

Responsible Wood Forestry Standard Forest Management System Summary Report

HQPlantations Pty Ltd
Certificate # SCS-RW-007

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Table of Contents

- SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT 2**
- 1. GENERAL INFORMATION..... 2**
 - 1.1 Name and Contact Information 2
 - 1.2 RW/ PEFC Sales Information 2
 - 1.3 Scope of Certificate 2
- 2. AUDIT DATES AND ACTIVITIES..... 6**
 - 2.1 Audit Itinerary and Activities 6

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT

1. General Information

1.1 Name and Contact Information

Organization name	HQPlantations		
Contact person	Michelle McAndrew, Stewardship Systems Manager		
Address	2747 Tin Can Bay Road Gympie, Queensland 4570	Telephone	+61 7 5489 6792
		Fax	
		e-mail	michelle.mcandrew@hqplantations.com.a
		Website	www.hqplantations.com.au

1.2 RW/ PEFC Sales Information

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RW/ PEFC Sales contact information same as above.			
RW/ PEFC salesperson			
Address		Telephone	
		Fax	
		e-mail	
		Website	

1.3 Scope of Certificate

Any changes in the scope of the certification since the previous audit are highlighted in **yellow** in the tables below.

Checking this box indicates this is a Stage 1 summary report, and the scope table below reflects relevant information for the certification *applicant* (i.e., certification decision not yet determined).

Certificate Code <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (Stage 1 summary report)	SCS-RW-007	
Certification Statement <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (Stage 1 summary report)	The scope of the certificate includes all activities associated with the Organization’s sustainable forest management system with the Defined Forest Area(s) (DFA), including the harvest, transport, and sale or trade of forest products. The Organization has sufficient control over any contracting or outsourcing of forest management planning and activities to ensure conformance to applicable certification requirements.	
Certification Recommendation by Audit Team to SCS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial or continued certification is recommended, subject to the Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial or continued certification is not recommended (<i>explain</i>):

<input type="checkbox"/> N/A (Stage 1 summary report)	meeting deadlines to response any findings issued.	
Certificate Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single DFA	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple DFA
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	
# Group Members (if applicable)	NA	
Number of DFAs in Scope of Certificate	One	
Description of DFA(s) as Advised to RW Limited	Area (ha):	311,199ha
	Area (ha):	
	Refer to publicly available maps and information about the DFA(s) provided by the Organization on its website or upon request via the contact person cited at the beginning of this report.	
	Changes for FY22 reduced DFA by 732ha, sales of hardwood plantation lands 187ha, termination of 413 land rentals/JVs and 132ha State resumed plantation licence area at Yurol and Wongabel.	
Exclusion of areas from DFA(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A – Entire DFA(s) owned or managed by the Organisation is included in the scope of certification.	
	<p>Organisation wishes to exclude portions of the DFA(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification (check all that apply):</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursery areas within the DFA(s); <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation infrastructure under the control of the Organisation, but outside of the DFA(s); <input type="checkbox"/> Areas under the control of the Organisation such as log dumps, merchandising yards or ports within or outside of the DFA(s). <i>Note that COC requirements still apply to the forest products that have come from the DFA(s) and may be evaluated onsite to determine conformance to such requirements; and/or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Public infrastructure development areas not under the management control of the Organisation (see AS4708 GN01-2013, Requirement 3.9, Guide to implementation, infrastructure, item 2 for more information). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Araucaria and hardwood joint venture plantations over numerous titles (average size < 30 ha) have been excluded as HQP only has partial control over the management of these plantations. Any sales from these properties will not include any certification claims. No further Joint Ventures are being entered into by HQPlantations at this time.	

	<input type="checkbox"/> The Organisation has persistently or seriously failed to meet the certification requirements for specific areas within the DFA(s). The Certification Body has reduced the scope of certification to exclude these areas not meeting the certification requirements. These reductions have been duly reviewed by the Certification Body and are in line with RW certification requirements.	
Applicable Standards/ Guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AS4708-2013 (Australian Standard® for Sustainable Forest Management)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AS-NZ4708-2021 (Australian/New Zealand Standard® - Sustainable Forest Management Requirements) gap analysis only.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NZS4708-2014 (New Zealand Standard® for Sustainable Forest Management)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> AS4708 GN02-2013 (Guidance for the certification of group forest management)	
Forest Ownership Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Entity – One site – Single forest owner and single forest manager. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-site Entity – Multiple sites – Single forest owner and single forest manager <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-site Entity – Multiple sites – Multiple forest owners and single forest manager <input type="checkbox"/> Group Entity – Multiple sites – Multiple forest owners and multiple forest managers controlled by a Group Manager	
Forest Management Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantation	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural/ semi-natural
Forest Product Type(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roundwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chips
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-timber Forest Products – bark, pine cones	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>describe</i>):
Species (Common and Scientific Name(s))	<i>Pinus elliottii</i> – Slash Pine <i>Pinus caribaea</i> – Honduran Caribbean Pine <i>Pinus elliottii</i> x <i>Pinus caribaea</i> – Hybrid Pine <i>Pinus patula</i> – Patula pine <i>Pinus taeda</i> - Loblolly Pine <i>Pinus radiata</i> - Radiata Pine Other miscellaneous <i>Pinus</i> hybrids <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> - Hoop Pine <i>Araucaria angustifolia</i> - Parana Pine <i>Araucaria bidwillii</i> – Bunya Pine <i>Flindersia brayleyana</i> – Queensland maple <i>Toona cillata</i> – Red cedar <i>Agathis robusta</i> – Kauri pine <i>Cedrela odorata</i> – Onion cedar <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> sub. spp. <i>variegata</i> (CCV) - Spotted gum	

	<p><i>Corymbia citriodora</i> sub. spp. <i>citriodora</i> (CCC)– Lemon-scented gum <i>Corymbia torelliana</i> x CCV or CCC - Spotted gum hybrids <i>Eucalyptus argophloia</i> - Western white gum <i>Eucalyptus cloeziana</i> - Gympie messmate <i>Eucalyptus dunnii</i> – Dunn’s white gum <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> – Blackbutt <i>Eucalyptus longirostrata</i> – Grey gum <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> and related hybrids - Flooded gum</p>
<p>Statement on the conformity and effectiveness of the management system together with a summary of the evidence relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the capability of the management system to meet applicable requirements and expected outcomes; - the internal audit and management review process 	<p>HQP maintains a comprehensive and effective forest management system to ensure conformance to Responsible Wood certification requirements. HQP manages a widely distributed estate of softwood and some hardwood plantations located throughout Queensland, which have been both Responsible Wood and FSC certified for many years. HQP uses an internal monitoring, audit and review standard, procedures, checklists and a management review reporting to maintain the effectiveness and currency of the system, which includes the ability to issue nonconformances and observations.</p>
<p>Conclusion on the appropriateness of the certification scope</p>	<p>The certification scope as it applies to all lands under HQP’s direct management for production of log, chip and non-wood products using a variety of plantation species is appropriate.</p>
<p>RW Logos/labels</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logo checked and conformant (no non-conformities issued) <input type="checkbox"/> Logo checked, and Nonconformities issued</p>

2. Audit Dates and Activities

2.1 Audit Itinerary and Activities

N/A (Stage 1 Audit)

Type of Audit:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluation/ re-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual surveillance audit	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual surveillance audit	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual surveillance audit
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combined audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated audit	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special audit (<i>explain</i>): Gap analysis to AS-NZ4708-2021 (Australian/New Zealand Standard® -Sustainable Forest Management Requirements)			
Date of Audit:	12,13, 16 – 20 January 2023			
Auditor(s):	Tuesday Phelan (Lead Auditor), Kimberly Robertson (Auditor)			
Objective and Scope of the Audit:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check to confirm audit objectives described below were met (required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determination of the conformity of the organization’s forest management system with audit criteria ▪ Evaluation of the ability of the forest management system to ensure the organization meets applicable statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements ▪ Evaluation of the effectiveness of the forest management system to ensure the organization is continually meeting its specified objectives; and ▪ As applicable, identification of areas for potential improvement of the forest management system (OFIs) ▪ Visits to a sample of operational sites representing a range of forest management activities in the two regions including supporting infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two Regional offices (Toolara and Imbil) ▪ Three District workcentres (Toolara, Tuan, Blackbutt) ▪ Three Depots (Jimna, Wongai, Elliot River) ▪ Chemical stores (Tuan, Elliot River, Imbil, Jimna) ▪ Gravel Pits (Bauple, Murumbah) ▪ Fire Tower (Kadanga) and regional fire control centre (Toolara) ▪ Seed orchard (Yarraman) ▪ Harvesting operations (clearfell at North Dempster 205b, Pullen 1 & 2 and Wallaby 14, thinning at East 225, residue recovery at East 212 / 213A / 214A / 222B) 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment (site preparation at Ryan 205 and Boronia 212, planting at Foley and Murumbah, weed control at pre-plant weed control Harwood, fire recovery at Elliot River) ▪ Early age woody weed control (cut stump at Melaleuca 212 and mechanical grooming and chopper rolling at Saltwater 233) ▪ Inventory and inactive site (Resitool at Cowra 201) <p>Engineering construction: Viewed road systems and new engineering construction at Lillipilli Road, Tiger Creek bridge replacement, Murumbah, Jimna North 203 road repairs viewed new road and landing construction in [locations]</p> <p>Reserves and sites of Significant Biodiversity Value under management: Yarraman Vine forest, Mary’s Creek, Tinana Yards</p>
<p>Any deviations from the audit plan and their reasons, if applicable:</p>	<p>The audit was mostly conducted in accordance with the audit plan, however the briefings on pruning assessment and the low rainfall genetics trial did not proceed and instead the auditor visited an active planting site at Foleys in Elliot River and inspected the Imbil Chemical Store. These changes occurred due to contractor movements and wet weather.</p>
<p>Summary of most important observations, positive as well as negative, regarding implementation and effectiveness of the Forest Management System:</p>	<p>HQP has a highly developed and well implemented management system that supports effective management of its diverse and widespread plantation estate. The system includes a comprehensive raft of policies, standards and plans guiding operations consistent with the standard. These are underpinned by a strong research program, collaboration with external parties and well executed stakeholder consultation. Operations are supported by integrated planning, mapping and quality assurance tools. Staff and contractors have input to plans and standard development and receive appropriate training and updates in implementation of the system. HQP has a strong innovation focus evidenced by trials of new technology observed during the audit. Overall there are no major deficiencies in the forest management system in respect to either AS4708-2013 or AS/NZ4708-2021. Several non-conformances were issued for minor implementation discrepancies relating to DFA mapping, contractor fire skills refresher and fire extinguishers on new equipment. The gap analysis also identified an opportunity for improvement relating to internal audit.</p>
<p>Significant changes, if any, that affect the management system of the client since the last audit took place:</p>	<p>During this audit period HQP has changed its Responsible Wood certification body from BSI to SCS Global Services. The DFA reduced by 732ha due to exit of unproductive lands and State resumption of conservation handbacks. North Queensland and Central Queensland districts were combined and amalgamated into the Inland and Northern Region. Major policy reviews during the audit period include the development of the Climate Commitment Statement, Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Policy, fire management. A number of standards were revised, with major overhaul to the quarry and gravel pit standards and development of the First Nations Engagement Framework and new UAV spraying standard. Conditions during the audit period were extremely wet in southeast Queensland, which required a major road assessment and recovery project. The wet weather has hampered harvesting and site preparation activities, however HQP has done well in minimizing production disruptions whilst protecting environmental values.</p>

Effectiveness of taken corrective actions regarding previously identified nonconformities, if applicable:	There were no nonconformities identified at the previous Responsible Wood audit by BSI.
Unresolved issues (if identified):	None identified
Notes/Comments:	Nil

