

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:	
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 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.

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.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of the surveillance assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Hardwood Forests 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 June/July 2025

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, Dubbo, Baradine and Deniliquin offices as well as temporary operational sites in Western Region. The addresses for the Dubbo office and Deniliquin offices have changed and will be updated as part of this assessment.

Stakeholder interactions are also considered as part of the assessment and are 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: Systematic Management elements Clause 4,5,6,7.5,9 and 10; Clause 11.1 Maintain Forest Carbon, 11.4 Soil and Water and 11.6 Cultural Values.

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:

- HFD: Strengthening of Aboriginal Partnerships management with the resourcing for two additional Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Rangers in Western Region. Also rework of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guidelines into a Code and Guidelines to apply organisation wide.

- Riverina MA: The inspection and recording of aboriginal cultural heritage values in AHIMS in consultation with aboriginal elders.
- HFD: Internal audit of Western Region by FMS Coordinator was extensive and effective.
- HFD - Enhancement of OIR process to support coverage of functional activities, locations and supervisory elements and consider risks and importance of inspections based on PowerBI analysis.
- HFD: Submission of Section 170 Register with FCNSW non-aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- Western Region: Forest operations supervisory staff demonstrated a high level of awareness of operational prescriptions to meet IFOA requirements and their application to forest operations
- Baradine MA: FCNSW Posi-Track silvicultural trial underway in un-thinned Cypress stands.
- Baradine MA: Depot Management was considered to be of a high standard at Baradine Depot
- Baradine MA: Pre-start induction from Contractor Grants Sawmilling was comprehensive and supported participation from inductees.

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

- Review of effectiveness of non-conformance and corrective actions.

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

- HFD: WHS Risk Registers which identify risk / hazards and controls within the FMS are not maintained nor reviewed following an incident.
- Western Region: Redgum IFOA Div 4 Clause 50 - No regeneration assessments have been conducted on a frequent and periodic basis nor has an agreement with EPA been established before carrying out the first assessment. It is recognised that an initial trial is underway to assess forest regeneration using drones.

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

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):	1,762,264 ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	19 Aug 2025
Certificate expires on:	31 Dec 2027

Report prepared by:

Mick Berry

Auditor

Name of person who prepared this report

Position

END OF REPORT