use Agreement is required by a third-party applicant.
2.	Criteria associated with protection of threatened and priority species and ecological communities and protection of heritage and culture have been moved from Stage 2 criteria to Stage 1 criteria.	Review of threatened and priority flora and ecological communities as well as protection of heritage and culture can be checked in the early stages of the review of applications.
3.	The Stage 2 criterion ' <i>...the take of living trees will not threaten the continued occurrence of sandalwood at the location</i> ' has been incorporated into another criterion.	Reduces duplication for similar criteria.
4.	Further adjustments have been made to elaborate on how applications will be ranked (if applicable). In particular, the text now mentions that if applicable a preference will be given to Traditional Owners, particularly those who hold the Native Title rights over the land for which applications are made.	If applicable (i.e. insufficient quota is available), applications will be ranked from highest to least likelihood of successful sandalwood establishment and conservation (as per previous CEO Guideline). However, following this ranking, a preference will be given to Traditional Owners (new addition for 2025/2026 season).
5.	The CEO Guideline now refers to field inspections being undertaken subject to Stage 1 criteria being met.	This was not previously explicitly stated.

The changes made to the CEO guidelines also correspond to changes made to the application kit (e.g. Stage 2 criteria are generally all relevant to information contained in Document 2 in the kit) and as such the documents have been adjusted to reflect this. These changes are not all listed in Table 2 below. However, Table 2 highlights what further key changes have been made to the application kit for the 2025/2026 season.

Table 2. Changes made to the application kit for the 2025/2026 season

Item	Description of change	Justification
1.	It has been explicitly stated that correspondence sent by mail may result in some delay and that email is preferred when submitting an application	To help ensure less delay in the processing of applications.
2.	The regional protocols for sandalwood take have been presented differently with a colour coded map of the regional groupings and the justification and protocols have been elaborated on in a table. In particular, for applications to take living sandalwood in the arid rangelands, it is no longer a requirement for the sandalwood establishment and sustainability plan to include the results of five (5) years of seedling establishment monitoring data. However, this is highly recommended. In the absence of this data, the applicant should demonstrate that the establishment program will be practicably implementable and have a high likelihood of success. Refer to pages 4 - 6.	The additional information has been added to provide more context and justification for the regional protocols. The requirement (in the arid rangelands) for applications to take living sandalwood to have five years of seedling establishment monitoring data has been removed to acknowledge this data may not be available for new applications. However, sufficient information must still be provided in support of these applications.
3.	It is now explicitly stated that seeding requirements apply to both the take of dead and living (green) sandalwood (refer to page 6).	This was a requirement previously, but it is now more explicitly stated to avoid any confusion. The rates of sandalwood seed planted per tonne harvested have remained the same for Wheatbelt (2kg/tonne harvested), and all other IBRA subregions (5kg/tonne harvested).
4.	Reference to licence requirements for the collection of sandalwood seed on crown land in the wild has been provided (refer to page 6).	This change has been made to make it clear that the collection of sandalwood seed in the wild requires a licence where the seed is being used for commercial or reseeded purposes.
5.	Quotas allocated from 2026/2027 onwards are subject to a new Sandalwood Order (refer to page 7).	The review of the Sandalwood Order may impact available quotas.
6.	Document 2 (Sandalwood Sustainability and Establishment Plan template), now contains more guidance for undertaking inventory and planning, and what information should be contained in the implementation section of the plan.	This information has been provided to assist applicants, encourage consistency, and streamline process.