

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:	Surveillance	Audit date:	04/05/2020 to 22/05/2020
Standard:	AS4708:2013 and ISO 14001:2015	Auditors:	Mick Berry
<p>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.</p>			

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 the surveillance assessment of the Forestry Corporation of NSW - Softwood Plantation Division (FCNSW SPD) with respect to compliance with the requirements of AS4708: 2013 and ISO14001:2015. The audit included an assessment of operational activities conducted in Head office, West Pennant Hills, NSW and Bombala and Tumut Management Areas within Snowy Region, as well as supporting infrastructure namely Bombala Depot and Ardrossan Depot.

Focus is given to Criterion 1 - Systematic Management; Criterion 5 – Forest Ecosystem Health; Criterion 7 –Carbon and Criterion 8 – Cultural Values.

This assessment has been conducted offsite using Information and Communication Technologies including MS Teams on PC and iPad for interviews and site visits and Dropbox for document submission. A drone flight was undertaken to review harvesting operations in Bago SF. The planned assessment objectives achieved. There were no connectivity issues which adversely affected the assessment. It should be noted that selection of sampling of sites was biased to those forests operations that had mobile reception.

The audit confirmed FCNSW SPD continue to effectively maintain and implement a forest management system which complies to the nominated standards.

It is acknowledged that the organisation has been impacted significantly by the recent bushfire crisis both in terms of the initial emergency response which required ongoing involvement of FCNSW personnel, but also in the delivery of post-fire remediation and recovery projects. Further disruptions have been experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FCNSW personnel are to be commended on their participation in the recent bushfire emergency crisis (in excess of 250,000 hours) and this was achieved without significant injury.

Notable improvements or strengths of the FMS include:

- Response by FCNSW staff to challenges of harvesting standing fire damaged plantations.
- Monitoring programs established to support management of new risks and issues following bushfire crisis. Particularly, in relation to wood flows and product markets, forest health and catchment management and potential soil erosion and impacts to forest infrastructure.
- OIR Inspection program 2.0 which has defined assessment criteria to support transparent and consistent decision-making of individual contractor performance and continual improvement.

All non-conformities from the previous assessment have been reviewed for effectiveness and closed.

Minor nonconformities arising from this assessment relate to:

1. Periodic testing of emergency plans to respond to and manage accidents and emergency situations is not evident for office/depot locations located at Blowering Nursery, Ardrossan Depot and Bombala Office / Depot.
2. Environmental Inspection Reports not completed for office/depot locations at Bombala MA Office/Depot and Blowering Nursery.
3. The SPD Biodiversity Monitoring Program has not been updated to reflect biodiversity monitoring requirements in Snowy Region, particularly in relation to identified biodiversity priorities such as those described in various Flora Reserve Working Plans.

The full report provides details regarding the opportunities for improvement that were identified during the assessment.

The assessment team would like to acknowledge the cooperation and constructive engagement of all staff involved in this assessment.

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):

387,721 ha

Advised to AFS Limited on:

18 October 2018

Certificate expires on:

31 December 2021

Report prepared by:

Mick Berry

Client Manager

Name of person who prepared this report

Position

END OF REPORT