

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Forestry Corporation of NSW (Softwood Plantations Division)	Certificate #:	AFS 640602
Client address	121-123 Oratava Ave West Pennant Hills NSW 2120	Website:	forestrycorporation.com.au
Audit type:	Routine Surveillance	Audit date:	20-24 March 2017
Standard:	AS4708:2013	Auditors:	Ross Garsden and Mick Berry
This document provides a summary of the findings contained in a report to this client with respect to the implementation of the client's management system as determined during an audit conducted by BSI.			

Scope of certification:

Activities associated with the sustainable management of softwood plantations within NSW State forests. This includes the production and sale of forest products; the management of non-productive areas for conservation values; the development and maintenance of forest infrastructure; management of planned and un-planned fires; and the provision of visitor facilities, forest permits and access for recreation activities.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings from a routine surveillance assessment of the Forestry Corporation of NSW - Softwood Plantations Division (SPD) with respect to compliance with the requirements of the nominated Standards. The audit included an assessment of activities and operations in two management areas within the Northern Region as well as verification of the due diligence processes associated with the recent acquisition of the Lyall state.

The audit included an inspection of offices and depots in Grafton and Walcha as well as operations being conducted from those locations, in particular road maintenance and quarry management. The audit also included engagement with regulators and an assessment of a range of corporate responsibilities being undertaken at the organisation's Head Office at West Pennant Hills.

While SPD has effectively addressed many of the minor non-conformances noted in the previous report, several still remain open as further work is required before they can be closed. These relate to:

- documentation and control of documents;
- operational controls with respect to waste management; and
- the effectiveness of Riskware in managing non-conformances.

A number of new issues have been identified and these are detailed in the full report. These relate to:

- Processes for identifying biodiversity values in non-plantation areas
- Processes for identification of environmental aspects at some sites
- Operational controls at some sites
- Compliance with operational plans
- Internal audit
- Management review
- Chain of custody and chain of responsibility

- Stakeholder engagement in some areas
- Weed management plans
- Compliance with Code of Practice

In addition to these findings, the auditors have identified a number of opportunities for improvement which are detailed in the full report.

The next assessment will require additional time to follow-up several issues identified with respect to activities undertaken in the Walcha MA.

The auditors would like to acknowledge the cooperation and active engagement of staff involved in the audit.

The audit has determined that, subject to the effectiveness of actions taken to address the issues identified in this report, FCNSW SPD continues to meet the requirements of AS 4708:2013.

It is also noted that the organisation intends to complete the transition to ISO14001:2015 at the next scheduled surveillance assessment. FCNSW-SPD has developed a Discussion Paper which outlines the issues that need to be addressed as part of the transition process. The Discussion Paper provides effective analysis of the requirements of the new version of the Standard and includes recommendations for the organisation. Progress in that regard is noted.

Defined forest area statement

Softwood Plantations Division incorporates five FMUs in two Operational Regions:

Snowy Region – Bombala MA and Tumut MA

Northern Region – Bathurst MA, Walcha MA and Grafton MA

Defined forest area (in hectares):	388,377 hectares
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Advised to AFS Limited on:	8 January 2016
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Certificate expires on:	31 December 2018
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Report prepared by:

Ross Garsden	Technical Specialist – Forest Management
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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>
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