

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
<b>Client name:</b>	Sustainable Timber Tasmania	<b>Certificate #</b>	AFS 603478
<b>Client address</b>	Bathurst St Hobart TAS 700	<b>Website:</b>	sttas.com.au
<b>Audit type:</b>	Routine Surveillance	<b>Report date:</b>	17 April – 2 June 2023
<b>Standard/s:</b>	AS4708:2021	<b>Auditors:</b>	Gerard Moore
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 associated with the sustainable management of Tasmania's Permanent Timber Production Zone land, as described in the organisation's Forest Management Plan, including the administration, planning and management of forests; and the harvest, transport and sale of forest products.

#### Executive summary:

This report presents findings from a migration assessment of Sustainable Timber Tasmania's (STT) management system against the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, AS/NZS 4708:2021. The audit also included a surveillance assessment of the organisation's other Standards: ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems; ISO 45001:2018 Safety Management Systems; and PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody. Findings from the Chain of Custody assessment are presented in a separate report.

The aim of this assessment was to verify conformance with the requirements of AS4708:2021 and the Standards for Environment and Safety. The scope of the audit included remote assessment of the development, implementation and maintenance of the centrally managed system at the organisation's Hobart Head Office, and onsite assessment at forest management activities in the Northwest Region (Eastern area), Perth complex and Northeast Region (Western Tiers), and Southern Region (Central Highlands and Huon Valley). The assessment was conducted in two parts:

1. Remotely, in April 2023, and focussed on the organisation's management system processes; and
2. On-site in May/June 2023, where the focus was the application of STT's management system at field operations, to assess compliance with the requirements of the Standards.

The Teams platform was used to communicate with staff remotely; there were no issues using the Teams platform with documents readily available for review. The audit focused on assessing the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management framework particularly in the planning for, and execution of forest management activities incorporating biodiversity integration into forest management, harvesting operations including windthrow salvage, weed control and impacts on neighbours, illegal activities, monitoring processes, fire planning and management, roading and crossing infrastructure, traffic management and road closure processes, regeneration processes including burning and seeding. The audit also included assessment of stakeholder consultation and engagement processes.

The scope of certification is unchanged.

#### Key system strengths

- Forest Practices Plan (FPP) planning framework and processes, including Variations.
- Project Management Framework.
- Flexibility of STT staff to implement change, including in forest salvage operations.

- Survey of STT Staff.
- Continuing attention to Truck Overload Management.
- Chain of Custody docket management system used to track wood sales to market.
- Research framework
- Focus on Swift Parrot monitoring and habitat management.
- Internal Audit processes.

#### *Significant improvements*

- Cadetships for younger people.
- FOS Plan development for Contractors.
- Vault: now includes a prompt to review the effectiveness of corrections/action plans.
- Construction of the 'Perth Road' to remove heavy trucks and light vehicles away from STT's Perth office operations.
- Stakeholder engagement across a wide spectrum, Lake Echo and Farmhouse Creek bridge closures, and
- Windfarm proposal management, and Consultation Manager reporting system.
- Electronic system to improve field monitoring processes, including for fuel moisture measurement

The two non-conformances from the previous assessment have now been closed. No new non-conformances were identified at this audit. Opportunities for improvement are described in this report and can be considered as ways of improving STT's forest risk management system outcomes.

Consistent with the findings from the previous report, this assessment has verified that STT operates a Forest Management System that conforms with the requirements of the AS/NZS4708:2021 Standard, and this report includes a recommendation for certification to this Standard.

This audit also verified the STT Forest Management System conforms with the requirements of the ISO14001:2015 and ISO45001:2018 Standards and the system is supporting staff and contractors to manage risks-based processes.

Thank-you to all Staff and Contractors involved in this audit for their active, open and transparent participation throughout the audit. Thanks also go to the organisation's Stewardship Manager for the effective preparation and planning for the audit, and the scheduling of key staff and contractors during the audit, which contributed to the effectiveness of the audit process.

#### **Defined forest area statement**

The defined forest area consists of six forest management units: hardwood plantations, softwood plantations, wet eucalypt forests, dry eucalypt forests, blackwood forests and rainforest.

<b>Defined forest area (in hectares) as at 23 April 2021:</b>	795,870 hectares
<b>Advised to AFS Limited on:</b>	23 August 2022
<b>Certificate expires on:</b>	30 June 2024

#### **Report prepared by:**

Gerard Moore	Lead Assessor – Forest Management
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>