



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Project Woodland

Project Board

Final Report

January

2023

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Introduction

The Project Board is pleased to present its final Report, as Project Woodland transitions into a new structure to focus on the Implementation of the new **Forest Strategy** (including the new **Forestry Programme 2023-2027**).

There has been significant progress in implementing many of the objectives of Project Woodland. However, some of the actions proposed in the McKinnon Report and by the Project Woodland Working Groups, for example those relating to the Organisational Review and training, and the development of a customer charter, are a work in progress.

Furthermore, while there has been very significant progress in reducing the licencing backlog, the task of refining and optimising departmental processes, so that licences can be issued as efficiently as possible while respecting the legal framework, will inevitably be a continuing one.

The significant achievements of Project Woodland, together with those actions identified as requiring further progress, will underpin the Department's delivery of the new **Forest Strategy** and the **Forest Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2030**.

The purpose of this report to:

- 1) summarise the extent to which Mackinnon recommendations have been implemented, recognising that some of these will involve ongoing review and action;
- 2) list the outputs from each Working Group
- 3) acknowledge the contributions of their members and the Department of the working groups and
- 4) outline the approach to ensure continuity from Project Woodland to the new Forest Strategy Implementation Plan.

The Board gratefully acknowledges all feedback received in relation to its previous reports and the various submissions from the Working Groups throughout Project Woodland. The new governance structure should build on the learnings from this process, to ensure that stakeholder engagement and communications are continued to enable a successful implementation for the new Forest Strategy.

Background

The Government commissioned the Mackinnon Report in 2019 to:

- examine the process for approving afforestation licence applications and linked issues for other forestry related operations i.e., forest road works and tree felling and
- make recommendations which will address any issues identified and which will improve the process

gov.ie - [Review of Approval Processes for Afforestation in Ireland- Mackinnon 2019](http://gov.ie)
(www.gov.ie)

MOS Pippa Hackett commissioned Jo'Hara FutureArk Ltd to:

- advise the Minister on an Implementation Plan for the Mackinnon report, setting out measurable and deliverable actions and timelines for their achievement
- engage with all relevant stakeholders in the finalisation of this Plan
- submit her recommendations on an Implementation Plan to the Minister and the Forest Policy Group by end-February 2021.

Thirty-six interviews were held with stakeholders from the Forestry Policy Group and Departmental staff in December and early January 2021, to explore developments since early 2020 and to seek additional views not expressed during the consultation process that preceded the McKinnon Report. The purpose of the discussions was not to repeat the process carried out by Jim Mackinnon, but to ascertain whether other significant issues had arisen since November 2019 which would impact on the findings.

Amongst these discussions, the following recommendations from the Mackinnon Report were highlighted the most frequently or with the greatest emphasis:

- Recommendation no 2: Reduce the Backlog
- Recommendation no 12: Develop a Forest Strategy for Ireland
- Recommendations no 6 & 7: Clarify the Situation with regards to European Directives and Forestry Operations in Ireland
- Recommendation 3: Introduce pre-applications with discussions with issues/action log

In the context of developing a plan to implement the McKinnon recommendations, The O'Hara Report recommended the appointment of a Project Manager, to ensure transparency and good communication, and clear project documentation following standard project management procedures (e.g., Project Initiation Document, Project Plan, stakeholder engagement, milestone plan).

Following the appointment of a Project Manager, Project Woodland was established in February 2021 as a collaborative effort to address forestry licensing issues and develop a shared National Vision and Strategy for Forestry in Ireland. A Project Charter was developed and a Project Board was established ([gov.ie - Forestry policy and strategy \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/63400-forestry-policy-and-strategy/)).

The members of the project board are Brendan Gleeson (Project Board Chair, and Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine); Jo O'Hara (former CEO Scottish Forestry); Jerry Grant (Chair of Dublin Port Company) and Dr. Matt Crowe (former Director EPA) who replaced Sarah O'Shea (CEO, SOS Sports; honorary General Secretary, Olympic Federation Ireland) in 2022.

The O'Hara recommendations were logically grouped into 4 work streams and independent chairs were appointed as follows:

- WG1 Reduce the Backlog - Chair Michael Cantwell (Former Director Enterprise Ireland)
- WG2 Strategy - Chair Dr. Matt Crowe (Former Director EPA)
- WG3 Organisational -Chair Prof. Thia Hennessey (Dean Agri Economics UCC)
- WG4 Process - Chair Michael Layde (Former Ass Sec Environment)

Summary Achievements

The following highlights the key achievements for each of the Work Groups.

Work Group 1 – Reduce the Backlog

- Reducing the **Backlog** was identified as one of the key priorities in the Mackinnon Report (rec 2) and the O'Hara Implementation Plan. The backlog has now been reduced from an initial figure of **6,041 in August 2021** to **1,988 as 6th January 2023**.

- The Department has established a system to continue to review its operational systems and has deployed significant additional inspectorate and ecology resources to accelerate its licencing process.
- There have been a number of initiatives to assist applicants for licences with the submission process. These include:
 - the option of a **Pre-Application Discussion** with the relevant forestry inspector, to identify any potential issues with the application and provide high level advice;
 - the introduction of **Environmental Support Grants** to contribute to administrative costs associated with some of the environmental requirements;
 - Process improvements, including a decision by the Department to prepare habitat maps to remove some of the burden from applicants and assist licence applications.
- The Department is pro-actively examining applications that are in the system for some time. Those where the Department has requested further information from the applicant to enable it to complete the licencing process are now tracked, and applications are deemed closed if responses are not received after reminders are issued within time limits.
- The Department has deployed additional resources, with **36 new ecologists and 9 additional forestry inspectors** on board since the beginning of the Project.
- Additional training has been provided to ecologists to help them tackle the backlog.
- Reporting has been improved with the publication of a weekly Dashboard to report on licence applications, licences issued and year-on-year comparisons. Both the Licensing Plan and Quarterly Updates are published on the DAFM web site.
- **Backlog statistics** and trends are monitored and reported each week and reviewed by Departmental Heads. Weekly reporting has improved transparency and communications with the key stakeholders in the FPG.

Work Group 2 – Strategy

The focus of this Work Group was an extensive consultative process to formulate the Strategy for Forestry in Ireland (rec 12 in the Mackinnon Report). The publication of the **Shared National Vision (2050)** is a key achievement. This is the pivotal document that underpins the new Forestry Strategy in Ireland. It follows on from extensive public consultation through a Citizens Deliberative Dialogue, Public Attitudes Survey, Irish Rural Link questionnaires, a Youth Forum, an Online Survey and Bilateral Consultations with key stakeholders (see Shared Vision for Trees and Forests and Summary Report on Public Consultation [gov.ie - Forestry policy and strategy \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6840a-shared-vision-for-trees-and-forests-and-summary-report-on-public-consultation/))

The Shared National Vision for Trees and Forests in Ireland until 2050, is a visionary document with “The right trees in the right places for the right reasons with the right management – supporting a sustainable and thriving economy and society and a healthy environment.” It anticipates that by 2050 Ireland’s forests will be seen as a key solution to the climate, biodiversity, housing and health emergencies of the 2020s.

The **Forest Strategy** is about making the Shared National Vision a reality. It is a vision for significant change and is designed to provide an overriding framework to identify the actions needed to implement that change. These actions are described in the **Forest Strategy Implementation Plan (FSIP) 2023-2030**. [gov.ie - Consultation on the draft Forest Strategy \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6840a-shared-vision-for-trees-and-forests-and-summary-report-on-public-consultation/). The Public Consultation for the **Forest Strategy**, the **Forest Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2027** and associated SEA/NIS finished on November 29th 2022.

On Nov 3, 2022, The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry, Senator Pippa Hackett, and Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, announced a proposed investment by the government of **€1.3 billion in Irish Forestry**. The funding will be for the next national **Forestry Programme 2023-2027** and represents the largest ever investment by an Irish Government in tree-planting. The programme is subject of state-aid approval by the European Commission. Funds to be delivered through new Forestry Programme and Premiums for planting trees to be increased by between **46%** and **66%** and extended to **20** years for farmers. [gov.ie - €1.3 billion announced for new Forestry Supports \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6840a-shared-vision-for-trees-and-forests-and-summary-report-on-public-consultation/)

WG 3: Organisational Development

The Mackinnon Report outlined a number of key recommendations to include 'Recruit additional ecologists and inspectors' (rec 9), 'Introduce genuine KPIs' (rec 10) and 'Develop Customer Charter' (rec 11), 'Review education and training needs of forestry professionals' (rec19), 'take stock of multiplicity of campaigns' (rec 18) and 'raise status of profile of inspectorate' (rec 15).

The Forestry Services Division is at the core of operations in processing applications, making payments and servicing customers, and an **Organisational Review** was undertaken by **Grant Thornton**. Initial one-to-one interviews with key personnel in addition to an On-line Survey and an analysis of the current 'as is' organisation is completed. The next stage will include a design and implementation phase which will be rolled in as part of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan in Q1 2023 under 'New Organisational Arrangements' (action 2).

In May 2022, the Department appointed Auxilia Consultants to undertake a **Training Needs Analysis (TNA)** around the licencing process for afforestation, forest roads and tree felling and also the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme (NWCS) application process. The analysis focussed on the training needs of forestry professionals (interacting with the licensing system) and by extension other professionals involved in licence applications as well as forest owners who submit their own felling applications.

The report made a number of recommendations to address training gaps in the sector, to improve the information available to applicants for forestry licences, to improve the functionality of IFORIs and improve the licencing process.

The Project Board recognises that work is underway on all of these fronts and recommends that the Department develops an implementation plan that leverages the skills and expertise available in its State Agencies, and that the members of the governance structures established to implement the new Forestry Programme be kept apprised of progress in this regard.

The Department's **Farmers Charter** and **Customer Charter** are currently being reviewed. The Farmers Charter will now incorporate Forestry, which includes considerations on timelines in

relation to the issuing of forestry licence and the making of grant and premium payments, with general customer service to forestry clients to be covered within the Department's Customer Charter. It will be progressed along with implementation of the Regulatory Review DAFM Action Plan and the Organisational Review.

This process will be managed in the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan under '**New Organisational Arrangements**' (action 1) and '**Regulatory and Legislative Processes**' (action 9).

Conferences and workshops were held at Oakpark, Co. Carlow, in April and May 2022, to enable better communication and promotion of initiatives with key stakeholders. These included contributions from the Department, Teagasc, COFORD, Coillte, Irish Forest Owners and members of the working groups.

The Department took part in a Teagasc led workshop in November regarding Teagasc's promotion of the new forestry programme and included discussions on how best to promote forestry as a complementary farming enterprise for dairy, beef, tillage etc. The **Communications and Engagement Strategy** will be managed under 'Effective Communications' (actions 6, 7, 8) as part of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan.

A workshop was held December 2022 to provide input into a proposal document on the **COFORD Refresh Mandate** with attendees from WG3, COFORD Council and members of the COFORD working groups. The outputs from the discussion will feed into 'New Organisational Arrangements' (action 3) of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan to review the role and capabilities of COFORD.

WG 4 – Process

A number of recommendations in WG4 were aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness of processes to deliver better results in processing applications while addressing legal and regulatory requirements. Two of key objectives were to improve efficiency of the licence process and improve quality of applications.

Following a successful Pilot an implementation plan and terms of reference have been completed to support a national rollout to address rec 3 of the Mackinnon report to ‘Introduce **Pre-Application Discussions** with issues Action Log’ to improve quality of applications and in addition an **Environmental Report Grant** was sanctioned by the Department and payments rolled out under form 2 with 83 payments made to date.

An independent **Regulatory Review Report** was completed by Philip Lee LLP (June 2022). This followed a series of consultations with working groups and a number of external parties. It comprised a comprehensive report on the regulatory framework, including National, EU law and case law and made a series of recommendations. The recommendations were reviewed by WG1 and WG4 and submissions were made to the Project Board.

In response, The Department published an action plan under four headings. These were Standards, Strategic Framework, Legal Frameworks and Procedures. Three of the key recommendations include the adoption of standardised conditions and generally binding rules that will facilitate the screening and appropriate assessment processes, the establishment of a Plan-led approach to ‘Enable national datasets to be made accessible for use in in helping to classify risk’ and ‘Propose a time limit that is reasonable for the applicant and achievable for DAFM.’

The Department should proceed with implementation of its action plan, having regard to the “Eco Advocacy” and ensure that these elements feed into the Customer Charter/KPIs and the organisational review necessary to support the operations as part of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan under ‘Regulatory and Legislative Processes’ (action 9).

A complete **End-to-end Systems and Processes Analysis** was completed, resulting in a number of recommendations in relation to changes in systems and processes. A number of these system/process changes have been implemented through the Department’s Agile Implementation Team to deliver significant benefits.

These include the design of an **Application Tracker** which enables foresters and farmers to view the progress of their applications on-line thus providing greater transparency and up to

date information on the application process. New reporting facilities have been introduced using Power BI (software tool) which allows the **Weekly Dashboard, Quarterly Licensing Reports** to be more quickly and efficiently produced and freeing up time for staff to focus on other priority issues. Plans are in place to continue developments in 2023 to include functionality for **Mapping, AA Assist, Ecology and Archaeology** which will greatly assist ecologists and archaeologists to screen applications more quickly and improve the efficiency of processing any backlogs and current files in the system.

TRANSITION TO NEW PROGRAMME 2023-2030

This is the final report of the Project Woodland Project Management Board. Since the Project inception in February 2021, and in the most difficult of circumstances, substantial progress has been made across almost all of the recommendations in the McKinnon and O'Hara Reports.

Such progress would not have been made without the contribution of the Forestry Policy Group, the members of the Working Groups, and the staff of the Department who worked tirelessly to address the backlog and deliver a better licencing system over the past two years.

The Project Board wishes to express its gratitude to all of those who contributed to this task, including Minister Hackett, for her foresight in establishing this collaborative structure. While there were many difficult discussions throughout the process, Project Woodland succeeded in bringing a wide range of stakeholders together in a common enterprise, in a way that would not have been possible without it.

The majority of the **Mackinnon Recommendations** have been addressed and are either completed or were substantially progressed. It is entirely appropriate that the focus now should shift to the implementation of the New **Forest Strategy** and **Forestry Programme 2023-2027**.

A new **Governance Framework** will be established by the Minister of State. A new set of deliverables will be established to implement the Forestry Programme, and a new **Forestry Programme Consultative Committee** will provide for Stakeholder Engagement and continuity from Project Woodland. Those actions which are outstanding from Project Woodland will not be set aside but will be implemented through the new structures.

The launch of a new Forestry Programme offers a critical opportunity to reset the dial on perceptions around forestry from the very broad range of stakeholders with an interest in this sector. A very significant increase in public investment under the new Programme offers a real and substantial incentive to landowners, particularly farmers, to engage in forestry as a complement to their existing farming activities.

With the continuation of a collaborative approach, there is now a real opportunity to ensure that the forestry sector can deliver on the legitimate expectations of all its stakeholders.

The development of positive communications around forestry will be a critical element in developing the sector to its full potential. This will require those with an interest in the sector to recognise the legitimacy of perspectives that view forestry as a vehicle to sequester carbon, or to develop multi species, biodiverse woodlands, or to protect watercourses, or to provide a means of creating employment, generating income, and displacing more carbon intensive construction materials or farming systems.

The reality is that with the right approach, forestry has the potential to achieve all these goals.

The Project Board wishes the Minister and all of those with an interest in developing the sector well in their future endeavours.

APPENDIX 1- MACKINNON/O'HARA RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

Note. The Forest Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2030 is extensively referred to as FSIP in the table below.

No.	Ways Forward	Status	Project Woodland Working Group	Update on Implementation
1	Raise the political profile and commitment to woodland creation.	Completed	WG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Climate Action Plan for 2022 highlights the national importance of forestry and woodland creation. Forestry is seen as a crucial element in responding to climate change with a target of 8000ha and supporting actions set out in the Climate Action Plan, which has broad political support. The public and stakeholder engagement processes for the vision and strategy work have built a more positive narrative about forestry to assist with achieving political and wider stakeholder buy-in. A number of high-profile Press Releases have taken place during November with the Taoiseach, Minister for Agriculture and the Minister of State to announce funding of € 1.3 Billion and the increased Grants and Premium Rates for the new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 and 44%-66% increases in grants and premium in addition to increase to 20 years for farmers.
2	Focus action on reducing current backlog of applications.	Transfer to FSIP	WG1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant progress has been made in reducing the backlog with a reduction from an initial figure of 5,200 applications on-hand >120 days to 1,988 as of 6th January 2023. The backlog is monitored on a weekly basis using the weekly dashboard on licensing and the backlog statistics/ trend graph. On-going work will continue to improve the process under 'New Organisational Arrangements' (action 2) and the implementation of Regulatory Review DAFM action plan under 'Regulatory and Legislative Processes (action 9) of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan. Licensing is gathering pace and the latest update for Licencing shows 4,713 licences approved in 2022 with 3,559 applications.
3	Introduce Pre-Application discussions with Issues/Action Log.	Completed	WG4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a successful pilot run the Pre-Application process is being rolled out nationwide. Greater use of this is encouraged to inform prospective applicants on the issues
4	New Requirement for Environment Report supported by Planning Grant.	Completed	WG4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFM have commenced payment of an Environmental Support Grant at Form 2 stage with 83 payments made to date.

5	Address problems with poor quality applications.	Completed	WG4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training has been provided to foresters, ecologists and DAFM staff on preparing Habitat maps in addition to training provided by Teagasc on Forestry Management. • Training Needs Analysis has been completed and an Action Plan will be developed to review and implement the report recommendations. • Further engagement will take place through Forestry Transfer Knowledge Groups to develop skills and knowledge across the forestry sector as part of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2030 (action 6). • Pre application discussions are being rolled out nationwide as one of the key recommendations to enable applicants to better understand and prepare applications to DAFM.
6	Develop guidance on the Habitats directive as it affects licensing applications	Transfer to FSIP	DAFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulatory Review DAFM Implementation Plan will implement recommendations under Standards, Legal Framework and Procedures to further streamline and provide guidance on Habitat directives. This work will continue under 'Regulatory and Legislative Processes' (action 9) of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan.
7	Discuss with the European Commission the impact of the Directive and woodland creation to support the Climate Action Plan.	Transfer to FSIP	DAFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions are under way with the EU Commission for compliance with State Aid rules for the introduction of the new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 in the New Year. • This is managed by the DAFM Cross Divisional Implementation Team as part of the new Governance Framework to Implement the Forest Strategy and Forestry Programme 2023-2030.
8	Revise Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Monuments Service (NMS).	Transfer to FSIP	WG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following meetings, draft text agreed for Statutory Roles and responsibilities to be included in revived MOU to be reviewed and completed in January 2023. This action is being led out by DAFM.
9	Recruit additional inspectors and environmental specialists.	Completed	WG3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAFM has recruited additional staff and is currently recruiting additional inspectors. • There are 36 FTE ecologists working on licensing.
10	Introduce genuine Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).	Transfer to FSIP	WG3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial drafts have been compiled by the WG and will be reviewed and implemented in conjunction with the targets set in the Customer Charter (see rec 11).
11	Develop a Customer Service Charter.	Transfer to FSIP	WG3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial draft has been completed which envisages profiling application types, ownerships and scales against timelines within the Charter.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining reasonable timelines for handling applications that are acceptable by applicants and achievable by DAFM are a key part of the solution and will be reviewed as part of the Regulatory Review DAFM Implementation Plan and managed under 'Regulatory and Legislative Processes' under the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan (action 9).
12	Prepare a Forest Strategy for Ireland.	Completed	WG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shared Vision 2050 for woods, forests and trees has been approved and published by the Minister. The Public Consultation of the Forest Strategy and the Forest Strategy Implementation plan finished on Nov 29th 2022. Details of a €1.3 Billion in the new Forest Strategy, Forestry Programme 2023-2027 and the increased Grants and Premiums announced in a number of high-profile press releases by the Taoiseach and Ministers in November.
13	Ensure all State Bodies play their part in implementing the Strategy.	Transfer to FSIP	WG2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forestry Policy Group includes a number of state bodies (NPWS, Teagasc, Coillte and EPA) who are actively involved in Project Woodland. Bilateral consultations have taken place in formation of strategy with relevant state bodies such as Coillte and Teagasc during Q1 and Q2 2022. As the first phase of Project Woodland concludes with the release of the Forest Strategy in 2022, a new Forestry Programme will start in January 2023 offering new schemes and supports to include to recommendations and solutions transferred from phase 1. The Forest Strategy Implementation Plan includes a number of key Actions to ensure shared responsibility, collaboration and ownership across all Government Departments. The goals set out in this Plan are underpinned by a number of strategic and interconnected areas of focus. One of these areas is 'Institutional Arrangements and Implementation Structures' which seeks to put in place strong and effective implementation, monitoring and reporting structures. Stakeholders will have direct input into this process.
14	Establish an Irish Forestry Standard.	Transfer to FSIP	WG2	The Forest Strategy Implementation Plan under the heading of 'Sustainable Forest Management' (action 19,20,21) will develop and updated Forestry Standard for Ireland and a shared understanding of the four R's (Right tree, in the Right places for the Right Reasons with the Right Management as well as continued development and support for a diverse range of silvicultural systems that follow the principles of Sustainable Forest Management.
15	Raise the status and profile of the Inspectorate	Transfer to FSIP	WG3	This will be handled as part of the Organisational Review to be carried out in Q1 2023 under 'New Organisational Arrangements' (action 2) in the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan.

16	Need for greater commitment by all to partnership working.	Completed	WG2	Building on the learning outcomes of Project Woodland, Public Consultation and engagement will continue to be an important tool used to improve transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of regulation and in policy decision making. 'Effective Communication' will be managed in the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan (action 6,7,8).
17	Raise awareness of value of woodland creation and a vibrant forest industry.	Completed	WG3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work will continue through the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2027 through 'Effective Communications' under action points 7 and 8 to Develop Communications Strategy and conduct Public Attitudes surveys every three years.
18	Take stock of the multiplicity of campaigns and initiatives to promote woodland creation.	Completed	WG3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mapping exercise of current communications and promotions activity throughout the forestry sector, including the Woodland Support funded projects and Teagasc, was completed in January 2022. A Gap Analysis will be finalised in September in conjunction with Communications planning work. A workshop to foster greater collaboration between the Woodland Support funded projects was held in May 2022 attended by project co-ordinators from each of the groups, facilitated by COFORD.
19	Review education and training of forestry professionals.	Completed	WG3	Final report on Training Needs Analysis completed by Auxilia Consultants and submitted to DAFM and Work Group 3. The report was reviewed by the project board and DAFM will develop an action plan to review and implement the recommendations in the report.
20	Introduce fees for submitting applications, making submissions and lodging appeals.	Completed	WG4	Introduced under the Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act in 2020.
21	Conduct pilot studies on land availability, including the potential for woodland creation on areas of unenclosed land.	Transfer to FSIP	DAFM	This will be managed under 'Land Availability and Alignment of Land Uses' as part of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan (action 10,11, 79) with balanced land use to align tree planting measures in Agri-Environment Schemes with forest creation measure and establishment of a number of pilot areas to develop plan led approach to afforestation in collaboration with stakeholders.
22	In the longer term, review the legislation on forestry and consider the introduction of a single consent	Completed	WG4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regulatory review of forestry licensing was completed and reviewed by the work groups, project board and MOS. DAFM has now published a Regulatory Review DAFM Implementation Plan to address the report recommendations under four headings to include

	covering planting, road construction, management and felling.			<p>Standards, Strategic framework, Legal Framework and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulatory Review Report did not recommend a single consent scheme as a viable solution (Afforestation/Thinning/Roading/Felling) within the current legal and regulatory framework. However, it offered various suggestions as to how the process can be made simpler, more predictable and resilient. These are now reflected in the Implementation Plan. • The Implementation of recommendations will be managed under 'Regulatory and Legislative Processes' (action 9) as part of the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan.
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APPENDIX 2 -THE WORK GROUPS COMPRISE DAFM STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOREST POLICY GROUP OUTLINED BELOW:

WG1- Reduce Backlog		
Chair	Michael Cantwell	Former Director Enterprise Ireland
DAFM Lead	Seppi Hona	
AP	Emmet O’Fahy	
AP	Joanne Adams	
Secretary	Paul Brennan	
FPG Members		
	Jason Fleming	Irish Farmers Association (IFA)
	Mark McCauley	Forestry Industries Ireland (FII)
	Teige Ryan	None so hardy Nurseries
	Kathryn O’Donoghue	Forest Owners Co-operative Society/Limerick/Tipperary Woodland owners (FOCS/LTWO)
	Mark Boyden	SWAN
WG2 - Strategy		
Chair	Dr Matt Crowe	Former Director EPA
DAFM Lead	Fergus Moore	
HEO	Colin Gallagher	
Secretary	Linda Morris	
FPG Members		
	Mark Carlin	Coillte
	Donal Whelan	Irish Timber Growers Association
	Brian Murphy	Forest Industries Ireland
	Dr Jenni Roche	National Parks and Wildlife Service
	Pádraic Fogarty	Irish Wildlife Trust
	Pat Barry	Irish Green Building Council
	Paddy Purser	Pro Silva Ireland
WG3 – Organisa-tional Development		
Chair	Prof Thia Hennessy	Dean Agri Economics UCC
	Tom Houlihan (TNA)	Teagasc
Chair Sub-Group	Meg Laffan (Communica-tions)	
DAFM Lead	Patricia Kelly	
AP	Anne Maguire	
Secretary	Lynda Roche	
FPG Members		
	Nuala Ní Fhlatharta	Teagasc
	Eugene Hendrick	COFORD
	Nicholas Sweetman	Irish Forestry Owners (IFO)
	Peter O'Brien	Forestry Industries Ireland (FII)
	Michael Moroney	Association of Farm & Forestry Con-tractors Ireland (FCI)
	Oonagh Duggan	Birdwatch Ireland

WG4 - Processes		
Chair	Michael Layde	Former Ass Sec Dep. Environment
DAFM Lead	Seamus Dunne	
AP	Vincent Byrne	
Secretary	John Boyle	
FPG Members		
	Marina Conway	Forestry Industries Ireland (FII)
	Dermot Houlihan	Association of Irish Forestry Consultants (AIFC)
	Elaine McGoff	An Taisce
	Bernard Hyde	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Joe Gowran	Woodlands of Ireland
	Andy Dunne	Agricultural Consultants Association
	Louise Lennon	Irish Rural Link