



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.



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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



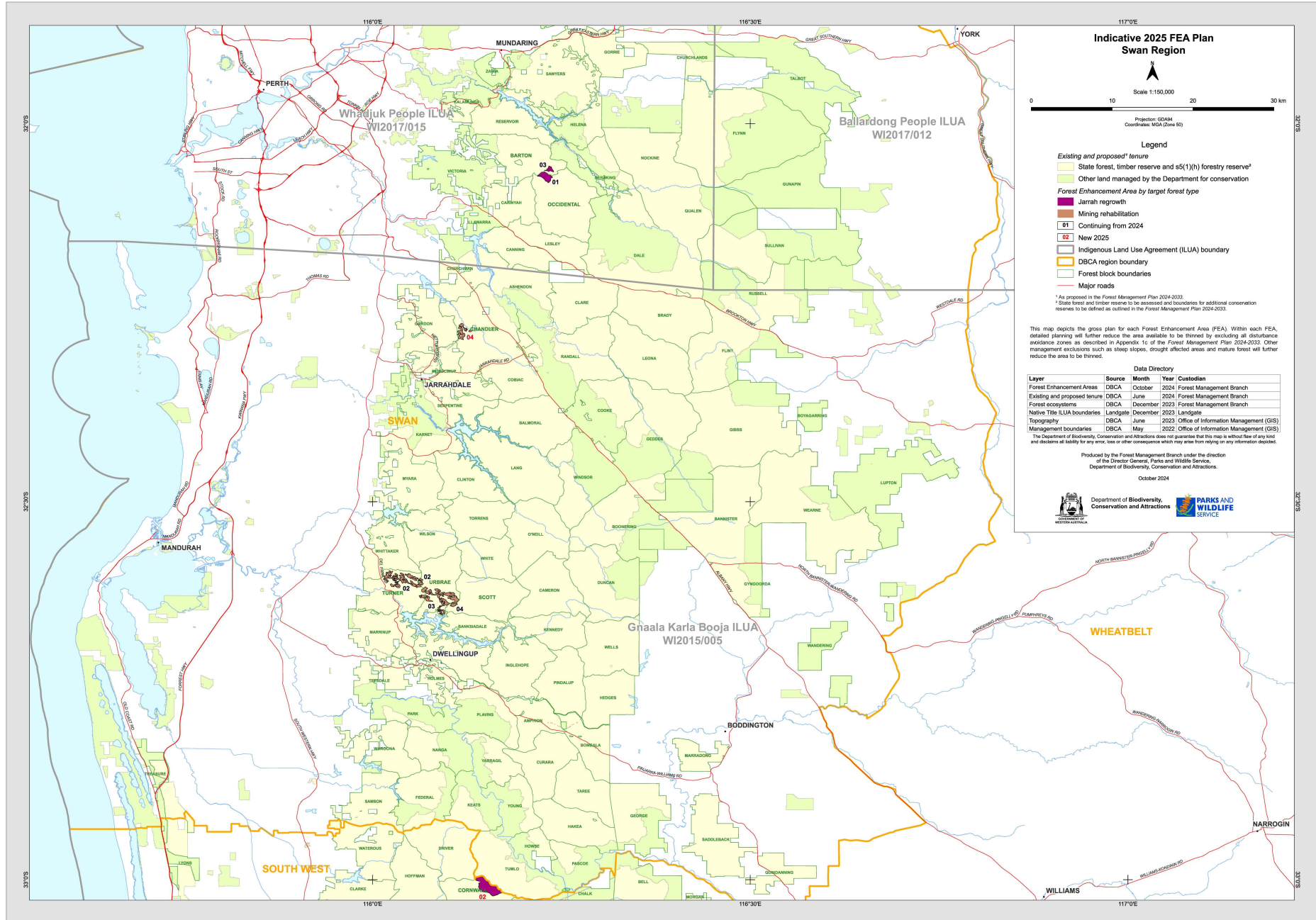
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Table 3: Candidate Forest Enhancement Areas for 2025 within the Warren Region

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
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		



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Indicative 2025 FEA Plan Swan Region



Scale 1:150,000



Projection: GDA84
Coordinates: MGA (Zone 50)

Legend

- Existing and proposed¹ tenure**
 - State forest, timber reserve and s(1)(h) forestry reserve²
 - Other land managed by the Department for conservation
- Forest Enhancement Area by target forest type**
 - Jarrah regrowth
 - Mining rehabilitation
- FEA Status**
 - 01 Continuing from 2024
 - 02 New 2025
- 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)

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions does not guarantee that this map is without error of any kind and disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

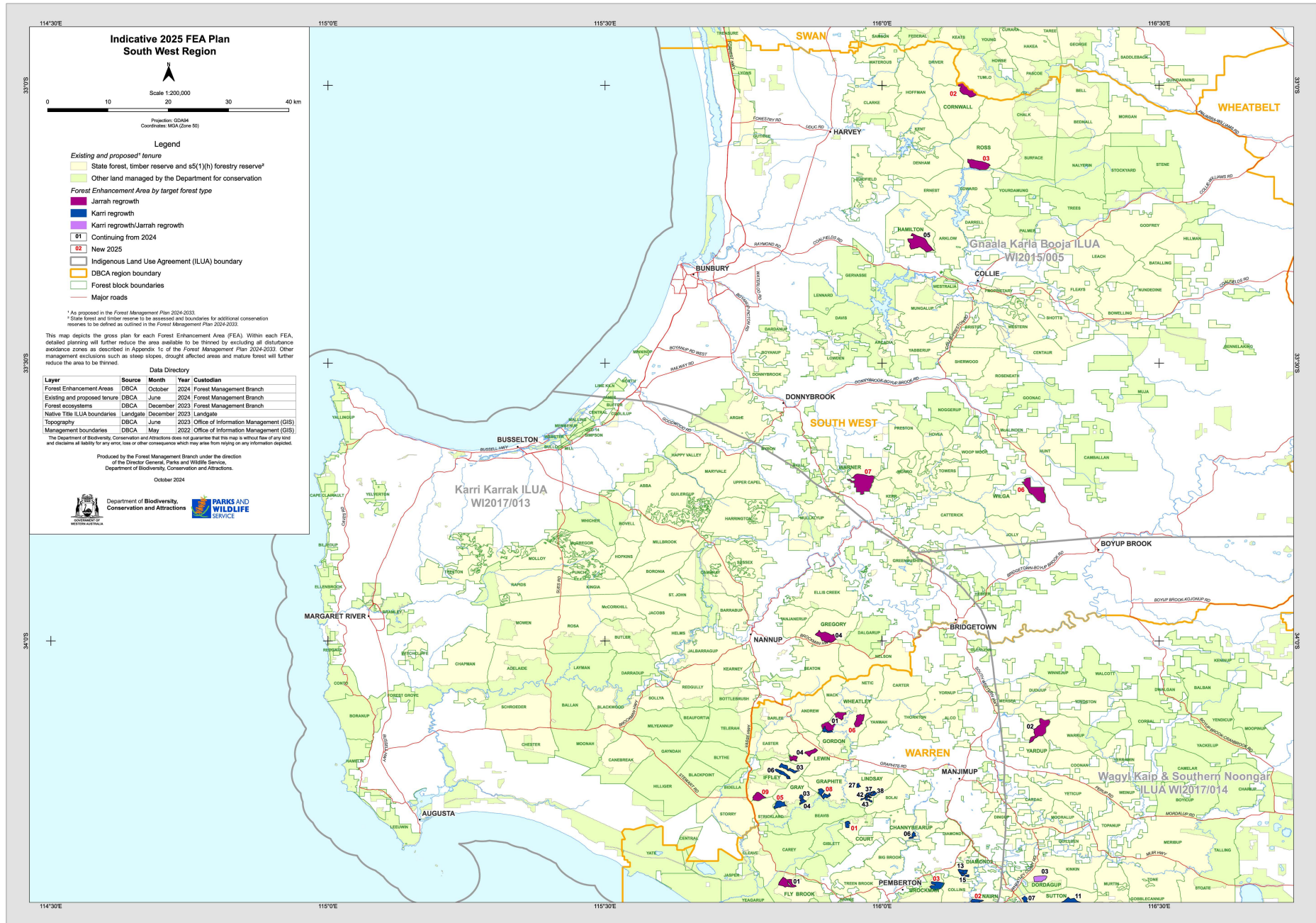
Produced by the Forest Management Branch under the direction of the Director General, Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

October 2024





Forest Management Plan 2024–2033





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