

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:	14/07/2025 to 18/07/2025
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 (FCNSW), 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, Moss Vale and Bombala offices as well as temporary operational sites in Moss Vale, in Tumut Region and Bombala 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: 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:

- SPD: Strengthening of Aboriginal Partnerships management with the resourcing for two additional Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Rangers within the Division and Renewables Projects. Also rework of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guidelines into a Code and Guidelines to

apply organisation wide.

- Moss Vale area and Bombala Region: Post-fire planting and roading operations under FIRP to restore forests and infrastructure.
- Bombala Region: Draft Strategic Fire Management Plan promotes early detection, rapid response, intensive road and strategic fire breaks, adequate resources and hazard reduction to mitigate impacts from fire.
- Moss Vale area and Bombala Region: Responding to increasing recreation pressure by closing roads or impacted areas to protect soil and water quality.
- Bombala Region: Pest animal control plans and operations to mitigate impacts to biodiversity and stakeholder related issues.
- Moss Vale: Depot Management was considered to be of a high standard at Moss Vale Depot.
- Bombala Region: Wash Bay Water Treatment System has been installed to ensure water quality is maintained prior to discharge.

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
- Operational controls not fully effective within Depots.

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

- SPD: WHS Risk Registers which identify risk / hazards and controls within the FMS are not maintained nor reviewed following an incident.
- SPD: Operational Inspection Reports are not being undertaken at the monitoring frequency determined in the Annual Monitoring Plan for Road Construction, Road Maintenance and Quarry Operations.
- Bombala Region: Operational controls within the safety management system were not fully effective in ensuring a safe working environment as part of the site visit to inspect quarry operations.
- Bombala Region: Risk assessments for plant and equipment used in depot and workshop have not been completed for (but not limited to) Forklift, Pedestal Drill and Coldsaw.

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 Aug 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