

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Forestry Corporation of NSW – Hardwood Forests Division	Certificate #:	AFS 604224
Client address	121-123 Oratava Ave West Pennant Hills NSW 2125	Website:	forestrycorporation.com.au
Audit type:	Surveillance	Audit date:	4/05/2020 to 22/05/2020
Standard:	AS4708:2013 and ISO 14001:2015	Auditors:	Mick Berry & Gerard Moore
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:
<p>Activities associated with the sustainable management of native forests and hardwood 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.</p> <p>The Defined forest area incorporates the following Forest Management Units: South coast hardwoods; Southern tablelands hardwoods; Cypress forests in western NSW; Redgum forests in the Riverina; Northern Coastal hardwoods; Northern Tablelands hardwoods and Northern hardwood plantations.</p>

Executive summary:
<p>This report presents the findings from the surveillance assessment of the Forestry Corporation of NSW - Hardwood Forests Division (FCNSW HFD) 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 hardwood forests in the North as well as supporting infrastructure namely Wauchope Office / Depot, Taree Office / Depot and Mandalong Depot.</p> <p>Focus is given to Criterion 1 - Systematic Management; Criterion 5 – Forest Ecosystem Health; Criterion 7 –Carbon and Criterion 8 – Cultural Values.</p> <p>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. The planned assessment objectives have been achieved, there were no connectivity issues which adversely affected the audit.</p> <p>The audit confirmed FCNSW HFD continue to effectively maintain and implement a forest management system which complies to the nominated standards.</p> <p>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.</p>

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:

- Development of a prescribed burning framework, including SOP's that describe operating requirements to meet compliance obligations and maintain forest health
- Transition process under the CIFOA and implementation of these new requirements including training of personnel.
- Recording of operational activities in OneNote by field staff to support compliance to CIFOA at Lansdowne 1, 2 & 3.
- Operation of the Forest Improvement Team supporting development of tools such as MapApp, Plan Portal.
- FCNSW staff demonstrated a high level of collaboration and teamwork, particularly in the sharing of knowledge.
- Consistent and effective approach to managing Depot requirements for significant risks

A minor non-conformity has been maintained relating to the testing of emergency preparedness and response arrangements at offices and depot locations. A review of the FCNSW corrective action plan acknowledged progress in the completion of actions.

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	
Hardwood Forests Division incorporates the following FMUs	
FMU 1 – South coast hardwoods	
FMU 2 – Southern tablelands hardwoods	
FMU 3 – Cypress forests	
FMU 4 – Redgum forests	
FMU 5 – Northern Coastal hardwoods	
FMU 6 – Northern Tablelands hardwoods	
FMU 7 – Northern hardwood plantations	
Defined forest area (in hectares):	1,796,992 ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	18 October 2018
Certificate expires on:	31 December 2021

Report prepared by:	
Mick Berry	Lead Auditor
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT