



PRIVATE LAND SANDALWOOD

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 come into effect on 1 January 2019.

Key points

- The regulations introduce special requirements for specifically controlled sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) harvested from wild or cultivated sources (including plantations), to enable the sandalwood to be tracked from harvest to market.
- Holders of existing sandalwood licences will continue to be authorised under the new Regulations until the existing licence expires. However, new licences will be required for supplying, processing and dealing in sandalwood.
- When an existing licence expires, a new application can be made online at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits or by contacting the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) on wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au.
- Taking and supplying sandalwood for commercial purposes from private land may be authorised under a *Flora taking (sandalwood) licence*.
- Sandalwood that is taken under an exemption under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* does not require a *Flora taking (sandalwood) licence*.
- Where this exemption is in place for taking sandalwood, a *Flora supplying (sandalwood) licence* is required to allow it to be supplied for a commercial purpose.
- A *Flora processing (sandalwood) licence* is required for processing sandalwood into oil, craftwood, chips or other products and a *Flora dealing (sandalwood) licence* is required in all situations where sandalwood is being bought and sold.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations can be accessed via www.legislation.wa.gov.au.

Background Information

The harvest (or taking) of specifically controlled sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) from private land is now regulated under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 (BC Regulations).

The BC Regulations introduce new licensing arrangements for taking, transporting, supplying, processing and dealing of sandalwood. These new licencing arrangements, which take effect from 1 January 2019, are necessary to enable sandalwood to be tracked from harvest through to market, and thereby identify illegally sourced sandalwood.

These licences are supported by *sandalwood tracking forms* that accompany the sandalwood when it is transported from the place of harvest to the processor or dealer, allowing dealers and processors to establish the legal origin of the sandalwood. the tracking forms will also be checked during any inspections or compliance procedures.

These arrangements apply to **specifically controlled sandalwood** which is defined in the regulations as:

- (a) wood of sandalwood if it has a diameter of greater than 25 millimetres at the smallest end when stripped of bark; or
- (b) roots of sandalwood.

This definition applies to native sandalwood that is taken from the wild or from cultivated sources (including plantations).

Transitional Licensing Arrangements

From 1 January 2019, the new regulations provide new arrangements for taking, storing, supplying, processing and dealing in sandalwood.


Holders of existing licences for taking and supplying sandalwood from private land will not need to apply for a new licence until the existing licence expires. The procedure for applying for sandalwood licences will be outlined in guidelines that will be published on DBCA's website.

Online applications for licences will be available from DBCA's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/and-animals/licences-and-permits or by contacting DBCA Wildlife Licencing on wildlifelicencing@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Previous licence	New licence under the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018
Sandalwood Act licence	Flora taking (sandalwood) licence
Commercial producer's licence (PN) for sale of green sandalwood	Flora supply (sandalwood) licence

How is the amount of sandalwood that is allowed to be harvested managed?

The *Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order 2016(2)* sets limits for the amount of sandalwood that may be taken in Western Australia. Transitional arrangements for the Order are in Regulation 173.



A *Flora taking (sandalwood) licence* is required to harvest (take) sandalwood on private land unless the taking of the sandalwood is authorised or otherwise lawful under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, e.g. under a clearing permit.

Applications to take sandalwood from private land are considered on an annual basis through a process that will be set out in a guideline to be published on DBCA's website. An inspections of the area proposed to be harvested is likely to be required where wild sandalwood is being taken.

How is the storage and supply of sandalwood managed?

The supply (sale) of sandalwood taken from private land, including from a plantation, may be authorised under a *Flora taking (sandalwood) licence*. However, where the person supplying the sandalwood does not hold this licence, a *Flora supplying (sandalwood) licence* is required to do so.

This means that people who have previously been authorised to take sandalwood and are storing it to sell at a later date (but do not hold a current licence to take sandalwood) will need to apply for a *Flora supplying (sandalwood) licence* from DBCA's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits. A *Flora supplying (sandalwood) licence* must be current for whole time that sandalwood is in storage. This will ensure that the legal origin of sandalwood can be determined when the sandalwood is eventually supplied to a processor or dealer.

An inspection at the place of storage by DBCA staff may be required before a licence can be issued.

What licence is required to process sandalwood?

A *Flora processing (sandalwood) licence* will be required to authorise the processing of sandalwood into oil, craft wood, chips or other products. People or businesses who have a sandalwood processing establishment will need to apply for a licence from 1 January 2019.

Online applications for licences will be available from DBCA's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits or by contacting DBCA on wildlifelicencing@dbca.wa.gov.au.

What licence is required to deal in sandalwood?

A *Flora dealing (sandalwood) licence* is required in all situations where sandalwood is being bought and sold, including where sandalwood is being bought from a person who has a licence to take or supply sandalwood from private land, or it is being purchased from a licensed dealer. Dealing in sandalwood may also be authorised under a *Flora processing (sandalwood) licence* if both activities are being conducted by the same person.

Sandalwood dealers will be required to ensure that any sandalwood received or sold has an appropriate sandalwood tracking form to verify its lawful origin.

What licences are required to export sandalwood?

A *Flora exporting (sandalwood) licence* is required to export sandalwood from Western Australia. The Commonwealth Government issues export permits when sandalwood is being exported overseas. No licence is required for the export of processed sandalwood, such as sawdust or oil.

Sandalwood tracking forms

Sandalwood tracking forms are required to authorise the transfer of sandalwood whenever it is moved from one location to another. These will be available as a hard copy on application for any sandalwood licence. Electronic forms will also be available.

Licence fees

The following table sets out the application and licence fees applicable to sandalwood licences. If an application does not result in a licence being issued, the licence fee will be refunded.

Licence type	New application and licence fee	Renewal application and licence fee
Flora taking (sandalwood) licence	\$415 (\$130 refund if licence not issued)	n/a
Flora supplying (sandalwood) licence	\$45	\$30
Flora processing (sandalwood) licence	\$290	\$215
Flora dealing (sandalwood) licence	\$290	\$215
Flora exporting (sandalwood) licence	n/a	n/a

An inspection by DBCA staff may be required. The inspection fee will vary depending on the time taken for an inspection:

Not more than 1 hour: \$65

More than 1 hour but not more than 3 hours: \$130

More than 3 hours but not more than 5 hours: \$260

More than 5 hours: \$520.

To find out more about the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/biodiversity-conservation-act.

For further information about licensing visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your local office of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. See the department's website for the latest information www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions