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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:	Recertification	**Audit date:**	March-April 2025
Standards:	AS/NZS 4708:2021	**Auditor/s:**	Ross Garsden and 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.			

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 recertification assessment of the forest management system operated by the Western Australian Forest Products Commission with respect to conformance with the requirements of AS/NZS 4708:2021.

The audit was conducted on-site, with some preliminary and follow-up work conducted remotely off-site. The remote activities were conducted using Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Microsoft Teams was used for interviews, screen-sharing and a shared folder was established for provision of documentation and records. There were no significant connectivity issues, and the audit objectives were achieved.

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, Nannup, Harvey and Bunbury. The audit also included the operation of the Manjimup Nursery, Harvey Log Yard and Nannup depot. The on-site component focused on the management of forest operations and associated activities including:

- Procurement, establishment, management and harvest of pine plantations
- Genetics trials
- Fire management
- Planning and supervision of ecological thinning (karri)
- Roading operations in pine plantations

Since March 2023, the Defined Forest Area no longer includes the current and potential bauxite mining tenements. Also, the FPC has advised that the sandalwood areas (wild harvest and plantations) will no longer be included in the DFA after 31 December 2026. This will result in a significant reduction to the DFA. In coming years, there is an anticipated small increase in the DFA associated with the acquisition of new lands under the WA Government's Softwood Plantation Investment Program. The due diligence process associated with the acquisition of new properties

was assessed during this audit and accordingly several new properties have recently been added to the Defined Forest Area.

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 implementation of the Forest Management Plan. The DBCA Forest Health Monitoring Program has been developed to provide confidence in the implementation of the FMP and meet reporting requirements.

The previous report identified three minor non-conformances. One has been addressed effectively and is now closed. While progress is noted in relation to the other two, the action plans are not yet fully implemented and accordingly these remain open.

There were five minor non-conformances identified during this assessment in relation to:

- Managing changes to the forest management system
- Operational control at the Harvey log yard and Manjimup Nursery
- Non-conformance management processes
- Operational control: Mass management
- Identification of vulnerable soil types.

The report also notes several opportunities for improvement which are detailed in the full report.

The audit has determined that the organisation continues to meet the requirements of AS/NZS 4708:2021, subject to effectively addressing the minor non-conformances listed above. Accordingly, the report includes a recommendation for recertification to the nominated Standard.

The auditors 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.

Defined forest area statement	
The DFA incorporates the following Forest Management Units (FMUs) located in Western Australia: Northern and southern jarrah; Karri forests; Softwood plantations; sandalwood plantations and native sandalwood; and mixed eucalypt plantations.	
Defined forest area (in hectares):	9,674,612 ha
Advised to Responsible Wood on:	27 November 2024
Certificate expires on:	29 June 2028

Report prepared by:	
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Name of person who prepared this report	*Position*

END OF REPORT