

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:	02.11—01.12.2023
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:

This report describes outcomes from a Surveillance Audit of the Forestry Corporation of 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 remotely between 02-03.11.2023 and on 01.12.2023, at FCNSW’s Head Office, West Pennant Hills, and onsite between 13-17.11.2023 at SPD Regional Offices at Walcha MA and Grafton MA, (Tamworth and Grafton), and field operation sites in these areas and supporting infrastructure at the Grafton Depot, ‘The Barn’.

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.

Stakeholders provide input into the management of forests by FCNSW and their feedback has been included into the assessment findings.

Key strengths

- FCNSW Strategy 2025 rolled out and being implemented.
- Consistent approach to risk analysis in forest operations.
- Continuing commitment from FCNSW Executive management team for the management system.
- Expanding community and business engagement
- QA processes including Dashboard presentations.

Significant improvements

- Development and further implementation of the FCNSW Climate change mitigation strategy.
- Renewables Group and renewables projects.
- Improved reporting, FlintPro.

Other key initiatives include:

- Renewables Group has been implemented and future is being developed.
- CoR: Project update, Financial update, Key successes to date, Emerging risks, Upcoming priorities and Health check.
- Land acquisition (Land offset).
- Renewable Energy projects.
- Softwoods Valuation.

Non-conformances identified in this assessment

Non-conformances raised at previous audits have been closed, and no new Non-conformances have been found at this audit.

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):	348,625 ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	03.11.2023
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