FWPA
Forest & Wood Products Australia

Benefit Assessment & Reporting Plan

Version 2
October 2026

1.0 Introduction & Background

FWPA has developed this Benefit Assessment and Reporting Plan (Plan) in order to provide feedback to the FWPA Board, FWPA staff and external stakeholders about the returns of FWPA's project portfolio.

The Plan aims to produce the following outcomes:

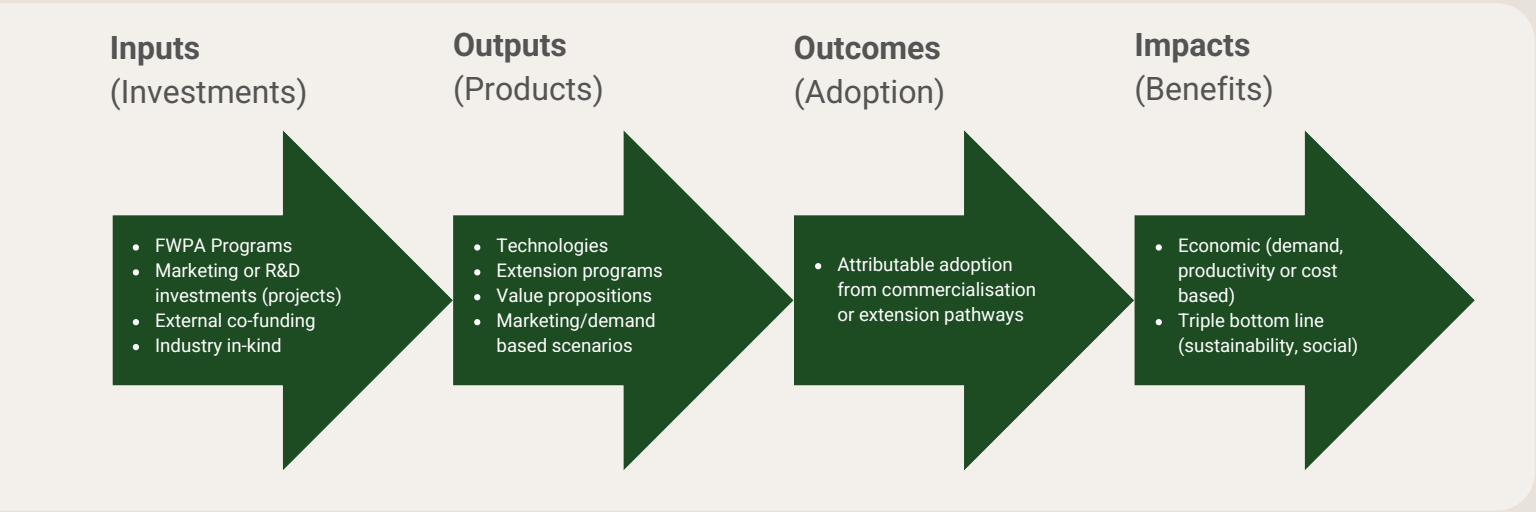
- Increase focus on projects that deliver impact via:
  - Productivity changes
  - Demand changes
  - Social/environmental/economic benefits
- Provide project return on investment (ROI) guidance that allows comparison between a sample of FWPA's programs/projects and third-party projects.
- Provide a social/environmental/economic evaluation structure for ex-post assessment and reporting.
- The ability to calculate project ROI on a systematic and timely basis rather than relying on a 5-year evaluation cycle.
- The ability to monitor the timing and value of the benefits derived from FWPA's projects in an ongoing manner.
- Managing and reporting on portfolio balance considerations that are informed by potential industry benefits.

This Plan supports the assessment and reporting processes needed to deliver the above outcomes.

2.0 Evaluation Approach

The evaluation approach used the following classifications to define inputs and outputs of the Plan.

Products are defined as an output from a related set of individual projects that contribute to developing or delivering that outcome area. Attributable outcomes (adoption) and triple bottom line impacts are linked to that product to measure industry benefits.



Products may be tangible e.g., a technology or producer extension program, or an intangible value proposition such as increased exports.

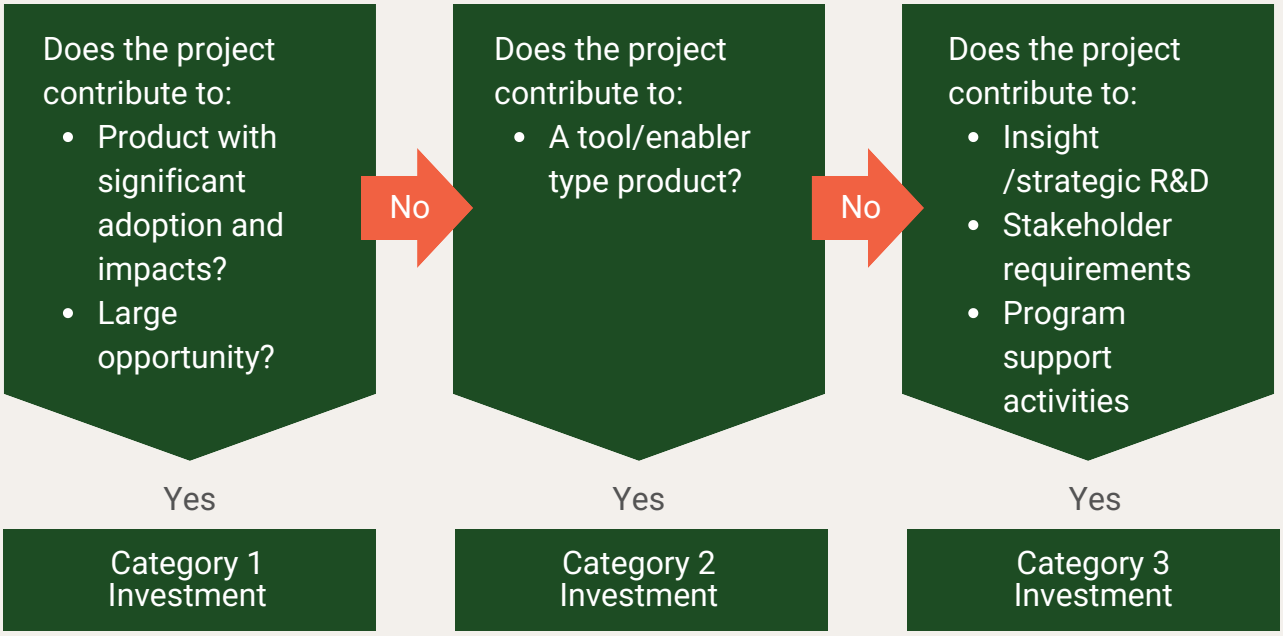
This Plan suggests that evaluations will be undertaken at a project level. Some evaluation groups (primarily for R&D projects) aggregate the adoption and impacts from many products, while other evaluation groups will usually have a few key value proposition type products underpinned by many contributing projects.

The Plan also recognises that not all projects result in a product with directly attributable adoption and impact, and separates projects into three categories.

2.1 Categorisation Decision Tree

This Plan requires decision-makers to categorise projects into three classes.

The following decision-making tree charts the process to guide the categorisation.



2.2 Category 1 Investments
Products with attributable adoption and impact

All projects that contribute to a product with attributable outcomes (adoption) and/or impacts are considered as category 1 projects. These products can form the basis of FWPA evaluation reporting and are eligible for selection as candidates for formal benefit cost analyses.

2.3 Category 2 Investments
Tool/enabler products

The project may deliver a tool/enabler that contributes to or is essential for a product that delivers impact. For example, a web-based tool may support an extension program that delivers impact via practice change, or a data series product that supports the value proposition (product) for improving sawmill output.

There may be measurable outcomes (adoption) for tool/enabler products, but there will be no direct, attributable impact. Instead, these projects should be assessed on their technical success, as well as their contribution to impact type products arising from category 1 projects. This category of projects will be eligible for high level impact assessment.

2.4 Category 3 Investments
Strategic insight and support

The project may be funded as an essential insight, consultation, program support or strategic horizon activity, where no products can be identified at this time.

Category 3 projects will be evaluated only on their technical success and will be eligible for high level impact assessment.

2.5 Examples of project/program categorisations

All projects that contribute to a product with attributable outcomes (adoption) and/or impacts are considered as category 1 projects.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Increasing deemed to satisfy height limits for timber construction	FWPA Data Dashboard	Sustainability reporting frameworks
Improving wood quality in radiata and southern pines	WoodSolutions Technical Design Guide	Review of modified wood
The Ultimate Renewable Campaign	Timber Market Index	Future market dynamics and potential impacts on Australian timber imports

2.6 Sample Selection Process for full benefit cost analysis

Identify eligible population

Compile all Category 1 projects that are between 1 and 5 years post-completion.

Compile expenditure data

Record total expenditure for each eligible project.

Calculate selection probability

Weight each project's chance of selection in proportion to its share of total expenditure across the population (higher spend = higher probability of selection).

Draw random sample

Generate random numbers to select the sample, using the expenditure-weighted probabilities from Step 3.

2.7 Sample selection process for high level impact assessment

Identify eligible population

Compile all FWPA program areas, excluding those already assessed in the current cycle (once every program has been assessed, the full list resets).

Assign sequential identifiers

Number the remaining not-yet-assessed programs sequentially.

Draw random sample

Use a random number generator to select the sample from the not-yet-assessed pool.

Update assessment register

Record selected programs as "assessed" so they're excluded from future draws until the cycle resets.

3.0 Assessment Reporting Principles

The following principles need to be taken into consideration when undertaking assessment and reporting.

Best practice assessment and reporting principles will be followed in accordance with the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations Impact Assessment Guidelines, if this work is undertaken by FWPA, or an external party undertaking Benefit Cost Analysis on FWPA's behalf.

3.1 Internal Assessment & Reporting Structure

FWPA focuses on the following outcome-based, integrated outcome areas which are based on four strategic priorities which align with the FWPA Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

Outcome area 1 – Consumers
Outcome area 2 – Supply chain customers
Outcome area 3 – Growers and processors
Outcome area 4 – Industry Capability

FWPA collaborates with our members, the Australian government, researchers, building specifiers, consumers, regulators and other key stakeholders to ensure these outcome areas are delivered with optimal benefit to the industry as a whole.

The Plan will use programs grouped under the four outcome areas as the framework for assessment and reporting. While FWPA staff and business units are aligned to these outcome areas, any changes to business unit structures will not affect evaluation, planning or reporting against the outcome areas.

Occasionally, FWPA will undertake additional assessment and reporting of a project as required, which may be a sub-set of one of these outcome areas. This assessment is in addition to the impact assessment reporting outlined in this document.

3.2 Assessment Reporting Timelines

FWPA will undertake two external benefit cost assessments and one high level impact assessment per year.

Individual projects eligible for external benefit cost analyses within outcome areas will be between 1-5 years post completion of the project.

FWPA will undertake assessment and reporting of a stand-alone project as required, generally at the conclusion of this project.

3.3 Impact Attribution

The assessment will consider how much of the product impact can be attributed to FWPA-funded projects.

3.4 Define counterfactual or baseline (without project)

What outcome could be reasonably expected if no industry projects were made? Importantly, the 'without industry project' case does not imply that no action would be undertaken by non-forest products sectors or government in the absence of FWPA project.

4.0 Communication to Stakeholders

FWPA will communicate results of all assessments and will report through several forums:

- Publication of a summary of findings in the FWPA Annual Report.
- Publication on the FWPA website.
- Communication to members and stakeholders at FWPA meetings.

Forest & Wood Products Australia Limited
ABN: 75 127 114 185

36 Wellington Street
Collingwood,
Melbourne, VIC 3066
Telephone: +61 3 9927 3200
Email: info@fwpa.com.au
Website: www.fwpa.com.au