



FOREST THINNING FOR ECOLOGICAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

ABSTRACT

Terms of Reference for the South West Timber Hub's
'Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group'

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INTRODUCTION

This document establishes the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group

BACKGROUND

The Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group was established through the South West Timber Hub to give effect to elements of the Djarlma Plan released on 2 July 2019 by the Minister for Forests. The Djarlma plan recognises the importance of thinning forest areas that are overstocked to improve their resilience under the drying and warming climate being experienced in the south west.

Membership consists of representatives from agencies, industry associations and stakeholders. The group is developing a series of demonstration/trial sites to examine forest thinning for the purposes of increasing forest health and resilience on DBCA managed estate and the purposes of fuel load reduction to support community protection (minimal defensible space) on unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves near towns in the South West of Western Australia (WA).

PURPOSE

The Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group will develop the demonstration/trial sites and information in consultation with stakeholders to illustrate the processes and potential benefits on an ecological, social and economic benefits of forest thinning.

OBJECTIVES

The following have been identified as the primary objectives for the Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group:

- Gauge community acceptance of the ecological and fuel management thinning alternatives.
- Undertake a cost benefit analysis of the activity of the trials including the operational limitations of the activity.
- Develop a series of demonstration/trial thinning sites in the South West of WA.
- Foster collaboration across the local community, state and local governments and private sector.
- Implement relevant elements of the Djarlma Plan (and relevant selections of the forest management plan).
- Provide advice to government on the adoption of thinning to manage South West forests in WA.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF THE FOREST THINNING FOR ECOLOGICAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

The primary role of the group is to develop community demonstration /trial thinning sites for promoting forest health and fuel management in the South West of WA.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The responsibilities of the Chair is to:

- Assist the group with timely decision making that is consistent with the objectives.
- Ensure adequate collaboration and cooperation from respective group members.
- Seek advice from the group members via an out-of-session process as required.
- Ensure advice is provided to government as required.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

The role of individual group members is to:

- Encourage alignment of the expectations of community, government and stakeholders and the organisations or groups they represent.
- Participate in the identification and analysis of the community and stakeholders need for the development and implementation of the demonstration sites.
- Provide a point of reference when necessary to increase understanding of the strategic implications and outcomes of the thinning activities.
- Provide guidance on risks and issues as required.
- Making suitable resources available to complete activities related to respective agency/organisation or group.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP

The group is responsible for:

- Establishing several demonstration sites in the South West of WA.
- Providing advice on risks, issues and recommendations.
- Ensuring that agreed positions demonstrate consideration.
- Ensuring that decisions made reflect the priorities of the Djarlma Plan.
- Reporting to the Minister for Forests, Minister for Environment, and Minister for Emergency Services on progress and meeting of objectives.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS

Community Member – Chrissy Sharpe - Chair
Project Manager South West Timber Hub - Secretariat
Forest Industry Federation WA President
Forest Products Commission Director Operations
Community Member
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Manager Forest Management Branch
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Senior Silviculturalist
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Forest Ecosystem Scientist
Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Director Office of Bushfire Risk Management
Department of Fire and Emergency Services – OBRM Program Manager
Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Fire Ecologist

Members are determined by a majority consensus of the members.

Through invite of the Chair, subject matter experts (SMEs) and guest contributors may attend a meeting. Other Members may request that the Chair invite SMEs and guest contributors.

Role of Proxies

Where members are unable to attend, they may nominate a proxy to act on their behalf. Proxies participate in discussions and have a role in decision making. Members will inform the Chair and Secretariat as soon as possible if they intend to send a proxy to a meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

QUORUM

A minimum of a representative from each agency and six members or their proxies (including the Chair) are required for decision making purposes.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group will make decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, then a decision will be made based on a majority vote of all attending members and proxies (where appropriate).

MEETINGS

FREQUENCY

The Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group will meet once every 6 to 8 weeks.

The Forest Thinning for Ecological Health Working Group will meet at a time and date as determined by the Chair. Unless otherwise required, meetings will be limited to 90 minutes.

AGENDAS, MINUTES AND REPORTING

Proposed agenda items and associated papers are to be submitted to the Secretariat at least 5 working days prior to each meeting. Items of an urgent nature may be submitted for inclusion in the agenda after that time at the discretion of the Chair.

Papers for the meeting will be distributed to the group members one week prior to the meeting and will include:

- The agenda, outlining the date and venue for the forthcoming meeting
- The minutes and actions of the previous meeting
- Any other documentation, evidence or information to assist consideration.

REPORTING BY THE GROUP

The minutes of each meeting will be provided to the members of the Working Group.

SECRETARIAT

The secretariat will be responsible for:

- Scheduling group meetings.
- Preparation and distribution of agendas and papers prior to the scheduled meeting.
- Ensuring the records and minutes of the meetings are properly recorded and distributed in a timely manner.
- Distribution of minutes to the group members within 10 business days after a group has convened.
- Performing other duties as delegated by the Chair.

PROBITY

Members are required to declare any conflict of interest that may arise during their membership to the Chair.

Members agree that in accepting this TOR, they are bound the by the principles of confidentiality about the group.