

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Forest Products Commission	Certificate #:	AFS 709544
Client address	233 Adelaide Terrace Perth WA 6000	Website:	fpc.wa.gov.au
Audit type:	Routine Surveillance	Audit date:	November 2021
Standards:	AS4708:2013 ISO 14001:2015	Auditor/s:	Ross Garsden
<p>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.</p>			

Scope of certification:

The processes involved in the management of native forests and plantations in Western Australia including: the planning and supervision of harvesting operations; the transport, processing and sale of forest products; the development and maintenance of associated infrastructure; and post-harvest re-establishment activities.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of a routine surveillance assessment of the forest management system operated by the Western Australian Forest Products Commission with respect to conformance with the requirements of AS4708:2013. The audit considered progress towards the requirements of AS 4708:2021 which closely aligns with ISO14001:2015. FPC has recently been recertified to ISO 14001:2015. As noted previously, the requirements of ISO14001 align very closely with, and support many of the requirements of AS4708. Accordingly, this report should be read in conjunction with the recent ISO 14001 Recertification Assessment Report dated July 2021.

The audit was conducted remotely, due to the continuing COVID-19 situation. The audit was made possible through the use of information and communications technologies, including Microsoft Teams for videoconferencing, screen-sharing and access to relevant staff, documents and records. There were no significant connectivity issues and the audit achieved its objectives.

The audit included corporate processes conducted from the Head Office in Perth and Bunbury Office, as well as a range of forest operations conducted from Manjimup, Harvey and Kalgoorlie. Staff also joined at times from Nannup and Albany. Site or operation-specific assessments were supported by relevant staff who provided access to relevant documentation and records.

The assessment notes a significant increase in the Defined Forest Area as reported to Responsible Wood, since the inclusion of the sandalwood wild harvest areas. Processes for monitoring the effectiveness of regeneration following harvesting were assessed. FPC is cognisant of issues in relation to sandalwood regeneration.

The audit included direct engagement with DBCA, (the regulator), and confirmed the organisation’s commitment to continual improvement in its strategic management; operational performance; and the systems that support the business.

Significant improvements noted in this assessment include:

- Uniform planning processes across all areas (arising from previous minor)
- Classification of incident categories – Montreal criteria and indicators
- Uniform procedures for native forests and plantations - FPC has developed and amalgamated harvest and haul contractor procedures to cover native forest and plantations. This aims to standardise requirements across all operations. The new format is soon to be rolled out.
- Contractor engagement - FPC has engaged contract tree-markers in an effort to free-up staff time and improve fatigue management and operational safety.
- FPC is trialling an alternative approach to tree marking in high-impact dieback affected jarrah sites.

The report also notes several further opportunities for improvement.

The auditor would like to acknowledge the cooperation, professionalism and constructive engagement of all staff involved in the planning and conduct of this audit. This contributed significantly to the overall effectiveness of the assessment process.

The audit has determined that the organisation continues to meet the requirements of AS 4708:2013.

Defined forest area statement	
The DFA incorporates the following FMUs:	
The DFA comprises 5 forest management units located in the south-west of Western Australia: these are described as Northern jarrah; Southern jarrah; Karri forests; Softwood plantations; and Mixed eucalypt plantations.	
Defined forest area (in hectares):	8,660,556 ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	10 December 2021
Certificate expires on:	29 June 2022

Report prepared by:	
Ross Garsden	Lead Auditor – Forest Management Systems
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT