

VicForests update on FSC® Controlled Wood Standard

VicForests harvests native timber resources in a sustainable manner that protects local biodiversity and ensures the long-term future of Victoria's forests.

This is achieved through thorough planning, adaptive harvest and regeneration management systems which comply with if not exceed regulatory requirements.

VicForests is already certified under the Responsible Wood certification scheme which is endorsed by the International Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – the largest forest certification system in the world. VicForests has maintained certification under this scheme since 2007.

This is in addition to VicForests operating under some of the most rigorous regulations in the world, and its forest management procedures often exceed these prescriptions.

VicForests remains committed to demonstrating compliance with international standards for forest management certification and will undergo a further assessment by Responsible Wood auditors in the next 12 months.

Pursuant with our announcement in August, VicForests has today released the FSC® Controlled Wood Standard audit report developed on the basis of fieldwork conducted in November 2019.

Although this work was unable to be completed due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19), remaining challenges arising from last summer's bushfires and ongoing legal issues, feedback from the auditors has been incorporated into our ongoing improvement processes.

VicForests remains committed to pursuing the FSC® Controlled Wood Standard certification process at an appropriate time.