

<b>Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report</b>			
<b>Client name:</b>	HQPlantations Pty Ltd	<b>Certificate #:</b>	AFS 603896
<b>Client address</b>	2 Flinders Parade NORTH LAKES QLD 4509	<b>Website:</b>	hqplantations.com.au
<b>Audit type:</b>	Routine Surveillance	<b>Audit date:</b>	1-5 February 2021
<b>Standard:</b>	AS4708:2013	<b>Auditor:</b>	Ross Garsden

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:**

Management of forest lands and infrastructure for the production and sale of forest products from plantations.

**Executive summary:**

This report presents the findings of a routine surveillance assessment of HQPlantations forest management system with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management – AS4708:2013 (the Standard).

The assessment was conducted on-site and focused on forest management activities in the Mary Valley; Burnett and Downs; and Fraser Coast - South Districts. The assessment included re-establishment following the wildfire, routine silvicultural activities (planting, weed control and site preparation), routine harvesting activities (clearfall and thinning), research activities, and road management and maintenance.

The assessment included interviews with numerous silvicultural and harvesting contractors and roading contractors. The focus of interviews was on safety inductions, quality control, communication and consultation, records management and fatigue management.

Key strengths of the business and the management system identified through this assessment include:

- Demonstrated culture of safety and ongoing development of safety support systems
- The structure and functionality of IHQP
- Continuing development and improvement in information management e.g. electronic data capture for edockets and planting QAs
- Corporate commitment and willingness to invest in R&D
- Demonstrated effectiveness of stakeholder engagement processes and capacity for building meaningful relationships, especially with Indigenous groups
- Demonstrated effectiveness of controls with respect to mass management
- Strength of the corporate culture.

Significant improvements and initiatives noted in this assessment include:

- The development of a corporate fire management system

- ICHRIS WHS and Environment review and the development of the WHS App for mobile data capture and initiation of workflows and scheduled events
- Provision of safety tools e.g. full-time rear vision mirror/cameras
- Infield data capture of production information and reporting (Sticks)
- Proactive and effective indigenous engagement particularly with respect to native title

Opportunities for improvement arising from this assessment were found in relation to:

- Emergency preparedness and testing
- Site inductions
- Risk assessment for new processes and activities

HQPlantations has responded positively to the findings from the previous report and all four opportunities for improvement identified in the previous assessment have been actioned appropriately. There were no non-conformances identified in this assessment.

The assessment has verified that HQPlantations continues to operate a forest management system that complies with the requirements of the Standard and a recommendation for continued certification is made accordingly.

The company has undertaken a comprehensive analysis of the requirements of AS4708:2021 (in draft) which is anticipated for release later this year. The assessment has identified areas where further work is needed, however there are no significant impediments to progression to the new Standard.

The next assessment will be a routine surveillance assessment planned for late 2021. Depending upon the organisation's preferences, progression to the new Standard may be possible at the next assessment.

The auditor would like to express thanks to all staff involved in the planning and conduct of this assessment.

**Defined forest area statement**

The DFA comprises three Forest Management Units (Southern Pine, Araucaria and Hardwood plantations) including plantation production land and custodial lands.

<b>Defined forest area (in hectares):</b>	321, 849 ha
<b>Advised to Responsible Wood on:</b>	16 July 2020
<b>Certificate expires on:</b>	30 June 2023

**Report prepared by:**

Ross Garsden	Lead Auditor – Forest Management Systems
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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>
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END OF REPORT

REPORT DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 2021