Silvicultural Thinning

Silvicultural thinning is undertaken to achieve a silvicultural objective. This may involve the management of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) areas or thinning of clearfell crops to improve stem quality. There is usually a significant and measurable output in terms of both timber volume and economic output. The location of these areas is determined by site access, slope, soil conditions, exposure and crop characteristics. The areas shown for this type of thinning are aspirational and implementation will depend on market conditions.

LISS

Low Impact Silvicultural systems (LISS) such as Continuous Cover Forestry and Group Felling are generally accepted to be of greater value for biodiversity. They help to increase species and structural diversity and meet multi-purpose objectives because they normally cause less rapid change to the landscape and to the physical environment than clear felling systems

Selective felling

Selective felling is focused on the removal of essentially problem trees that are impacting adversely on site infrastructure, recreation areas, ecologically sensitive open ground, and native woodland areas. For example, non-native conifer regeneration may be removed from along watercourses and trees felled around veteran broadleaves to protect them. Thinning can also be used to create an attractive environment to the trails and car park and open up view -points. There is usually no measurable volume removed and fellings may target small, scattered and individual trees in order to achieve the thinning objective. The scale of the operations makes representation of these areas on maps difficult. In general, the approach would be to remove minimum numbers of trees to achieve the objective of removing the adverse impacts arising from cover within these targeted areas.