



Level 12, 461 Bourke Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
GPO Box 191 Melbourne 3001
Telephone (03) 9608 9500
Facsimile (03) 9608 9566

www.vicforests.com.au
ABN 7684 6538 543



21 November 2017

Dear Stakeholder

VicForests FSC Stakeholder Consultation Period

You may be aware that VicForests is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Controlled Wood (CW) certification for its operations in the regions of Central Highlands and East Gippsland.

SCS Global Services, a FSC-accredited certification body, has been engaged by VicForests to conduct an evaluation of VicForests operations against the FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FSC-STD-30-010), Version 2.0.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organisation that sets standards to evaluate whether forestry is practiced in an environmentally, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. FSC Controlled Wood standards ensure manufacturers and traders avoid timber and timber products, including; illegally harvested wood; wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; wood harvested in forests in which High Conservation Values are threatened through management activities; wood harvested from conversion of natural forests; and wood harvested from areas where genetically modified trees are planted.

A stakeholder consultation phase forms part of the evaluation process and in addition to VicForests' providing some stakeholder details directly to SCS Global Services, SCS Global Services advertises publicly for stakeholders to engage in the evaluation process.

SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of VicForests or other topics pertinent to our seeking FSC CW certification, such as whether VicForests complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the standard or identification of high conservation value forests.

It is important that SCS Global Services engages with stakeholders who can comment about our expertise in and execution of forestry management practices and we would encourage you to make a submission to SCS Global Services during the evaluation period.

I have attached a copy of the SCS Global Services Public Notification Letter for your information. Submissions may be sent to FSCconsultation@scsglobalservices.com and/or bgrady@scsglobalservices.com.

It would be appreciated if you could respond by Monday 4 December 2017.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Trushell", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Nathan Trushell
Chief Executive Officer

Public Notification Letter

To: Interested Parties
From: SCS Global Services
Date: 3 November 2017
Re: Notification of Pending FSC Controlled Wood Evaluation of VicForests

Summary: As part of a Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) Controlled Wood assessment, SCS is currently seeking stakeholder input regarding the forest management of VicForests. Please comment via email, or call our offices or representatives to discuss (contact info below).

VicForests is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Controlled Wood (CW) certification for its properties in the regions of Central Highlands and East Gippsland. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. FSC Controlled Wood standards ensure manufacturers and traders avoid unacceptable timber and timber products, including; illegally harvested wood; wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; wood harvested in forests in which High Conservation Values are threatened through management activities; wood harvested from conversion of natural forests; and wood harvested from areas where genetically modified trees are planted.

VicForests is a state-owned business responsible for the sale, harvest and re-growing of commercial timber from Victoria's state forests. VicForests regrows all harvested areas with the same type of forest that was originally there. Approximately 3000ha is harvested annually, consisting of Ash and mixed species forest, following a multilayered and comprehensive planning process with regulatory oversight and legislative obligation from many different agencies. Even-aged and uneven-aged management are applied dependent upon the forest conditions. Timber release plans (TRP) and other detailed operational documents are made publicly available online.

Scope and Certification Evaluation Process

SCS Global Services (SCS), a FSC-accredited certification body based in Emeryville, California, will conduct this FSC evaluation.

Performance will be evaluated against the FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FSC-STD-30-010), Version 2.0. A copy of the standard is available from

<http://www.scsglobalservices.com/certification-standards-and-program-documents> or SCS upon request.

The CW Evaluation Process Includes the Following Phases:

- Public notification: distribution of the standard and solicitation of comments on the certification applicant; Audit planning and document review;
- Field assessment: A representative sample of field sites and operations within the defined forest area are inspected by a team of auditors;
- Stakeholder consultation;
- Synthesis of findings: Compliance with the standard is ascertained and the certification decision is formulated;
- Reporting: A draft report describing the evaluation process, findings, and certification decision is produced;
- Delivery of final certification report;
- Certification decision: a public summary of the certification report is released, if certification is awarded.

Call for Public Participation

SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of VicForests or other topics pertinent to their seeking FSC CW certification, such as whether VicForests complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the standard or identification of high conservation value forests. Comments can be submitted via email, standard mail, or facsimile to Lead Auditor Robert Hrubes (contact information below). The audit team can make arrangements to allow stakeholders to meet with them during the evaluation upon request. All comments and sources will be kept in strict confidence at the request of the commenter.

Dates

The field evaluation is scheduled to commence during the week of 4 December 2017. SCS will make arrangements to meet with interested parties during the evaluation if appropriate, but it is preferred that comments are submitted before the evaluation commences.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

As provided by the FSC Interim Dispute Resolution Protocol and the SCS Forest Conservation Program Quality Manual, dispute resolution procedures are in place and available to interested parties at <http://www.scsglobalservices.com/your-feedback>

Additional Information

More information about FSC and SCS can be obtained from www.fsc.org and www.SCSglobalServices.com. Information on VicForests can be found at <http://www.vicforests.com.au/>.

Please contact us

Robert Hrubes	Brendan Grady
FSC Lead Auditor	SCS Director of Forest Management
2000 Powell St, Suite 600; Emeryville CA 94608, USA	
Tel +1 (510)452-8034, Fax +1 (510) 452-6898	
FSCconsultation@scsglobalservices.com	bgrady@scsglobalservices.com