

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Forest Products – DAF (QLD)	Certificate #:	AFS 603520
Client address	41 George St, Brisbane 4000 QLD	Website:	daf.qld.gov.au
Audit type:	Surveillance	Audit date:	23/09/2019 to 27/09/2019
Standard:	AS4708:2013	Auditor:	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 related to the supply of native forest products from within the Defined Forest Area.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of the surveillance assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Forest Products (FP), (a business unit of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS4708:2013), conducted by BSI in Sept 2019.

The audit focused on system planning and implementation processes, with respect to Forest Products' FMS and the requirements of the Standard at locations including Head office, Gympie Office and Maryborough Depot as well as temporary operational sites in the South East Forest Management Area (SE FMA). State forests visited included Bauple State Forest; Wongi State Forest; St Mary State Forest.

The audit identified several positive strengths in the organisation's forest management system. These include:

- Forestry Workforce Planning project is supporting mitigation of organisational risks and opportunities with consultation and participation from relevant stakeholders.
- Continual Improvement Audits conducted by FP staff continue to identify system deficiencies and improvement opportunities.

system.

- Progress in relation to opportunities for improvement identified as part of the last assessment have been considered and actions support continual improvement processes.

The effectiveness of corrective actions to address minor non-conformities identified as the last assessment and all non-conformities are now closed.

Whilst deficiencies were identified in relation to safe systems of work implemented by Permittees and Contractors at operational sites visited, it is recognised that an improvement project, namely the Sales Area Safety project to be implemented in FY2020, is intended to support improved safety outcomes and WHS compliance. As a result, all deficiencies in the forest management system identified have been raised as opportunities for improvement.

No new non-conformities have been identified as part of this assessment.

Stakeholder engagement during this assessment included interviews with QPWSP in relation to management of State Forests

Opportunities for improvement are identified in the body of this report.

I would like to thank Forests Products Staff for their support and assistance as part of this assessment.

Defined forest area statement:	
<p>The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.</p> <p>Detailed maps of the DFA are publicly available on the Queensland Globe</p>	
Defined forest area (in hectares):	2,990,800 Ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	24/10/2019
Certificate expires on:	31 March 2021

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

END OF REPORT

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Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of the surveillance assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Forest Products (FP), a business unit of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS4708:2013, conducted by BSI in March 2020.

The audit focused on system planning and implementation processes, with respect to Forest Products' FMS and the requirements of the Standard at locations including Brisbane office, Rockhampton Office and Mundubbera Depot as well as temporary operational sites in inland areas of central Queensland. State forests visited included: Coomanglah State Forest; Yarool State Forest; Barakula State Forest and; Allies Creek State Forest. Elements of the Australian Forestry Standard considered include Criterion 1 Systematic Management with emphasis on Criterion 5 – Forest Ecosystem Health and Criterion 6 – Soil and Water Resources.

The audit identified several positive strengths in the organisation's forest management system. These include:

- Increasing participation from Permittees in monitoring and managing compliance of operations.
- High level of compliance with code requirements, particularly in relation to controls to protect soil and water values in sale areas.
- Road Management Plan developed as part of OHP to support agreements with Permittee in relation responsibilities, obligations and standards for road maintenance and construction in sales areas.
- Workforce Planning project being implemented to achieve structural changes in the organisation to align to product and functional delivery of services.
- Integration and alignment of fire management and response arrangements with QPWS.

Commitment to the implementation of the Timber Harvesting Safety Project remains despite timelines being impacted by the departure of key project personnel. Phase 1 of the project is intended for delivery in FY2020 and will support improved safety outcomes and WHS compliance for Permittees and Contractors.

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

- Clause 6.3/6.4 - Clause 6.3/6.4 - The management of roads to protect soil and water values for roads that are not within sale areas is not fully evident. Further, there was no evidence of the responsible agencies' systems to effectively minimise soil disturbance and degradation of water quality on non-sale areas, such as management plans, codes of practice or operational guidelines.

- Clause 3.9 - The management of gravel pits to ensure effective controls are implemented for conversion to non-forest cover to consider the full range of impacts and protection of values including but not limited to: all environmental values such as Significant Biodiversity Values, cultural heritage and soil and water protection; resource management; safety management and; fulfillment of compliance obligations.

Opportunities for improvement are identified in the body of this report.

I would like to thank Forests Products staff for their support and assistance as part of this assessment.

Defined forest area statement:

The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.

Detailed maps of the DFA are publicly available on the Queensland Globe

Defined forest area (in hectares):	2,990,800 Ha
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Advised to AFS Limited on:	24/10/2019
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Certificate expires on:	31 March 2021
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Report prepared by:

Mick Berry	Lead Auditor
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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>
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Scope of certification:

Activities related to the supply of native forest products from within the Defined Forest Area.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of the surveillance assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Forest Products (FP), a business unit of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS4708:2013, conducted by BSI in December 2020. The certificate has been extended for 6 months due to COVID-19 since an onsite visit could not be conducted.

This remote audit has been conducted using Information and Communication Technologies including MS Teams and extensive video footage of field operations. The planned audit objectives have been achieved, there were no connectivity issues which adversely affected the audit

The audit focused on system planning and implementation processes, with respect to Forest Products' FMS and the requirements of the Standard at locations including Brisbane office, Dalby Office and Workshop as well as temporary operational sites in Cypress forests. Elements of the Australian Forestry Standard considered include Criterion 1 Systematic Management with emphasis on Criterion 2 - Stakeholders, Criterion 3 – Biodiversity and Criterion 7 – Carbon.

The audit identified several positive strengths in the organisation's forest management system. These include:

- New strategic planning framework that is supporting identification of internal business objectives.
- Changes to management of issues arising from SAI whereby Permittee is required to review and action SAI's within 2 weeks and prior to follow-up inspection.

Non-conformities identified as part of the last assessment have been closed.

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

- Roles and responsibilities are defined and assigned however there are not sufficient resources and other capacity to implement the forest management system.
- The findings from audits have not been entered into the corrective action system in SharePoint for action management.
- Periodic review of the forest management system has not been undertaken for the current annual period.
- Forest Products cannot demonstrate that adverse impacts of forest operations on Significant Biodiversity Values by planning and implementing forest operations consistent with actions specified in relevant recovery, action or threat abatement plans could be demonstrated.

Opportunities for improvement are identified in the body of this report.

I would like to thank Forests Products staff for their support and assistance as part of this assessment.

Defined forest area statement:

The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.

The DFA is currently being revised in line with changes in Government policy. Detailed maps of the DFA are publicly available on the Queensland Globe

Defined forest area (in hectares):	2,990,800 Ha
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Advised to AFS Limited on:	24/10/2019
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Certificate expires on:	31 Sept 2021
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Report prepared by:

Mick Berry

Lead Auditor – Forest Management Systems

Name of person who prepared this report

Position

END OF REPORT

Assessment Report

Assessment dates 27/04/2021 to 08/05/2021 (Please refer to Appendix for details)
Assessment Location(s) Brisbane (001), Rockhampton (003), Gympie (005)
Report Author 73(2)Irrelevant
Assessment Standard(s) AFS 4708:2013



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RTI Act 2009

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of the recertification assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Forest Products (FP), a business unit of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS4708:2013 (the Standard), conducted by BSI in April / May 2021. The certificate has been extended for 6 months due to COVID-19 since an onsite visit could not be conducted in Dec 2020.

The audit focused on system planning and implementation processes, with respect to Forest Products' FMS and the requirements of the Standard at locations including Mackay Depot, Brisbane office and Jimna Fire Tower worksite, as well as temporary operational sites in Hardwood Forests. All elements of the Standard were considered.

The audit identified several positive strengths in the organisation's forest management system. These include:

- High level of compliance to Code of Practice standard in Hardwood operations. This is also reflected in QPWS monitoring of timber harvesting operations
- Native Timber Action Plan resource assessment will support decisions about sustainable yield and management of the forest resource.
- Forestry WHS Working Group continue to implement improvement initiatives in relation to working remotely.
- Stakeholders interviewed confirmed a high level of engagement to support forest management outcomes.
- FMS Review and internal audit functions remain effective and updated to meet business needs.

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

- Roles and responsibilities are defined and assigned however there are not sufficient resources and other capacity to implement the forest management system.
- Forest Products cannot demonstrate that adverse impacts of forest operations on Significant Biodiversity Values by planning and implementing forest operations consistent with actions specified in relevant recovery, action or threat abatement plans could be demonstrated

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

- Forest Products and QPWS do not monitor and evaluate activities and their outcomes to ensure that requirements of the Standard are met for all forest operations, specifically those that relate to QPWS forest management responsibilities.
- The protection and maintenance of Indigenous Peoples values through the identification of known values and consultation with indigenous peoples to determine significance, consider views in the preparation and avoid damage to significant values during forest operations is not fully evident.
- The Forestry Stakeholder Communication Log does not identify all stakeholders their interests and whether they are affected or interested stakeholders. The stakeholders identified in the Log are largely confined to the timber industry.
- The HM&RM Manual Section 20.28 Stakeholder Consultation System for identifying and recording stakeholders using HM&RM Appendix 6 is not being implemented in forest locations visited. Further, the focus for stakeholder engagement is in relation to those within or adjacent to the sales area.

Opportunities for improvement are identified in the body of this report.

I would like to thank Forests Products staff for their support and assistance as part of this assessment.

Changes in the organization since last assessment

There is no significant change of the organization structure and key personnel involved in the audited management system.

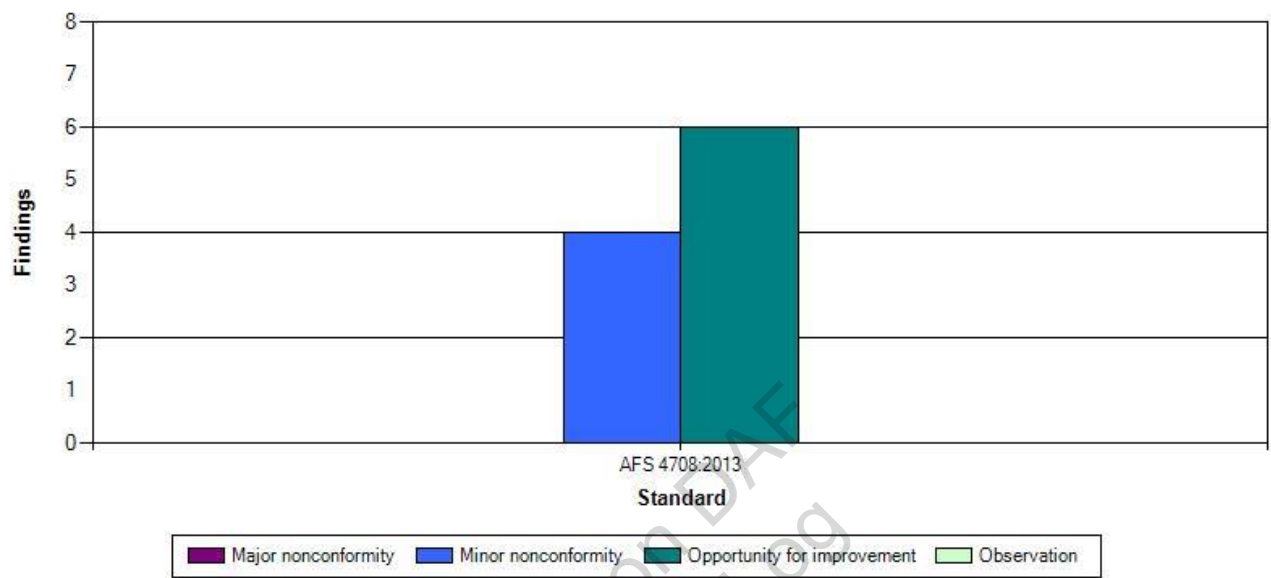
No change in relation to the audited organization's activities, products or services covered by the scope of certification was identified.

There was no change to the reference or normative documents which is related to the scope of certification.

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NCR summary graphs

Which standard(s) BSI recorded findings against



Your next steps

NCR close out process

Corrective actions with respect to nonconformities raised at the last assessment have been reviewed. Actions were not found to be effectively implemented in all areas. Such areas, identified in subsequent sections of the report, will be further reviewed for closure at the next assessment.

4 nonconformities requiring attention were identified. These, along with other findings, are contained within subsequent sections of the report.

A nonconformity relates to a single identified lapse, which in itself would not indicate a breakdown in the management system's ability to effectively control the processes for which it was intended. It is necessary to investigate the underlying cause of any issue to determine corrective action. The proposed action will be reviewed for effective implementation at the next assessment.

Please refer to Assessment Conclusion and Recommendation section for the required submission and the defined timeline.

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Assessment objective, scope and criteria

The objective of the assessment was to conduct a re-assessment of the existing certification to ensure the elements of the proposed scope of registration and the requirements of the management standard are effectively addressed by the organisation's management system.

The scope of the assessment is the documented management system with relation to the requirements of AFS4708:2013 and the defined assessment plan provided in terms of locations and areas of the system and organisation to be assessed.

AFS4708:2013

Forest Products management system documentation

Statutory and regulatory requirements

EPBC Act 1999

WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulation 2017

Forestry Act 1959 (Qld)

QPWS Master Plan for Queensland's parks and forests to 2025

Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007

Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's State forest estate 2020

Accepted development vegetation clearing codes

Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)

Nature Conservation (Plants) Regulation 2020 (the Regulation).

Code of Practice For the take and use of protected plants under an exemption Nature Conservation Act 1992

Forest harvesting Code of Practice 2007

Assessment Participants

Name	Position	Opening Meeting	Closing Meeting	Interviewed(processes)
73(2)Irrelevant	Manager, Operations Policy	X	X	X
	Director, Forestry	X	X	X
	A/Principal Policy Officer, Operations Policy	X	X	X
	Business Manager	X		X
	Manager, Hardwood			X
	Operations Manager (North), Hardwood			X
	Senior Policy Officer, Operations Policy	X	X	X
	Operations Manager (South), Hardwood			X
	Forest Ranger In Charge (Mackay), Hardwood			X
	Forest Ranger In Charge (Maryborough), Hardwood			X
	Principal Project Officer, Business Services			X
	Forester, Hardwood			X
	Principal Project Officer, Sales and Resources			X
	President, Noosa Parks Association			X
	WHS Project Manager, Operations Policy			X
	Manager, Sales and Resources		X	X
	Forest Ranger In Charge (Kingaroy), Hardwood			X
	A/ Senior Forest Ranger (Kingaroy), Hardwood			
	Forest Ranger (Atherton), Hardwood			

73(2)Irrelevant	Forest Ranger (Cairns), Hardwood			
	Forest Ranger (Maryborough), Hardwood			
	A/ Principal Policy Officer, Operations Policy			
	Principal Project Officer, Sales and Resources			
	Senior Project Officer, Native Timber Action Plan			
	Principal Advisor, Southern Parks and Forests Regional Operations, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services			
	Senior Ranger, Technical Support, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services			
	Senior Ranger, Estate Management, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services			
	Manger, Fire and Pest, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services			
	Chief Executive Officer, Timber Queensland			
	Wamuran Timbers			
	Consultant, Wik Timbers			

Assessment conclusion

BSI assessment team

Name	Position
73(2)Irrelevant	Team Leader

Assessment conclusion and recommendation

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 identified within the audit report and it is deemed that the management system continues to achieve its intended outcomes.

RECOMMENDED - Corrective Action Plan Required ('Minor' findings only): The audited organization may be recommended for certification / continued certification, based upon the acceptance of a satisfactory corrective action plan for all 'Minor' findings as shown in this report. Effective implementation of corrective actions will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit.

Please submit a plan through the BSI Connect Portal detailing the nonconformity, the root cause, correction and your proposed corrective action, with responsibilities and timescales allocated. The plan is to be submitted no later than 05/06/2021. If the corrective action plan is not received by this date you may be putting your certification status at risk.

For any questions please contact your local BSI office, referencing the report number 3073246, 3431908, 3431909.

Use of certification documents, mark / logo or report

The use of the BSI certification documents and mark / logo is effectively controlled.

Findings from previous assessments

Finding Reference	1894102-202003-N1	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	Criterion 6.3/6.4
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 6 - Soil and Water		
Details:	The management of roads to protect soil and water values for roads that are not within sale areas is not fully evident. Further, responsible agencies do not have management plans, codes of practice or operational guidelines in place to minimise soil disturbance and degradation of water quality for non-sale areas.		
Objective Evidence:	Site visit to Barakula and Allies Creek SF; QPWS Road Design Guidelines; Code of Practice for Native Forests Timber Production on the QPWS Forest Estate 2014.		
Cause			
QPWS has a limited budget to maintain over 30,000 km of roads on their estate. QPWS appear to have only limited standards to maintain the road network and protect soil and water values. DAF provides only limited input to QPWS in relation to road maintenance needs associated with timber harvesting operations.			
Correction/containment			
Sources of additional funding for QPWS to invest in roading is limited given the competing interests associated with their broader land management obligations and other service delivery expectations. However the VBMF and associated health check process aims to assist with prioritising QPWS investment according to forest values and management complexity. QPWS use a range of standards and guidelines for the management of roading however a review of these will improve understanding and provide an opportunity to evaluate their effectiveness for underpinning the protection of soil and water, and identify opportunities for improvements. The MOU between QPWS and DAF provides DAF an opportunity to identify potential roading priorities for consideration by QPWS, however a more strategic approach to identifying roading needs associated with future harvesting operations would enable these needs to be better accounted for in QPWS road planning processes.			
Corrective action			
DAF to work with QPWS to facilitate improved maintenance of roads within the defined area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DAF to continue contributing to VBMF process to facilitate improved recognition of the custodial requirements associated with State forests (ongoing)• DAF to review roading standards applied to the DFA and work with QPWS to identify opportunities for improvements (September 2020)			

- DAF to develop a process for identifying strategic roading requirements associated with planned timber harvesting operations (September 2020)
- DAF and QPWS to identify a formalised process for DAF to better contribute to QPWS road prioritisation process (June 2020).

73(2)Irrelevant 10.12.2020

Loc8 system can be used by FP staff to capture reactive maintenance issues relation to road assets.

Closed?:

Yes

Finding Reference	1894102-202003-N2	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	Criterion 3.9
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	North Forest Management Area		
Details:	The management of gravel pits to ensure effective controls are implemented for conversion to non-forest cover to consider the full range of impacts and protection of values including but not limited to: all environmental values such as Significant Biodiversity Values, cultural heritage and soil and water protection; resource management; safety management and; fulfillment of compliance obligations.		
Objective Evidence:	Site visit to Mill Road Quarry Pit, Allies Creek State Forest		
Cause			
DAF has no consistent procedures in place for the identification and protection of environment and heritage values associated with gravel pits or safety implications associated with their use.			
Correction/containment			
DAF to review procedures used by QPWS or other entities to manage environment, heritage and safety associated with small scale gravel pits used in association with road maintenance on the QPWS estate, with a view to adopting or modifying these according to DAF's needs.			
Corrective action			
By September 2020, DAF to have developed agreed gravel pit management procedures for implementation during gravel extraction associated with timber harvesting operations.			
73(2)Irrelevant 10.12.2020 Sighted Gravel Pit Management Guideline			
Closed?:			

Yes

Finding Reference	1997219-202011-N1	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	1.3.2.c
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 1.3 Implementation		
Details:	Roles and responsibilities are defined and assigned however there are not sufficient resources and other capacity to implement the forest management system.		
Objective Evidence:	The position responsible for maintaining the forest management system is vacant Operational forest management positions representing 40% of total resources are vacant in Cypress Forests. Vacant positions cannot be filled due to constraints on advertising external positions by Government.		
Cause			
Queensland Government has a public sector full-time equivalent cap and Forestry has been unable to secure additional staffing resources within DAF's cap. Key positions have been filled via contractors, which results in a high level of staff turnover. Additionally, the Queensland Government imposed a freeze on external recruitment in some areas to free resources for COVID-19 response and recovery. This occurred at a time when a number of long-term staff retired and as such have been unable to be replaced. These constraints have impacted implementation of a comprehensive workforce plan that identified most of these issues and included a range of actions to address them.			
Correction/containment			
Forestry to continue to pursue permanent appointment of staff to restore FTE levels within the current constraints, including critical positions in the Cypress product group and the Principal Policy Officer responsible for overseeing certification and the forest management system. Contractors to also be used where necessary to fill critical gaps. Forestry to further identify long term resourcing needs to deliver on certification obligations and pursue appropriate resources as necessary.			
Corrective action			
1/ Build a case to secure Queensland Government support for Forestry to recruit externally by 30 June 2021 2/ Use labour hire contractors where appropriate to meet business needs 3/ Develop an ecological compliance plan by 31 January 2021 to identify options to meet ecological requirements and identify relevant resource requirements. 4/ Prepare a brief to DAF senior management highlighting the current risks to Forestry's certification and identifying options and resourcing requirements to address these risks.			
Closed?:			

No	
Justification	<div>73(2)Irrelevant</div> 7.05.21 1/ QLD Gov't has approved vacant positions to be advertised internally or externally. This may result in internal vacancies as staff are promoted or transition into new roles. STATUS OPEN. 3/ Ecological compliance plan has determined resource requirements for various ecological framework options. Selection of Option not yet determined STATUS OPEN.

Finding Reference	1997219-202011-N2	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	1.4.2
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 1.4 Monitoring and Corrective Action; Criterion 1.5 Review		
Details:	The findings from audits have not been entered into the corrective action system in SharePoint for action management.		
Objective Evidence:	The findings from BSI's last external audit have not been entered into the corrective action system. The findings from the last CIA have not been entered into the corrective action system.		
Cause			
Resourcing constraints due to the FTE cap and COVID-19 response as per 1997219-202011-N1. In addition, there has been considerable turnover in the position responsible for the Audit Findings Tracker (Principal Policy Officer). The position was vacant leading up the Responsible Wood audit and this led to audit findings not being entered and monitored in the Audit Findings Tracker.			
Correction/containment			
DAF to seek support from DAF senior leadership to better resource its management system.			
Corrective action			
1/ Fill Principal Policy Officer position.			
73(2)Irrelevant 7.05.21 Position advertised and current person acting in role.			
2/ Enter findings into audit findings tracker.			
73(2)Irrelevant 7.05.21 Findings now entered into audit findings tracker.			
Closed?:			
Yes			

Finding Reference	1997219-202011-N3	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	1.5

Location reference	0047483151-001
Category	Minor
Area/Process:	Criterion 1.4 Monitoring and Corrective Action; Criterion 1.5 Review
Details:	Periodic review of the forest management system has not been undertaken for the current annual period.
Objective Evidence:	Interview with Operations and Policy Manager, Senior Policy Officer
Cause	
<p>There has been limited value achieved from the periodic management reviews as they have previously been undertaken. A key issue appears to be that the reviews are based on unreliable data, identify known issues, and do not result in agreed actions that are pursued and resolved.</p> <p>Due to resourcing constraints, Forest Products efforts were focussed elsewhere and a periodic review was not prepared for 2019-20.</p>	
Correction/containment	
Review the content of previous management reviews with the view of producing better management reviews in the future that add value to the business.	
Corrective action	
<p>1/ Operations Policy to work with other business groups to improve and document FMG review processes (e.g trackers).</p> <p>2/ Operations Policy to prepare a management review for the current period and seek FMG views on its value and future review processes.</p>	
<p>73(2)Irrelevant 7.05.21</p> <p>FMS Management Review report produced for submission to FMG. The upcoming FMG agenda includes tabling of FMS Management Review.</p>	
Closed?:	
Yes	

Finding Reference	1997219-202011-N4	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	3.4.2
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 3 - Biodiversity		
Details:	Forest Products cannot demonstrate that adverse impacts of forest operations on Significant Biodiversity Values by planning and implementing forest operations consistent with actions specified in relevant recovery, action or threat abatement plans could be demonstrated.		

Objective Evidence:	The responsibility for meeting the requirements under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) related to protected ecological communities has been assigned to the Permittee in Cypress forests. Knowledge and skills to mitigate impacts of forest operations could not be demonstrated. An Options Spreadsheet describes the framework proposed as Option 1 in Cypress forests.		
Cause			
Forest Products' Biodiversity Management System relies on staff, permittees and contractors to have appropriate skills to identify Significant Biodiversity Values (SBVs) in order to implement environmental prescriptions, however, these skills are variable across all parties.			
Correction/containment			
Considering the variable skills across all parties, options to better manage SBVs need to be evaluated. Senior DAF staff will need to decide on the best option to manage SBVs going forward and changes to the management system will be required.			
Corrective action			
1/ Develop an ecological compliance plan to identify and evaluate options to manage SBVs. 2/ Secure senior DAF support and adequate resources to implement an option outlined in the ecological compliance plan. 3/ Initiate implementation of relevant changes to Biodiversity Management System			
Closed?:			
No			
Justification	73(2)Irrelevant	7.05.21	
	2/ Ecological compliance plan has determined additional resource requirements for each option, however a decision on which option will be implemented has not yet been decided. STATUS OPEN. 3/ Initiate implementation of relevant changes to Biodiversity Management System has not yet occurred. STATUS OPEN		

Findings from this assessment

AS4708:2013 Specific Clauses

0.1 Defined Forest Area:

+Objective evidence:

- DAF Website
- Queensland Globe
- Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Environment and Science and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding the management of lands under the Forestry Act 1959 dated 30.08.2019

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Defined Forest Area is available publicly as a link from the forest management, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland with guidance on how to access on Queensland globe. Link here: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/forests-wood/native-forests/defined-area>
- Defined forest area describes spatially as maps those areas of forests and which DAF Forest Products can demonstrate management control.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

0.2 Chain of Custody:

+Objective evidence:

- Interview **owner** Wamuran Timbers

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Forest Products has processes relating to transport and handling of forest products up to the point of sale.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 1: Systematic management:

- 1.1 Policy
- 1.2 Forest Management Plan
- 1.3 Implementation
- 1.4 Monitoring and corrective action
- 1.5 Review
- 1.6 Research

+Objective evidence:

- Interview with members of FMG

- Forestry Strategic Plan 2021-2024 - DRAFT v.05
- Hardwood Product Strategy 2021-2025 - DRAFT
- Hardwood Operations Plan - 2020-2022
- Forest Management Policy Statement Forest Products - 21 June 2018
- DAF Forestry Forest Management System Review 2019-2020
- Forest Management Plan DAF 2019
- 2021 CIA Hardwood1 13 -16 April 2021
- QPWS Native Forest Audit Program Annual Report 2019/ 2020 Native Forest Timber Production
- Stakeholder Communications Log - 73(2)Irrelevant
- Stakeholder Communication Log - Queensland Conservations
- Mapping of Custodial Responsibilities to AS4708
- Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Environment and Science and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding the management of lands under the Forestry Act 1959 dated 30.08.2019

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- The Forest Strategic Plan has been reviewed by FMG but yet to be approved at Departmental level. Once approved operational plans will need to align with strategic plan. Review of Hardwood Product Strategy and improvement initiatives.
- Discussion regarding workforce planning in response to business needs and government policy commitments.
- The Native Timber Action Plan (NTAP) implementation continues to experience delays in the appointment of Timber Advisory panel members. The NTAP resource assessment has commenced and is led by Forest Products.
- The Sales Area Safety Project continues to experience delays with the departure of project officers. Timelines have been pushed back but with the project officer position filled FP remain committed to its implementation.
- The structural changes to the organisation continue to support alignment of processes and facilitate efficiencies in the assignment of resources to meet the business needs in Hardwood and Cypress business units.
- Resource constraints continue persist under current QLD Government Policy. Recent approval for the re-advertisement of 15 positions. DAF is supporting reinvestment in Forest products such as for Native Timber Action Plan initiatives, IT systems and fire tower restoration project.
- Soil and Water training is being provided to Permittees and Contractors in relation to Code compliance. There were 35 people in attendance at recent training event.
- The Forest Management System Review has been revised in response to FMG requesting increased analysis of data to assess performance and FMS effectiveness. For example review of Permittee breaches.
- Summary Forest Management Plan is available on DAF website.
- Internal audit undertaken of CIA in Hardwoods - North includes review of standard requirements as it related to business unit. Non-conformities and opportunities for improvement are yet to be entered into action tracker since the report is still in draft.
- Review of QPWS Internal audit program for native forest timber production confirmed a high level of compliance to Code. The report included a recommendation to increase the extent of cultural heritage surveys to mitigate risks of impacting values.
- QPWS confirmed no internal audits are QPWS operations are undertaken.
- Review of system for management of incidents corrective action and complaints.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-I1	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	1.4.3.a
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Opportunity for Improvement		
Area/Process:	Criterion 1: Systematic management		
Details	The completion of SPI's and SAI's is inconsistent across forest operations in terms of frequency and completion of some inspections such as SPI 99 in Hardwood operations.		

Criterion 2: Stakeholder engagement:

- 2.1 Identify stakeholders
- 2.2 Stakeholder engagement plan
- 2.3 Stakeholder participation
- 2.4 Stakeholders affected by forest operations
- 2.5 Records
- 2.6 Public disclosures

+Objective evidence:

- <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/forestry/native-timber-action-plan>
- Forestry Stakeholder Communication Log
- Interview and site visit to Wamuran Timbers owner
- Interview with Noosa Parks Association
- Stakeholder Management System 26 oct 2018 Version 2.1
- Interview QPWS staff regarding internal audits.
- Yurol Ringtail State Forests Conservation Project

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Stakeholder engagement regarding the NTAP is confined to updates on the Queensland Government website and FP external communication tools. Any feedback from the website is managed by FP and is received by phone or email feedback @daf.qld.gov.au.
- Site visit with owner Wamuran timbers and discussion regarding value recovery, utilisation of forest products and market and the future of the forest industry in SE Qld including allocations.
- Interview with Noosa Parks Association stakeholder regarding Yurol Ringtail State Forest identified concerns regarding rehabilitation of plantation area following harvesting to support re-establishment.
- Communication approach has been defined for Yurol-Ringtail SF Conservation Project which supports engagement with stakeholders or target audiences.
- Interview with Timber Queensland and member representatives with primary focus on impacts arising from the reduction in certified forest area due to lack of management control of some tenures.
- Substantial stakeholder lists are maintained as part of the Native Timber Action Plan stakeholder engagement process.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The

organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-I2	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	2.4.d
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Opportunity for Improvement		
Area/Process:	Criterion 2: Stakeholder engagement		
Details	Letters to stakeholders affected by forest operations currently does not reference the DAF Forest Management Plan 2019 which communicates the long term environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits of sustainable forest management.		

Criterion 3: Biodiversity:

3.1 - 3.4 Identify, maintain and enhance biodiversity values

3.5 - 3.6 Monitor and review biodiversity

3.7 Regeneration

3.8 Introduced genetics

3.9 Native vegetation conversion

+Objective evidence:

- Ecological Compliance Plan 2021

- Options Version 3.0

- Yurol Ringtail State Forests Conservation Project

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- The Ecological Compliance Plan 2021 includes actions to map endangered ecological communities. FP staff and ecologist providing high level guidance and field methodology for mapping actual communities on the ground as part of operational timber harvesting.

This will support processes to support the maintenance and enhancement of Significant Biodiversity Values and minimise impacts associated with forest operations.

- Option analysis has been completed including current option, 2A, 2B and 3 identifies resource requirements from 3.7 days to 31.6 days. A decision on which option will be implemented has yet to be decided.

- Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species and an EPBC Act Protected Matter Report for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) as part of OHP.

- Review of Gymie Messmate plantations at Yurol Ringtail State Forests. No evidence of spread of species from plantation nor that genetically modified trees are used.

- No evidence of conversion of native vegetation to plantation or non-forest cover identified for sites visited

- Yurol-Ringtail State Forest Conservation project supports the transition from plantation forests to restoration of native or endemic species.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 4: Productive capacity:

- 4.1 - 4.2 Identify productive capacity and harvest rates
- 4.3 Plan and monitor use
- 4.4 Infrastructure
- 4.5 Silviculture
- 4.6 Establishment
- 4.7 Damage to growing stock
- 4.8 Unplanned fire
- 4.9 Non-wood products

+Objective evidence:

- PTY NTAP Resource Assessment
- Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's State forest estate 2020
- Bushfire Risk Management framework
- Interview with QPWS Fire Manager

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Since 2000 a yield on hand model has been implemented since a policy of cut out and get out had been adopted.
- The NTAP Resource Assessment supports the re-instatement of sustainable yield models using adapted SKED modelling system.
- Project model has been reviewed by expert consultant to determine forest information requirements including the measurement of historical PGP's with another 300 needed, use of canopy height models, LIDAR and terrestrial LIDAR .
- Harvesting rates are prescribed as part of Code compliance relating to basal area retention limits and to provide for adequate regeneration.
- Visits to timber harvesting operations confirmed infrastructure supports efficient delivery of forest products.
- Site visits at inactive sites confirmed adequate regeneration for forest stands.
- QPWS have developed bushfire risk management framework to identify strategic priorities for emergency response and mitigation activities in conjunction with expert consultant who is developing decision tool.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 5: Forest health:

- 5.1 Identify damage agents
- 5.2 Maintain health
- 5.3 Weeds and pests
- 5.4 Fire and disturbance regimes
- 5.5 Rehabilitate degraded forest

5.6 Chemical use

5.7 Salvage

+Objective evidence:

- Bushfire Risk Management framework
- Interview with QPWS Fire Manager
- Forest Management System - Biosecurity Management V2.0 -

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Funding has been provided to support strategic pest and fire recovery actions following the 2018/2020 fire season.
- FLAMES system continues to support fire and now pests management including consideration of fire regimes.
- QPWS is developing a fire strategy which will provide internal guidance on fire management of State forests and National Park.
- Gura Gura Framework supports co-design in the development of any strategy, however engagement is not yet fully developed.
- training delivered to Forest Products staff in relation to 'Managing Biodiversity Risk Procedures'.
- monitoring and audit of biosecurity risks are identified as part of sale area inspections.
- Use of chemicals is minimal and related to control of borer on poles and for equipment use and maintenance.
- Visit to native forest timber harvesting operations impacted by wildfire. The harvesting activity was not determined to be a salvage operation.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 6: Soil and water:

6.1 Identify soil and water values

6.2 - 6.3 Water quality and water quantity

6.4 Soil properties

6.5 Pollution

+Objective evidence:

- Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's State forest estate 2020.

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Inspection of roads and tracks as part of forest operations and in compliance with the Code of Practice (COP) to minimise impacts associated with water quality and minimise nutrient losses.
- Site visits confirmed buffers and filter zones are compliant with COP to prevent or constrain water pollutions.
- Forest operations visited confirm physical, chemical and biological properties of soil are protected.
- Spill kits are available to support emergency response and clean-up in the event of a spill in work locations.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 7: Carbon:

- 7.1 Carbon cycle
- 7.2 Minimise fossil fuel use
- 7.3 Estimate of carbon storage

+Objective evidence:

- Assessment of native forest carbon stocks across management native forest estate in QLD
- 2020 Surveillance Audit-Carbon
- The Forest Management Policy Statement Forest Products 2019

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Carbon stock assessment has determined current standing carbon stored in forests within the DFA and use of Full Carbon Accounting Model as measurement methodology.
- Forests are managed to maintain or enhance carbon cycle through application of CoP. The Forest Management Policy Statement Forest Products.
- Monitoring of aspects relating to fossil fuel use is undertaken relating to electricity, travel. A reduction in CO2 consumed in 2019/2020 driven by reduction of work related travel during COVID-19.
- DAF and QLD Government of which Forest Products is a part have commitments to reducing carbon emissions.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 8: Cultural heritage:

- 8.1 Indigenous peoples' values
- 8.2 Indigenous heritage values
- 8.3 Other heritage values
- 8.4 Legal and traditional use

+Objective evidence:

- Aboriginal Heritage Guidelines
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Policy
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 - Duty of Care Guidelines

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Current operational procedures rely on a desktop due diligence process and identification of values in the field as part of operational timber harvesting. Forest Products staff have had cultural awareness training whilst Permittees and their contractors have not.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Criterion 9: Social and economic benefits:

- 9.1 Regional development
- 9.2 Optimal use
- 9.3 Illegal activities
- 9.4 Skills development
- 9.5 Health and safety
- 9.6 Workers' rights

+ Objective evidence:

- Field Safety Check-in
- Letter to SGP Holder PID 1746 dated on 27/08 /2020
- Code of Conduct for the sale of forest and quarry products
- Discussion Paper - Certification on Leasehold land Oct 2020
- Forest Certification Discussion Paper
- Comparison of current and proposed Timber Area Safety Framework - DAF
- Forest & Quarry Fieldwork SOP
- Forestry WHS Working Group 24&25 Feb 2021
- Forestry Risks Register
- Chainsaw SOP

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- WHS Working Group are review procedures relating to working remotely including introduction of two way communication such as Garmin InReach Explorer, arranging work so that two people work together. Other initiatives include: SOP review, skin check, camp inspection checklist, trial of online itinerary.
- Review of letter by QPWS in relation to SGP holder for breaches under the Forestry 35(1)c of the Forestry Act 1959 - and Clause 5.3 and 5.5 of SGP.
- 73(2) Irrelevant to FRIC at Crediton SF was not recorded as a WHS incident nor in the stakeholder communication log on SharePoint or on Stakeholder log on sales file.
- Interview with Timber Queensland regarding FP support of forest products industry and contribution to social and economic benefits.
- Timelines for implementation of Sales Area Safety Project are now 1 July 2022. The project is reliant on the Forest Fit Scheme to be implemented which will deliver fit for purpose safe systems of work and training for industry. Other task timelines include Harvesting Safety Planning Procedure by 31 July 2021 and OHP process for new safety items by 20 Sept 2021

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Site visits:

Active Site Visit 1A - Tumoulin

+ Objective evidence:

- Operational Harvest Plan for Muids NQ1AEVE01 & NQ1ACLB01
- Forest Harvesting Operations - Pollution and Waste Management Plan
- Community Information Profile - Cooktown Orchid

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Review of products and value recovery processes for sawlog, landscape and fuelwood.
- Review of due diligence process as part of OHP planning including relating to soil assessment, watercourse protection, slope and instability exclusions,
- Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species and an EPBC Act Protected Matter Report for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
- Review of regional ecosystems map and identification of values.
- Review of harvesting protocols in Protected Plants Trigger Areas (NCA)
- Review of controls relating to koala spotter and general procedures to protect wildlife.
- Review of due diligence process protecting special values including cultural heritage with no known values.
- Review forest road and track management including drainage.
- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to single tree selection and tree marking for exclusions zones such as buffer and filter zones adjacent to water features and harvest area (sales area) boundaries on tree marking map. Review of habitat tree and recruitment habitat tree selection.
- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to snig track construction and spacing, landing location and rehabilitation.
- Review of silvicultural practice including basal area retention.
- Review of management of pests weeds and disease including biosecurity arrangements such as vehicle wash down.
- Review of site specific safety plan and map including emergency response procedures and management of sale area specific hazards relating to road closure, terrain and undergrowth, powerlines, dead trees, haulage route and school buses.
- Verification of signoff of OHP by FP and Permittee Millstram Timbers Pty Ltd
- Induction process for visitors to OHP.
- Review of Sale Area Inspection Process.

Inactive Site 2A - Pre-Paid Sale The Bluff SF 754 / Lot 754 on FTY1925

+ Objective evidence:

- Environmental Management Register and Contaminated Lands Register Search Lot 754 1 May 2020
- Road Management Plan - Attachment 10
- Non-indigenous Cultural Heritage 21.05.20 - no records returned
- Site Specific Safety Plan
- Forest Products DAF – Atherton Office Information Sheet Fuelwood Collection under the Forestry Act 1959
- Operational Harvesting Plan NQ1ANO754

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Review of products and value recovery processes for Fuelwood/Split Post/Round Timber/Landscape
- Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species.
- Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species and EPBC Act Protected Matter Report for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
- Review of due diligence process protecting special values including cultural heritage with no known values. Nil identified. Inspection of disused rail line with heritage value within close proximity to harvesting area.
- Review forest road and track management including drainage.

- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to single tree selection and tree marking for exclusions zones such as buffer and filter zones adjacent to water features and harvest area (sales area) boundaries on tree marking map. Review of habitat tree and recruitment habitat tree selection.
- Review of silvicultural practice including basal area retention.
- Review of site specific safety plan and map including emergency response procedures and management of sale area specific hazards.
- Induction process for visitors to OHP.
- Review of Sale Area Inspection Process and any corrective actions as required.
- Assessment of adequacy of regeneration and impacts of wildfire on regrowth.

Infrastructure Site #1 Atherton Depot Inspection

- + Site visit to Atherton Depot in Mackay, QLD to assess effectiveness of controls including:
 - Discussion regarding the engagement of 2nd party to undertake inspections and servicing of equipment in depot locations.
 - Helmet for use with quad bike OK
 - Lifting gear and firefighting unit tagged out of service.
 - Spill kit in a serviceable condition
 - sighted licence to ride motorbike
 - first aid kit available in vehicle
 - quad bike in service and with ROP certified
- + Operational controls not fully effective include:
 - Testing and tagging of some leads not current
 - Some SDS out date
 - Washing vehicles on hardstand and discharging to stormwater
 - Emergency response equipment out of service including fire extinguishers.
 - Motorbike not part of preventative maintenance schedule since it is not regularly used but not tagged out of service.
 - No flammables sign on external door to workshop

Active Site Visit 3A - Cathu State Forest P-MMPR021 Lot 652 FTY2

- + Objective evidence:
 - Operational Harvesting Plan P-MMPR021
 - OHP Amended Pages
 - SPI No. 19 Sales Area Inspection dated 20.10.2020
- + Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:
 - Review of products and value recovery processes for sawlog.
 - Review of due diligence process as part of OHP planning including relating to soil assessment, watercourse protection, slope and instability exclusions,
 - Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species and an EPBC Act Protected Matter Report for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Review of regional ecosystems map and identification of values.
 - Review of due diligence process protecting special values including cultural heritage
 - Review forest road and track management including drainage.
 - Review of timber harvesting practice relating to single tree selection and tree marking for exclusions zones such as buffer and filter zones adjacent to water features. Review of habitat tree and recruitment habitat tree selection.
 - Review of timber harvesting practice relating to snig track construction and spacing, landing location

and rehabilitation.

- Review of silvicultural practice including basal area retention.
- Review of site specific safety plan and map including emergency response procedures
- Induction process for visitors to OHP.
- Review of Sale Area Inspection Process for SAI 13 and SAI 14 and corrective actions.
- Review of native Forest Timber Production Code Operational Assessment dated 23.09.2020 Macartney State Forest.
- Discussion regarding procedures for working remotely and Forestry and Field Operations Procedure SOP.
- Stakeholder communications log has not been completed for Stock Grazing Permit (SGP) holder who had issues with the use of quad bikes / motorbikes scaring cattle.
- Discussion regarding SGP and confrontation with FRIC onsite regarding uses of quad bikes including potential WHS implications.

Active Site Visit 4A - Crediton SF

+ Objective evidence:

- Operational Harvesting Plan P-MMEU023 and P-MMEU024
- Queensland Government Native Title Work Procedures Annexure 7.1 Native Title Assessment Form March 2018
- Site Specific Safety Plan
- Road Management Plan
- Appendix 1 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Risk Assessment Worksheet
- Widi People Determination
- Appendix 4 - Cultural Heritage Inspection Report Form
- Appendix 3 - Considerations Prior to Issuing an Invitation to an Aboriginal Party to Conduct a Site Inspection
- Dept of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Search Ref # 66680. Site refer to Widi People of Nebo Estate
- SAAP Calculation
- Module J - Dealings on continuing pre-Wik reservations and leases.

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Review of products and value recovery processes for sawlog.
- Review of due diligence process as part of OHP planning including relating to soil assessment, watercourse protection, slope and instability exclusions,
- Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species and an EPBC Act Protected Matter Report for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
- Review of regional ecosystems map and identification of values.
- Review of due diligence process protecting special values including cultural heritage.
- Review forest road and track management including drainage.
- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to single tree selection and tree marking for exclusions zones such as buffer and filter zones adjacent to water features and harvest area boundaries. Review of habitat tree and recruitment habitat tree selection.
- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to snig track construction and spacing, landing location and rehabilitation.
- Review of silvicultural practice including basal area retention.
- Review of site specific safety plan and map including emergency response procedures and management of sale area specific hazards.
- Verification of signoff of OHP by FP and Permittee

- Induction process for visitors to OHP.
- Inspection of potential scar tree and discussion regarding notification requirements and process for communicating values to permittee. FP staff communications log may be used to record this communication.
- Risk Matrix for aboriginal cultural heritage policy requires notification engagement with first nations peoples if the cultural heritage value will be damaged. If excluded from forest operations no stakeholder engagement is required other than communication of site to DATSIP.

Inactive Site 5A – Crediton SF

+ Objective evidence:

Site inspection of Cockys Creek Gravel Pit

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

Discussion regarding quarry checklist to consider, batter formation, vegetation retention and removal, drainage, topsoil and due diligence framework prior to undertaking operations.

Active Site Visit 1B - Retention trial

+ Objective evidence:

- Trialling Operator Selection - Integrated Hardwood Harvesting - Transition Plan

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Discussion in field regarding process for transition to operator selection. Under phase 1 Forest Product staff continue to mark retention trees and water course protection.
- The trial aims to gather information regarding impacts associated with transferring responsibilities to Permittee for forest operations. Phase 2-4 include Permittees marking retained stems including for Habitat and habitat recruitment, watercourse protection and landings and track location.
- Review of silvicultural approach in Blackbutt / Tallowood forest type.

Active Site Visit 2B & 3B - Dale & Myers GYM95202 Cpt 207 and 209

+ Objective evidence:

- Email from Manager, Hardwoods dated 5 May 2021 regarding rectification works 207 Plantation
- USC Koala Detection Dogs
- Yurol Ringtail Conservation Project - Update on Hardwood Plantation Harvesting.
- Incident Report - 2 youths found on working log landing

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Email from Manager, Hardwoods regarding rectification work required in 207 Hardwood Plantation using a stick rake as a trial.
- OHP updated to incorporate exemptions to the code relating to Basal Area retention and habitat tree requirements.
- Discussion regarding original Yurol Ringtail Conservation Project which did not include harvesting the Gympie Messmate Plantation Areas.
- Discussion with stakeholder regarding transition committee and actions relating to re-establishment of plantation.

Active site 4B – GYM95203 Cpt 206 Koppers

+ Objective evidence:

- OHP Yurol Cpt 206 GYM95203

- Site Safety Plan

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Stakeholder engagement process for Yurol Cpt 206 GYMG95203 was comprehensive including notifying surrounding neighbours and the community generally (by posting notice at local Post Office), Pomona State School QPWS, Ergon and Noosa Parks Association, Noosa Horse trail and associated walking trails.
- Discussion regarding Yurol Ringtail Conservation Project.

Detection dogs used to assess presence of koalas. Harvesting order of working moved from edge of plantation towards retained forest areas to minimise impacts associated with habitat loss.

- Assessment of WHS risks including relating to public safety and controls was undertaken for sale area.
- Inspection of harvest area including to assess drainage on tracks, location of tracks and slash retention methods in accordance with OHP.
- OHP identifies consultation with Noosa Parks Association, Noosa RC and QPWS ahead of conversion to National Park. Includes establishment of fire break zone of 20m, specific koala management

Active Site 5B – RD Wamuran Timbers

+ Objective evidence:

Induction by Contractor

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Discussion with contractor regarding site specific risks and site safety plan
- No visitor induction received by Forest Products staff.
- Walk the site to consider site specific risks and hazards with a key focus on trip hazards relating to undergrowth and dead limbs resulting from recent intense wildfire.
- No site specific considerations in OHP associated with WHS and forest management related risks relating to harvesting in burnt forest.

Active Site visit 6B – K-WJ986SP and K-WJ986RD

+ Objective evidence:

- In field verification of old growth assessment
- OHP K-WJ986SP

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Discussion regarding process for on-site assessment of old growth forest. An app has been developed to be used in conjunction with field-based assessments. The procedure has been agreed with QPWS.
- Disturbance criteria includes consideration of tree canopy senescence and level of disturbance such as number of stumps.
- Discussion regarding stakeholder notification including with neighbour regarding road access and closure.
- Review of products and value recovery processes for sawlog.
- Review of due diligence process as part of OHP planning including relating to soil assessment, watercourse protection, slope and instability exclusions,
- Review of due diligence process to identify biodiversity values including Wildlife online report for threatened species and EPBC Act Protected Matter Report for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
- Review forest road and track management including drainage.
- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to single tree selection and tree marking for exclusions zones such as buffer and filter zones adjacent to water features and harvest area boundaries. Review of habitat tree and recruitment habitat tree selection.

- Review of timber harvesting practice relating to snig track construction and spacing, landing location and rehabilitation.
- Review of silvicultural practice including basal area retention.

Infrastructure Site # 2 - Jimna Fire Tower

+ Objective evidence:

- Work Specification and Drawings Repairs to Jimna Fire Tower for DAF Oct2019
- Queensland Forest Fire Towers Video

+ Processes observed/demonstrated including interviews:

- Site visit to Jimna Fire Tower and discussion regarding proposed restoration works and heritage significance.
- Discussion with project manager regarding specification and progress for delivery of project.

Planned activities have been realised. Methods for determining process results are fully effective. The organisation's actual performance is consistent with the requirements and planned results have been achieved.

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-I3	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	Criterion 9.5.c
Location reference	0047483151-005		
Category	Opportunity for Improvement		
Area/Process:	Site visits		
Details	The recording of risks/hazards in the WHS reporting system was not recorded in the safety management system for incident with Stock Grazing Permit holder and FRIC in GYM695201 CPT 206 OHP - Crediton SF in 2016.		

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-I4	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	Criterion 3.9
Location reference	0047483151-003		
Category	Opportunity for Improvement		
Area/Process:	Site visits		
Details	OHP's relating to forest operations as part of Yurol Ringtail Conservation Project do not fully describe operational requirements which may vary from the CoP including but not limited to: - rehabilitation of sale area to support establishment of forest by others parties such as management of residues, coppicing, pests and weeds.		

	- the opening of forest tracks on perimeter of plantation which are within and parallel in the filter zone.
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Finding Reference	2057047-202104-I5	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	Criterion 9.5.c
Location reference	0047483151-005		
Category	Opportunity for Improvement		
Area/Process:	Site visits		
Details	Timelines for implementation of Sales Area Safety Project are now 1 July 2022. The project is reliant on the Forest Fit Scheme to be implemented which will deliver fit for purpose safe systems of work and training for industry. Site visits to forest operations verified that safe systems of work are require improvement and highlight the importance of completion of this project in a timely manner.		

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-I6	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	9.5.c
Location reference	0047483151-005		
Category	Opportunity for Improvement		
Area/Process:	Site visits		
Details	<p>Atherton Depot - Operational controls not fully effective include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Testing and tagging of some leads not current - Some SDS out date - Washing vehicles on hardstand and discharging to stormwater - Emergency response equipment out of service including fire extinguishers. - Motorbike not part of preventative maintenance schedule since it is not regularly used but not tagged out of service. - No flammables sign on external door to workshed. <p>Note: This has not been raised as a non-conformance since these issues have been capture as part of CIA and action tracker.</p>		

Minor (4) nonconformities arising from this assessment.

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-N1	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	1.4.3.b
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 1: Systematic management		
Statement of non conformance:	Forest Products and QPWS could not demonstrate that they monitor and evaluate activities and their outcomes to ensure that requirements of the Standard are met for all forest operations, specifically those that relate to QPWS forest management responsibilities.		
Clause requirements	<p>1.4 Monitoring and Corrective Actions</p> <p>1. The forest manager shall monitor and evaluate activities and their outcomes to ensure that requirements of the Standard are met.</p> <p>2. The forest manager shall implement measures to correct identified deficiencies and to prevent repeat occurrences, to support continual improvement in performance outcomes.</p> <p>3. The forest manager shall ensure procedures are in place for:</p> <p>a. checking operational plans and practices for compliance with legislation, codes of practice, regional and local prescriptions, guidelines and other relevant controls;</p> <p>b. monitoring and auditing of forest operations for conformance with planned practices and to ensure that the requirements of the Standard are met;</p> <p>c. routine monitoring and evaluation of the performance outcomes using approaches that are as scientifically-rigorous and sufficiently powerful as is possible and practical and that allow timely remedial actions to be applied when requirements of the Standard are not met; and</p> <p>d. periodically auditing of the management system to determine conformance with the requirements of the Standard and that planned practices have been properly implemented and maintained.</p>		
Objective Evidence	The Memorandum of Understanding between DAF and DES includes both authorities and responsibilities for DES and Forest Products to monitor and evaluate activities and their outcomes to ensure the requirements of the standard are met.		
Cause			
QPWS&P undertakes custodial management of State forests. Forestry has previously mapped QPWS&P custodial activities to the Standard and was comfortable that QPWS&P activities were consistent with the Standard requirements at that time. No further monitoring and evaluation activities has been undertaken since. A formal process is not in place for Forestry to continually verify that QPWS&P management is in accordance with the Standard requirements.			
Correction/containment			

Forestry will work with QPWS&P to establish a process to monitor and evaluate QPWS&P custodial activities for consistency with the standard.

This non-conformity will be considered by the Interagency Forest Management Group to establish an agreed monitoring and evaluation process.

Corrective action

1/ Forestry will raise this non-conformity for discussion at the next Interagency Forest Management Group and agree a process to resolve this non-conformity.

2/ Forestry and QPWS&P will implement the process agreed by the Interagency Forest Management Group by the next surveillance audit.

Accepted 73(2)Irrelevant **8.07.21**

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-N2	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	2.1.1
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 2: Stakeholder engagement		
Statement of non conformance:	The Forestry Significant Stakeholder List does not identify all stakeholders their interests and whether they are affected or interested stakeholders. The stakeholders identified in the List are largely confined to the timber industry.		
Clause requirements	2.1 Identify Stakeholders 1. The forest manager shall establish and maintain a list of stakeholders and identify their interests and whether they are affected or interested stakeholders.		
Objective Evidence	Stakeholder Management System Version 2.1, Forestry Stakeholder Communication Log		
Cause			
<p>The Stakeholder Management System identifies stakeholder groups and whether these groups are affected or interested stakeholders. It is a high-level level document and does not assign categories to individual stakeholders.</p> <p>Forestry has four stakeholder lists that are maintained to various degrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Significant Stakeholder List<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. A SharePoint list that is largely confined to the timber industry. This is the list referred to in this non-conformity. This list is maintained about twice a year on a folder drive (Forest Industries), however, has not been reuploaded to SharePoint for some time.(2) Forest and Timber Industry Bulletin<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. This list includes over 1000 stakeholders and is managed through digital communication software (Vision6). The stakeholders in this list are split into three categories: (1) Forestry staff, (2) Stakeholders as per the Significant Stakeholder List and (3) Subscribers that have expressed interest in Forestry			

communications either via the bulletin, Forest Management Plan, website, forestry@daf.qld.gov.au email address, etc.

(3) Native Timber Action Plan

- a. This list is maintained to communicate with stakeholders who may be interested in the Native Timber Action Plan.

(4) Master Stakeholder List

- a. This is a list of largely interested stakeholders that was created to better address the requirements of the Standard, however, the list is only in draft form and has never been finalised.

These lists do not identify each stakeholder's interests and whether they are affected or interested stakeholders.

Correction/containment

Forestry will prioritise the development of the Master Stakeholder List including its expansion to include interested and affected stakeholders, their interests and stakeholders identified in other stakeholder lists.

Corrective action

1/ Forestry will finalise the Master Stakeholder List by 31 December 2021.

Accepted 73(2)Irrelevant **8.07.21**

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-N3	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	2.4.1
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 2: Stakeholder engagement		
Statement of non conformance:	The HM&RM Manual Section 20.28 Stakeholder Consultation System for identifying and recording stakeholders using HM&RM Appendix 6 is not being implemented in forest locations visited. Further, the current focus for stakeholder identification using HM&RM Appendix 6 is confined to stakeholders within or immediately adjacent to the sales permit area. For example, consideration of schools or school bus routes are not considered along haul routes on public roads.		
Clause requirements	<p>2.4 Stakeholders Affected by Forest Operations</p> <p>1. The forest manager shall strive to build constructive relationships with affected stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. consideration of the impacts of planned forest operations on affected stakeholders; b. timely notification to affected stakeholders that may be directly affected by planned forest operations prior to their commencement; c. taking actions to mitigate adverse impacts on affected stakeholders; and d. communication of the long term environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits of sustainable forest management. 		

Objective Evidence	HM&RM Manual Section 20.28 Stakeholder Consultation System; Crediton SF P-MMEU023 and P-MMEU024; GYMG95201 (204,205) GYMG95203 (206) Hardwood Plantation; K-WJ986SP 986/FTY1720
Cause	<p>Forestry's stakeholder management processes are largely focussed on stakeholders directly impacted by forest operations (e.g. other forest users, neighbours, etc.).</p> <p>Forestry restructured in 2020 and this resulted in the amalgamation of staff from two forest management areas into the Hardwood product group. These two forest management areas had different operational processes including those related to stakeholders, and different levels of implementation of HM&RM Manual Section 20.28. The Hardwood product group is working to ensure operational consistency across Queensland.</p> <p>Consistency of processes and recording requirements detailed Section 20.28 will be addressed when planning is transitioned to the HPC module of Ranger, which will systematically address stakeholder consultation requirements and generate a log of stakeholder engagement.</p>
Correction/containment	Forestry will ensure currently documented stakeholder processes are fully implemented and review its processes with regard to interested stakeholders, especially those on haul routes. These arrangements will be transitioned to the Ranger platform for implementation.
Corrective action	<p>1/ Forestry Product Managers' will advise relevant operational staff by 30 June 2021 that the <i>Chronology of Stakeholder Contact record</i> contained in Appendix 6 of the HM&RM Manual Section 20.28 (Stakeholder consultation for the sale of native forest log timber and other forest products (excluding quarry material)) must be implemented.</p> <p>2/ Forestry will convene a workshop by 31 December 2021 with relevant staff to agree a process to address the requirements of the Standard with regard to interested stakeholders including those on haul routes.</p> <p>3/ Forestry will implement the process agreed at the workshop by the next surveillance audit that will likely include notifying interested stakeholders about forest operations.</p>
Accepted	73(2)Irrelevant 8.07.21

Finding Reference	2057047-202104-N4	Certificate Reference	AFS 603520
Certificate Standard	AFS 4708:2013	Clause	8.2.1 &
Location reference	0047483151-001		
Category	Minor		
Area/Process:	Criterion 8: Cultural heritage		
Statement of non conformance:	The protection and maintenance of Indigenous Peoples values through the identification of known values and consultation with indigenous peoples to determine significance, consider views in the preparation and avoid damage to significant values during forest operations is not fully evident.		

Clause requirements	<p>8.2 Indigenous Heritage Values</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The forest manager shall protect and maintain Indigenous people's cultural, religious, spiritual and social heritage values through the identification of known values. 2. The forest manager shall consult with the relevant Indigenous people to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. identify and assess the significance of Indigenous peoples heritage values; b. consider their views in the preparation and review of the Forest Management Plan; and c. avoid damage to significant values during forest operations.
Objective Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current process for identification of known values relies on a desk top due diligence assessment of the DATSIP database and incidental sightings by Forest Products and Permittee during forest operations with no consultation with First Nations People. Further, the risks assessment process undertaken as part of OHP planning requires consultation with First Nations Peoples if known values will be damaged during forest operations. - Permittee and contractors have received no training in the identification of First Nations Values. <p>Reviewed Aboriginal Heritage Guidelines; Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Policy; Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 - Duty of Care Guidelines; Operational Harvesting Plan P-MMEU023 and P-MMEU024; HM & RM Manual. Site visit to Crediton SF and visit to potential scar tree.</p>
Cause	
<p>The identification of aboriginal cultural heritage values that are potentially impacted by forest operations can occur at a range of levels, including the forest estate area and the individual sale area. Responsibility for engaging with aboriginal parties at the different levels can include QPWS&P, DAF or the permittee. Current policy and procedures do not clearly define who needs to consult and at what level.</p> <p>DAF's procedures address the requirements of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> and associated Duty of Care Guidelines by including a due diligence process that seeks to exclude harvesting from areas with recorded ACH or locally identified ACH. However where there is an identified risk of impacting ACH, permittees are advised of their obligations to comply with the Duty of Care Guidelines, which includes a requirement to consult with the relevant aboriginal party.</p> <p>Forestry acknowledges that its cultural heritage policies and procedures are due for review but has delayed its review to date pending the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' review of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> and associated Duty of Care Guidelines.</p>	
Correction/containment	
<p>Forestry will work with QPWS&P to identify opportunities to enhance engagement of aboriginal parties on State forests subject to timber harvesting to identify and protect cultural heritage values.</p> <p>Forestry will review its cultural heritage policies and procedures to ensure continued alignment with community expectations and the requirements of the Standard.</p>	

Corrective action

1/ Forestry will raise this non-conformity for discussion at the next Interagency Forest Management Group and identify options for improved engagement with aboriginal parties on values associated with the defined forest area.

2/ Forestry will progress a review its cultural heritage policies and procedures by the next surveillance audit to ensure the requirements of the Standard are achieved, ensuring consistent application of cultural heritage activities across product groups.

Accepted 73(2)Irrelevant **8.07.21**

Published on DAF
Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Next visit objectives, scope and criteria

Please note that BSI reserves the right to apply a charge equivalent to the full daily rate for cancellation of the visit by the organisation within 30 days of an agreed visit date.

Published on DAF
Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Next Visit Plan

A detailed assessment plan will be provided prior to the next assessment.

Published on DAF
Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Appendix: Your certification structure & ongoing assessment programme

Scope of Certification

AFS 603520 (AFS 4708:2013)

Activities related to the supply of native forest products from within the Defined Forest Area. The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland. The expiration date of this certificate is extended for 6 months in accordance with the guidance given in IAF ID3

Assessed location(s)

Brisbane / AFS 603520 (AFS 4708:2013)

Location reference	0047483151-001
Address	Forest Products Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Central Office Level 5, 41 George Street Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia
Visit type	Re-certification Audit (RA Opt 2)
Assessment reference	3073246
Assessment dates	30/04/2021
Deviation from Audit Plan	No
Total number of Employees	25
Effective number of Employees	25
Scope of activities at the site	Activities related to the supply of native forest products from within the Defined Forest Area. The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.
Assessment duration	5 day(s)

Rockhampton / AFS 603520 (AFS 4708:2013)

Location reference	0047483151-003
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Address	Forest Products Department of Agriculture and Fisheries North FMA 25 Yeppoon Road Parkhurst Rockhampton Queensland 4701 Australia
Visit type	Re-certification Audit (RA Opt 2)
Assessment reference	3431908
Assessment dates	27/04/2021
Deviation from Audit Plan	No
Total number of Employees	20
Effective number of Employees	20
Scope of activities at the site	Activities related to the supply of native forest products from within the Defined Forest Area. The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.
Assessment duration	3 day(s)

Certification assessment program

Certificate Number - AFS 603520

Location reference - 0047483151-003

		Audit1	Audit2	Audit3
Business area/Location	Date (mm/yy):	11/13	06/14	01/15
	Duration (days):	4	6	8
Refer attached Plan		X	X	X
Publically available information		X	X	X

Certificate Number - AFS 603520

Location reference - 0047483151-001

		Audit1	Audit2	Audit3	Audit4	Audit5
Business area/Location	Date (mm/yy):	12/20	06/21	03/22	12/22	09/23
	Duration (days):	5	10	5	5	5
Criterion 1 - Systematic planning		X	X	X	X	X
Criterion 2 - Stakeholder engagement		X	X			X
Criterion 3 - Biodiversity		X	X			X
Criterion 4 - Planning			X	X		
Criterion 5 - Forest Health			X		X	
Criterion 6 - Soil and Water			X		X	
Criterion 7 - Carbon		X	X			X
Criterion 8 - Cultural Values			X	X		
Criterion 9 - Regional Development and Industrial relations			X	X		
Defined Forest Area - update		X	X	X	X	X
Public disclosures		X	X	X	X	X
Use of logos		X	X	X	X	X
Hardwood North			X			X
Hardwood South East			X		X	
Cypress		X		X		

Definitions of findings:

Non-conformity:

Non-fulfilment of a requirement.

Major nonconformity:

Nonconformity that affects the capability of the management system to achieve the intended results.

Nonconformities could be classified as major in the following circumstances:

- If there is a significant doubt that effective process control is in place, or that products or services will meet specified requirements;
- A number of minor nonconformities associated with the same requirement or issue could demonstrate a systemic failure and thus constitute a major nonconformity.

Minor nonconformity:

Nonconformity that does not affect the capability of the management system to achieve the intended results.

Opportunity for improvement:

It is a statement of fact made by an assessor during an assessment, and substantiated by objective evidence, referring to a weakness or potential deficiency in a management system which if not improved may lead to nonconformity in the future. We may provide generic information about industrial best practices but no specific solution shall be provided as a part of an opportunity for improvement.

Observation:

It is ONLY applicable for those schemes which prohibit the certification body to issue an opportunity for improvement.

It is a statement of fact made by the assessor referring to a weakness or potential deficiency in a management system which, if not improved, may lead to a nonconformity in the future.

How to contact BSI

Visit the BSI Connect Portal, our web-based self-service tool to access all your BSI assessment and testing data at a time that's convenient to you. View future audit schedules, submit your corrective action plans and download your reports and Mark of Trust logos to promote your achievement. Plus, you can benchmark your performance using our dashboards to help with your continual improvement journey.

Should you wish to speak with BSI in relation to your certification, please contact your local BSI office – contact details available from the BSI website:

Notes

This report and related documents are prepared for and only for BSI's client and for no other purpose. As such, BSI does not accept or assume any responsibility (legal or otherwise) or accept any liability for or in connection with any other purpose for which the Report may be used, or to any other person to whom the Report is shown or in to whose hands it may come, and no other persons shall be entitled to rely on the Report. If you wish to distribute copies of this report external to your organisation, then all pages must be included.

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This audit was conducted through document reviews, interviews and observation of activities. The audit method used was based on sampling the organization's activities and it was aimed to evaluate the fulfilment of the audited requirements of the relevant management system standard or other normative document and confirm the conformity and effectiveness of the management system and its continued relevance and applicability for the scope of certification.

As this audit was based on a sample of the organization's activities, the findings reported do not imply to include all issues within the system.

Regulatory compliance

BSI requires to be informed of all relevant regulatory non-compliance or incidents that require notification to any regulatory authority. Acceptance of this report by the client signifies that all such issues have been disclosed as part of the assessment process and agreement that any such non-compliance or incidents occurring after this visit will be notified to BSI as soon as practical after the event.

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Forest Products – DAF (QLD)	Certificate #:	AFS 603520
Client address	41 George St, Brisbane 4000 QLD	Website:	daf.qld.gov.au
Audit type:	Surveillance	Audit date:	27/04/2021 to 08/05/2021
Standard:	AS4708:2013	Auditor:	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 related to the supply of native forest products from within the Defined Forest Area. The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of the recertification assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) of Forest Products (FP), a business unit of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS4708:2013 (the Standard), conducted by BSI in April / May 2021. The certificate has been extended for 6 months due to COVID-19 since an onsite visit could not be conducted in Dec 2020.

The audit focused on system planning and implementation processes, with respect to Forest Products' FMS and the requirements of the Standard at locations including Mackay Depot, Brisbane office and Jimna Fire Tower worksite, as well as temporary operational sites in Hardwood Forests. All elements of the Standard were considered.

The audit identified several positive strengths in the organisation's forest management system. These include:

- High level of compliance to Code of Practice standard in Hardwood operations. This is also reflected in QPWS monitoring of timber harvesting operations.
- Native Timber Action Plan resource assessment will support decisions about sustainable yield and management of the forest resource.
- Forestry WHS Working Group continue to implement improvement initiatives in relation to working remotely.
- Stakeholders interviewed confirmed a high level of engagement to support forest management outcomes.
- FMS Review and internal audit functions remain effective and updated to meet business needs.

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

- Roles and responsibilities are defined and assigned however there are not sufficient resources and other capacity to implement the forest management system.
- Forest Products cannot demonstrate that adverse impacts of forest operations on Significant Biodiversity Values by planning and implementing forest operations consistent with actions specified in relevant recovery, action or threat abatement plans could be demonstrated

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

- Forest Products and QPWS do not monitor and evaluate activities and their outcomes to ensure that requirements of the Standard are met for all forest operations, specifically those that relate to QPWS forest management responsibilities.
- The protection and maintenance of Indigenous Peoples values through the identification of known values and consultation with indigenous peoples to determine significance, consider views in the preparation and avoid damage to significant values during forest operations is not fully evident.
- The Forestry Stakeholder Communication Log does not identify all stakeholders their interests and whether they are affected or interested stakeholders. The stakeholders identified in the Log are largely confined to the timber industry.
- The HM&RM Manual Section 20.28 Stakeholder Consultation System for identifying and recording stakeholders using HM&RM Appendix 6 is not being implemented in forest locations visited. Further, the focus for stakeholder engagement is in relation to those within or adjacent to the sales area.

Opportunities for improvement are identified in the body of this report.

I would like to thank Forests Products staff for their support and assistance as part of this assessment.

Defined forest area statement:

The Defined Forest Area consists of the following Forest Management Units: wet and dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland coastal areas; mixed cypress and hardwood forests in western Queensland; and dry sclerophyll forests in coastal and central areas of northern Queensland.

The DFA is currently being revised in line with changes in Government policy. Detailed maps of the DFA are publicly available on the Queensland Globe

Defined forest area (in hectares):	2,990,471 Ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	26 May 2021
Certificate expires on:	31 Sept 2021

Report prepared by:

Mick Berry	Lead Auditor – Forest Management Systems
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT