

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
<b>Client name:</b>	Forestry Corporation of NSW - Hardwood Forests Division	<b>Certificate #:</b>	AFS 604224
<b>Client address</b>	121-123 Oratava Ave West Pennant Hills NSW 2120	<b>Website:</b>	forestrycorporation.com.au
<b>Audit type:</b>	Surveillance #1	<b>Audit date:</b>	15-25.07.2019
<b>Standards:</b>	AS4708:2013 ISO 14001:2015	<b>Auditors:</b>	Gerard Moore
<p><b>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.</b></p>			

Scope of certification:
<p>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, permits and access for recreation activities.</p>

Executive summary:
<p>This report describes outcomes from the first Surveillance Audit in the cycle for Forestry Corporation NSW, Hardwood Forests Division, Western Region, in relation to compliance with the nominated Standards: AS4708:2013 Sustainable Forest Management, and ISO14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems. The audit assessed forest management activities in Western Region, and administrative activities in offices and depots in Dubbo and Narrabri in the north of the region, and Deniliquin and Barham in the south. The combined management system for Sustainable Forest Management and Environment was found to be effectively maintained and updated.</p> <p>Western Region is experiencing significant change, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the management of an increasing number of 'non-traditional forest management issues', such as larger scale mining activities, a proposed rail project of national significance that requires access through forest areas, and water management on a grand scale.</li> <li>2. negotiations with manufacturing industry for potential Wood Supply Agreements for Cypress sawlog that was previously milled at Baradine and Gunnedah. And</li> <li>3. the development and facilitation of 'new' forest silviculture and utilisation strategies associated with residual wood product opportunities including wood biomass for fuel, that will deliver forest stand and biodiversity improvements.</li> </ol> <p>The organisation demonstrated that it is managing these activities now.</p> <p><i>Strengths of the management system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Western Region Forest Management Plan updated and implemented</li> <li>- Well documented policies and procedures, critical system documents being reviewed now</li> <li>- Enthusiastic workforce, knowledgeable, skilled in their respective roles</li> <li>- Effective Stakeholder engagement, strong relationships with Stakeholders</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to manage 'non-traditional forest management issues': larger scale mining activities, rail access through forest areas, and water management on a grand scale.</li> </ul>

*Effectiveness of actions taken to address issues identified in previous assessment*

- FCNSW's corrective actions and resourcing processes are not fully effective in relation to the two Non-conformances raised at the previous audit: at the time this audit commenced no action had been taken. However, by the time this audit concluded FCNSW Safety Staff had provided an updated 'Emergency Process Review Schedule – FMS Action Plan' (dated 25.07.2019)

*Significant improvements noted in this assessment*

- Forest Management Plan updated
- Early thinning activities in Cypress and River Red Gum forests that support forest health and biodiversity, forest growth and stand development, and provide opportunities to market low grade, residual forest products in the short-term, and create an enhanced sawlog resource for future market opportunities
- FCNSW Forest Management Systems Specialist has developed and implemented a 'one stop shop' access point to 'find' documents via the Hardwood Forest Division 'Intranet Page' portal that provides pictures/icons for Staff to use.

*Opportunities for improvement arising from this assessment*

- Opportunities for Improvement are described in the body of this report. Two 'bigger picture' Opportunities relate to:
  - o Stakeholder engagement relevant to the potential impacts on future forest harvesting and log supply arrangements from water management in the River Red Gum forests.
  - o Ensuring FCNSW Staff understand that the tasks they perform are directly related to managing risk.

*Non-conformances identified in this assessment*

- No new Non-conformances were identified at this audit.

I want to thank all FCNSW Staff for their active and enthusiastic involvement in this audit, and for their open and transparent approach to the audit process. Importantly, it was encouraging to see FCNSW Field Staff were keen to learn from the audit process, taking notes on points important to them and their work, and committing to follow up. Understanding the purpose for a particular Standard requirement and the need to effectively manage it, was key to this.

I particularly want to acknowledge FCNSW's Forest Management Systems Specialist throughout the audit: she was not well for the 2 weeks, but stayed the journey and provided important information on and clarification about the organisation's management systems and how they are implemented.

This Surveillance audit determined that FCNSW Hardwood Forest Division continues to meet the requirements of AS4708:2013 and ISO14001:2015 Standards in the organisation's Western Region, and continued certification to these Standards is recommended.

Defined forest area statement	
<p><b>Hardwood Forests Division incorporates the following FMUs</b></p> <p>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</p>	
<b>Defined forest area (in hectares):</b>	1,796,992 ha
<b>Advised to AFS Limited on:</b>	18 October 2018
<b>Certificate expires on:</b>	31 December 2021
Report prepared by:	
Gerard Moore	Lead Auditor – Forest Management Systems
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT