

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:	April-May 2026
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 of the surveillance assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Softwood Plantations Division, a business unit of Forestry Corporation of NSW, against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS/NZS4708:2021 (the Standard), conducted by BSI in April / May 2026.

The audit focused on system planning and implementation processes, with respect to FCNSW's Forest Management System (FMS) and the requirements of the Standard at locations including West Pennant Hills, Grafton and Tamworth offices as well as temporary operational sites in Northern Region.

Stakeholder interactions are also considered as part of the assessment and a considered in the context of the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the forest management system.

Elements of the Standard sampled as part of this assessment were: Section 11.2 - Forest Ecosystem Health & 11.3 Biodiversity. The high level management system structure is assessed every audit (i.e. Sections 4,5,6,9.2,9.3 and 10), Sections 7.1,7.2, 7.3 Resources Competence and Awareness and Section 8.2 Emergency Preparedness and Response were assessed as part of sampling plan.

The audit objectives have been achieved and the certificate scope remains appropriate. The audit team concludes based on the results of this audit that the organization does fulfil the standards and audit criteria and it is deemed that the forest management system continues to achieve its intended outcomes.

This assessment identified several positive strengths or improvements in the organisation's forest management system including:

- Corporate: The Weekly Wrap communicates matters of importance including decisions and actions from the Executive Leadership Team.

- Corporate: RiskWare configuration to link risks to compliance obligations including monitoring of these to support evaluations of compliance. Trail completed for pesticide use.
- SPD: The configuration of Timber Harvesting Plan in Riskware trial project to support integration of planning and operational processes including monitoring.
- Corporate: The Fire Resources Review has assessed organisational capability to mitigate risks. There is also increased focus on natural hazard including biosecurity potential emergency response.
- Corporate: Management of training and competencies aligned to specific roles in DayForce.
- Northern Region: Operational teams are achieving best practice outcomes with consideration of current internal and external constraints.
- Northern Region: The management of Unique and Special Wildlife Values for threatened species in consultation with the regulator to support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity values such as *Melaleuca irbyana* at Whiporie SF.
- Northern Region: Implementation of forest operations demonstrate a high level of conformance to P&R Code requirements

Internal audits of the management system identified deficiencies in relation to the use of chemicals in accordance with the requirements of 11.2 Forest Ecosystem Health. Corrective action plans developed to address these non-conformances are considered appropriate and therefore have not been raised as non-conformances as part of this assessment.

Minor non-conformities identified as part of the last assessment which remain open but which progress has been demonstrated include:

- Section 6.1 - WHS Risk Registers which identify risk / hazards and controls within the FMS are not maintained nor reviewed following an incident.

Minor non-conformities have been identified as part of this assessment relating to:

- Section 11.3.1 - The organisation has established processes for the identification and protection of significant biodiversity values (including TEC/EEC) within its plantation estate. However, the organisation is not consistently able to demonstrate that a documented, risk-based assessment process has been applied to these values. In particular, there is insufficient evidence of how potential short- and long-term impacts are assessed, how scientific input is applied where relevant, and how these considerations inform operational planning decisions. Further, the process for the determination of boundaries for retained vegetation that is contiguous vegetation with mapped environmental exclusion zones (including for Threatened Ecological Communities) for plantations is not fully effective.
- Section 8.1 - The planning and control of forest operations for Humelink project to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Timber Licence Conditions as it relates to the Forest Practices Codes and Project Approval for operations within native forests managed in conjunction with softwood plantations is not fully evident.
- Section 11.7.2 - Site safety plans for silvicultural operations within the Walcha MA have not been completed. Further, some operational plans in use are not on the current template.

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

I would like to thank FCNSW staff for their support and assistance as part of 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):	364,923 ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	19 August 2025
Certificate expires on:	31 December 2027
Report prepared by:	
Mick Berry	Auditor
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT