

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:	Recertification	Audit date:	12 August to 26 August 2024
Standard:	AS/NZS 4708:2021	Auditors:	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 the recertification assessment of the Forestry Corporation of NSW - Softwood Plantation Division (FCNSW SPD) with respect to compliance with the requirements of AS/NZS 4708:2021. The audit included an assessment of forest management activities conducted in Head office located in West Pennant Hills, NSW and Bathurst Region and Tumut Region, as well as supporting infrastructure including Blowering Nursery, Bondo Depot and Black Springs Depot. All criterion against the standard were assessed.

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

Stakeholders also provided input into the management of forests by FCNSW and their feedback has been incorporated into assessment findings.

Notable improvements or strengths of the forest management system include:

- Establishment of functional hubs to support standardisation of processes including innovation.
- The development and implementation of the chain of responsibility management system.
- Operational plans supporting the management of quarries to meet safety and compliance obligations.
- Program for the under canopy spraying of blackberrys to reduce both the amount and effectiveness of chemicals used for future treatments.
- Biodiversity management frameworks now supporting restoration projects such as Mitchells Creek and continued monitoring programs such as Micalong Swamp.
- Forest visitor experience projects promoting the benefits of forest to stakeholder groups such as Bondo Arboretum and Macquarie Woods.

- Enhanced digital processes supporting the planning and delivery of roading, harvesting and haulage operations.

There were no non-conformities identified as part of the previous assessment that required a review of effectiveness as part of that have been maintained with progress noted.

Minor non-conformities identified as part of this assessment relate to:

- Clause 7.5 - Forest management system documentation has not been maintained in accordance with determined review periods. Also, there are inconsistent processes for management of documentation in Content Manager across functional areas.
- Clause 10.2 - The process for review of effectiveness of corrective actions in accordance with FCNSW Incident Management Procedure has not been implemented for non-conformances and corrective actions in Riskware.
- Clause 8.1 - Operational controls were not fully effective in relation to maintenance and inspection of lifting equipment at Bondo Depot and Black Springs Depot and storage and handling of oil store at Bondo Depot.

Opportunities for improvement are identified in the body of this report.

The assessor 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:

- FMU 1 – Tumut Region – Tumut Management Area
- FMU 2 - Tumut Region - Moss Vale Management Area
- FMU 3 - Bombala Region – Bombala Management Area
- FMU 4 - Bathurst Region – Bathurst Management Area
- FMU 5 - Northern Region – Grafton Management Area
- FMU 6 - Northern Region - Walcha Management Area

Defined forest area (in hectares):

348,625 ha

Advised to AFS Limited on:

3 November 2023

Certificate expires on:

31 December 2024

Report prepared by:

Mick Berry

Client Manager

Name of person who prepared this report

Position

END OF REPORT