

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
<b>Client name:</b>	DAF Forestry	<b>Certificate #:</b>	AFS 603520
<b>Client address</b>	41 George St, Brisbane 4000 QLD	<b>Website:</b>	daf.qld.gov.au
<b>Audit type:</b>	Recertification and Migration	<b>Audit date:</b>	27/10/2023 - 10/11/2023
<b>Standard:</b>	AS/NZS 4708:2021	<b>Auditor:</b>	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 a recertification assessment of the Forest Management System (FMS) operated by DAF Forestry (a business unit of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), with respect to conformance with the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS/NZS 4708:2021 (the Standard), conducted by BSI in October and November 2023. The audit covered all the requirements of the Standard.

The assessment was conducted in two parts: key system processes were initially assessed remotely, and operational performance was subsequently assessed on site. For the remote assessment, BSI used Information and Communications technology (ICT) including Microsoft Teams, which was used for real-time interviews and screen-sharing, as well as for the provision of documents and records. DAF Forestry established a shared folder for secure document storage, with the file structure emulating the Standard. All documents and records cited in the report were readily accessible through this arrangement. There were no connectivity issues that significantly impaired the assessment process, and the audit objectives were achieved.

The on-site component of the assessment included planning and supervision of harvest operations in hardwood and cypress forests in the south-east and south-west of the State, in addition to the management of offices and depots at Dalby.

Strengths of the organisation and its forest management system were noted in relation to:

- Risk management framework and alignment of position descriptions with corporate objectives.
- Adaptability and responsiveness to change and continuing adoption and utilisation of technologies to support better management of system processes.
- Capacity building and provision of resources – new positions in relation to Resources and Systems, Stakeholder engagement and Cultural engagement
- Health Safety and Wellbeing Governance Structure within Forestry
- Development of MNES and TEC framework to support protection of these communities as part of forest operations.

The organisation demonstrated its focus on continued development of system processes and significant improvement is noted in relation to:

- Strengthening systems management and ensuring systems are fit for purpose and consistent with current standards (Resource Management and Systems)

- Revitalization of inventory measurements and better knowledge of resource performance
- Stakeholder mapping and engagement processes
- Partnership with Timber Queensland in relation to capacity building in relation to compliance in native forest management.
- Safety App – continuing improvement and development with the addition of pre-start vehicle checks and safety interactions.

This assessment has identified minor non-conformities in relation to:

- managing non-conformance and corrective actions
- routine monitoring and inspections
- risk assessments in forests damaged by fire, wind, flood or drought
- communication and demarcation of boundaries for protection of special values
- monitoring contractor performance
- stakeholder engagement – timely communication of planned operations
- contractor safety systems.
- Indigenous engagement.

The report notes the actions taken in relation to the opportunities for improvement noted in the previous report. It also identifies several further opportunities for improvement.

This assessment has verified that DAF Forestry has successfully migrated its forest management system to ensure conformance with the requirements of AS/NZS 4708:2021. Accordingly, this report includes a recommendation for recertification to this Standard.

I would like to thank all staff involved in the planning and support for this assessment. Their constructive engagement and participation contributed to the outcome.

#### 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):

**2,990,788 Ha**

#### Advised to AFS Limited on:

**24 October 2023**

#### Certificate expires on:

**31 March 2024**

#### Report prepared by:

Mick Berry

Lead Auditor – Forest Management Systems

*Name of person who prepared this report*

*Position*

END OF REPORT