

<b>Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report</b>			
<b>Client name:</b>	Forestry Tasmania	<b>Certificate #</b>	AFS 603478
<b>Client address</b>	Melville St Hobart	<b>Website:</b>	forestrytas.com.au
<b>Audit type:</b>	Recertification	<b>Report date:</b>	6 March 2015
<b>Standard:</b>	AS4708:2013	<b>Auditor:</b>	Ross Garsden
<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>			

<b>Scope of certification:</b>
The scope of certification includes all activities associated with the sustainable management of Tasmania's public forests, as described in Forestry Tasmania's Forest Management Plan, including the administration, planning and management of forests including harvest, transport and sale of forest products.

<b>Executive summary:</b>
<p>This report presents the findings of a re-assessment of Forestry Tasmania's Forest Management System (FMS) with respect to the requirements of AS4708:2013, the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management; ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Standard; and AS 4801:2001 Safety Management Standard.</p> <p>The scope of the audit included the application and implementation of the centrally-managed system at the Hobart Head Office as well as the planning and execution of a range of forest management activities in Huon District (Southern Region) and Bass and Murchison Districts (Northern Region).</p> <p>The audit also included the operation of the Perth Nursery, the Tahune Airwalk tourism facility and the Island Specialty Timbers (IST) facility at Smithton. Forestry Tasmania (FT) has developed a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) which clearly articulates the organisation's functions and obligations, and outlines its policies and objectives. The FMP also describes the management system that supports the various activities conducted under the plan. The FMP was developed through an extensive consultation process and is now available to the public, via Forestry Tasmania's website.</p> <p>Forestry Tasmania has developed a WIKI which acts as the primary source of information pertaining to the implementation of its FMS. This innovative approach is well-supported and ensures that current documentation is readily accessible to all parties. The WIKI is being continually improved and there are still some components of the system yet to be included.</p> <p>Consistent with the findings from the previous report, the audit has determined that Forestry Tasmania is meeting the requirements of AS4708:2013. Chain of custody and stakeholder engagement processes were demonstrated to be effective and forest management is based on well-supported scientific research.</p> <p>The audit included interviews with staff from the Forest Practices Authority (FPA), which is responsible for regulation of the environmental impacts of most of FT's forest management activities. Once again, the FPA confirmed that Forestry Tasmania continues to demonstrate a very high level of regulatory compliance, with virtually all Forest Practices Plans lodged being fully compliant with the Code and no corrective actions required. This is consistent with observations made at a range of sites and operations visited during the audit where FT demonstrated effective planning and management of forest operations. Processes for identification and management of biodiversity, forest health, soil and water values and cultural heritage were demonstrated to be consistent with the requirements of the Standard.</p>

FT demonstrated the effectiveness of its processes for identification of risks, and the development of objectives and targets aimed at improving business processes and performance. The Forest Management System is continuing to develop and the organisation is actively driving improvement through a range of processes. Specific examples sighted include:

Planning:

- The development of the new Forest Management Plan and HCV management plan
- The adoption of the Vault software for management of risk and non-conformance
- Further development of the landscape context planning system
- Improved planning processes (3-year plan, operational planning, planned burns and chemical application planning).

Stakeholder interactions:

- Improvement in stakeholder engagement and complaints handling processes
- Development of the interactive online map viewer
- Development of Aboriginal Heritage and access policies

Safety:

- Development and implementation of the Contractor Safety Management Strategy

Minor non-conformances identified during the previous assessment have been effectively closed out. This assessment identified a number of issues which have been consolidated into two minor non-conformances, raised under the safety and environmental standards. They specifically relate to the effectiveness of process for communication of controls and awareness of system processes with respect to the management of depots and other facilities. Details of these are contained in the full report and an action plan has been developed to address each of the issues.

The development of the Enterprise Agreement is continuing and the process is consistent with the requirements of the Standard.

The active participation and engagement of staff throughout the audit contributed to the effectiveness of this assessment. The auditors would like to thank Forestry Tasmania for the preparation and planning that preceded the audit and the cooperation of all staff involved.

The audit report includes a recommendation for recertification.

**Defined forest area statement**

The defined forest area consists of hardwood plantations, softwood plantations, wet eucalypt forests, dry eucalypt forests, blackwood forests and rainforest. Maps of the defined forest area are available to the public via Forestry Tasmania’s website.

<b>Defined forest area (in hectares):</b>	1,183,281 ha*
<b>Advised to AFS Limited on:</b>	10 February 2015
<b>Certificate expires on:</b>	30 June 2018

**Report prepared by:**

Ross Garsden	Technical Specialist – Forest Management
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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>
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