

Sandalwood harvesting

Harvesting licence condition for accessing and harvesting sandalwood

Sandalwood harvesting requires a harvesting licence under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. When operating under a harvesting licence a person must comply with any conditions that are set out in the licence.

In some cases conditions are linked to Schedule 12 of the previous Code of Practice (Code of Practice for native forest timber production on state lands). This schedule was not included in the current Code of Practice but is still relevant for some licence conditions when harvesting sandalwood.

To provide details of how to comply with this condition it has been reproduced here and should be read in conjunction with the current code of practice.

Sandalwood harvesting licence condition requirements

Sandalwood (*Santalum lanceolatum*) shrubs may be harvested as a selective operation subject to the following conditions.

1. Operational access

Operational access must:

- utilise existing tracks wherever possible. Tracks must be stabilised and drained in a manner consistent with the Code
- for off-road access, utilise walk-over practices, trample rather than push vegetation and avoid disturbance of the soil surface. Watercourse crossings must be consistent with any conditions on watercourse protection ((Schedule 3 of the current Code)).

2. Selective harvesting

Selective harvesting must:

- be restricted to slopes less than 25 degrees
- use rubber-tyred machines
- only harvest dead sandalwood or live sandalwood where the diameter at breast height exceeds 12cm

and cutting of primary branches indicates that heartwood constitutes 50 percent or more of the branch diameter

- utilise all commercially viable material from harvested shrubs, including roots, stumps, boles and branches
- avoid or minimise damage to retained vegetation
- harvest by pulling except where this poses a significant hazard leading to soil erosion
- be consistent with watercourse protection guidelines. Sandalwood may be harvested within watercourse protection buffer zones provided:
 - machinery does not enter the buffer zone other than on a pre-existing track
 - sandalwood are not pulled closer than 2m from a defining bank (Diagram 1)
 - sandalwood stems closer than 2m or below the defining bank may be harvested by cutting provided the bank is not unstable
 - 'u' shaped, physically damaged by harvesting or will become destabilised by harvesting where stems are removed closer than 2m from the defining bank the host tree must not be harmed.



Diagram 1. Sandalwood watercourse protection system

