

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:	03.04-28.07.2023
Standard:	AS/NZS 4708:2021	Auditors:	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 Group ANZ.			

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:
<p>This report describes outcomes from a Surveillance Audit of the Forestry Corporation New South Wales – Softwood Plantation Division (FCNSW SPD) management system against the requirements of the Australian Standard AS4708:2021 (the Standard). The audit was conducted on-site between 03.04-28.07.2023, at FCNSW’s Head Office, West Pennant Hills, regional Offices at Moss Vale and Bathurst, field operation sites in these areas, and supporting infrastructure including depots at Belanglo and Black Springs.</p> <p>The audit met BSI Group ANZ objectives and confirmed FCNSW SPD has continued to develop, implement and maintain its management system to comply with requirements of the Standard at the sites assessed, and recommends Certification to the Standard be continued.</p> <p>Stakeholders provide input into the management of forests by FCNSW and their feedback has been included into the assessment findings.</p> <p>Key strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCNSW Strategy 2025 being rolled out. • Consistent approach to risk analysis in forest operations. • Strong commitment from FCNSW Executive management team for the management system. • Employee Engagement 11.2022. <p>Significant improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to managing compliance: Compliance Assurance Team. • Weekly wrap up, CEO presentation update. • Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines, Factotum Report. • Complaints Management Procedure. • Consultation Manager being trialled.

Non-conformances identified in this assessment

- FCNSW's response to addressing/closing the Minor Non-conformances from the previous audit was not fully effective. Some Non-conformances were closed, and some remain open and have been continued.
- Non-conformances that have been closed and/or remain open/continued for SPD are:
 - Closed 1, Remain open/Continued 3.
- New Minor Non-conformances identified at this audit include:
 - Emergency preparedness and response, replacing the Non-conformance that has been closed after being continued for several years; and
 - Depot risk identification and management.

Minor non-conformances continued at this audit:

Criterion 3.5.1: FCNSW does not monitor all biodiversity values, using scientifically based monitoring methodology developed in consultation with stakeholders and relevant experts to determine if values are being maintained or enhanced within the defined forest area. Biodiversity monitoring programs are largely focused on FMZ 1 which include Flora Reserves but do not currently include FMZ 2, 3a, 3b which are deemed to be defined by the organisation as including Significant Biodiversity Values.

Criterion 11.6.1: The Manual and Operational Guidelines Standards for managing Non Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is in draft. Processes to identify and record the significant cultural places and values and protect and maintain these cultural places and values in a way that takes due regard for their significance is not consistent across operational areas.

Criterion 11.6.3: Processes to consult with relevant indigenous peoples or representative bodies to identify and record the significance of places and values and protect these values, and also identify areas that support subsistence needs of Indigenous peoples and communities and manage with regard to their significance is not fully evident for Northern and South Western Cypress Forests.

Minor non-conformances identified at this assessment:

Criterion 8.2: It is not clear how FCNSW conducts Emergency drills/events for all its potential emergency events/scenarios, and periodically tests planned responses over an agreed period, across the organisation.

Criterion 8.1: Depot risk identification and management: FCNSW approach to risk identification and management at its Depot sites is not effective and/or consistent: Belanglo Depot and Black Springs 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 – Snowy Region – Tumut Management Area	
FMU 2 - Snowy Region - Moss Vale Management Area	
FMU 3 - Snowy Region – Bombala Management Area	
FMU 4 - Northern Softwoods Region – Bathurst Management Area	
FMU 5 - Northern Softwoods Region – Grafton Management Area	
Defined forest area (in hectares):	397,618 ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	28.07.2023
Certificate expires on:	31.12.2024
Report prepared by:	
Gerard Moore	Lead Auditor
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT