

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:	April / May 2026
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 April / May 2026

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, Coffs Harbour and Wauchope offices as well as temporary operational sites in Northern Hardwoods Region.

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: Section 11.2 - Forest Ecosystem Health & 11.3 Biodiversity. The high-level management system structure is assessed every audit (i.e. Sections 4,5,9.2,9.3 and 10), Sections 7.1,7.2, 7.3 Resources Competence and Awareness and Section 8.2 Emergency Preparedness and Response were assessed as part of sampling plan.

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:

- Corporate: The Weekly Wrap communicates matters of importance including decisions and actions from the Executive Leadership Team.
- Corporate: RiskWare configuration to link risks to compliance obligations including monitoring of these to support evaluations of compliance. Trial completed for pesticide use.
- Corporate: The Fire Resources Review has assessed organisational capability to mitigate risks. There is also increased focus on natural hazard including biosecurity potential emergency response.
- Corporate: Management of training and competencies aligned to specific roles in DayForce.
- Northern Hardwoods Region: Forest harvesting operations within Pine Creek SF hardwood plantation that enable the sale of forest residues and facilitated thinning operations to promote future sawlog products.
- Northern Hardwoods Region: The implementation of biodiversity projects to maintain and enhance threatened species such as Kiwarra SF Koala Habitat Restoration Project and Olney SF Little Johns Tree Frog Ponds Project.
- Northern Hardwoods Region: Forest operations supervisory staff demonstrated a high level of awareness of operational prescriptions to meet CIFOA and P&R requirements and their application to forest operations.

Internal audits of the management system identified deficiencies in relation to the use of chemicals in accordance with the requirements of 11.2 Forest Ecosystem Health and the implementation of safety systems at the Grafton Production Nursery. Corrective action plans developed to address these non-conformances are considered appropriate and therefore have not been raised as non-conformances as part of this assessment.

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

- Section 6.1 - WHS Risk Registers which identify risk / hazards and controls within the FMS are not maintained nor reviewed following an incident.
- Section 9.1 - 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 has been successfully completed to assess forest regeneration using drones, using the same process undertaken in Coastal forests.

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

- Section 11.3.1 - The identification and maintenance of TEC/EEC's within Hardwood Forest Plantations is confined to the establishment of exclusion zones as part of forest operations. The current documented risk assessment process, involving scientific experts, does not determine the risk of both short term and long-term impacts from forestry management practices on TEC/EEC's identified.
- Section 11.2.1 - Weed Management and Pest Management Schedules have not been developed for Coastal Forests.
- Section 11.2.1 - The monitoring of State forests under Perpetual Leases to determine the extent to which lessees are fulfilling their obligations is not undertaken
- Section 8.1 - The planning and control of forest operations for HumeLink project to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Timber Licence Conditions as it relates to the Forest Practices Codes and Project Approval is not fully evident.

- Section 8.1 Coffs Harbour and Mandalong Depots - Operational controls for safety and environmental risks / hazards (various) was not fully effective

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 August 2025
Certificate expires on:	31 Dec 2027

Report prepared by:

Mick Berry

Auditor

Name of person who prepared this report

Position

END OF REPORT