

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	HVP Plantations Pty Ltd	Certificate #	AFS 603858
Client address:	World Trade Centre L12, Tower 4 MELBOURNE VIC 3005	Website:	www.hvp.com.au
Audit type:	Routine Surveillance Assessment	Audit date:	17-21 May 2021
Standard:	AS4708:2013	Auditors:	Ross Garsden
<p>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.</p>			

Scope of certification:

Activities associated with the sustainable management of HVP Plantations’ softwood and eucalypt plantations, including the planning and management of forest operations; the delivery and sale of forest products, the management of planned and un-planned fires and the management of Custodial Lands for conservation purposes.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of a routine surveillance assessment of HVP Plantations with respect to conformance with the requirements of the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, AS4708:2013. The assessment was conducted on-site and the client had effective protocols in place in response to the COVID-19 situation.

The assessment focused on corporate system processes managed from its head office, as well as the conduct of a range of forest management activities in the Gippsland Region. The assessment also included activities at the Yarram Depot and Gelliondale Nursery.

HVP has faced challenging times with the combined impacts of the 2019 fires; the continuing COVID-19 situation; and significant changes to market conditions in response to the recent import bans from China. HVP has undertaken a significant post-fire replanting program and has managed the change in the market with new developments in foreign markets as well as a meeting a greater domestic market demand for raw logs.

The assessment identified the following key strengths of the business and its management system:

- adaptability and resilience to changing situations – e.g. changed market arrangements
- on-going commitment to supporting both in-house and collaborative research
- continuing effectiveness of the program for internships - Graduate Forester development
- corporate responsiveness to and support for innovation and provision of resources – nursery processes and efficiency gains

Significant improvements noted in this assessment include:

- HVP Emergency meeting points integrated into ESTA – Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority
- Continuing development and training with respect to the Velocity app
- Continuing improvements in monitoring and management of overloads

The audit identified two minor non-conformances in relation to:

- operational planning for road works; and
- storage and handling of chemicals.

Additionally, a number of opportunities for improvement were noted and the report provides further details in this regard.

As with the previous audit, all personnel involved in this assessment provided positive and constructive support throughout the audit process. HVP's management system continues to evolve with continual improvement clearly evident. HVP continues to meet the requirements of AS4708:2013 and the report includes a recommendation for continued certification.

Defined forest area statement

The defined forest area comprises approximately 135,000 hectares of pine plantations (mostly *Pinus radiata*), 18,000 hectares of hardwood (eucalypt) plantations and over 50,000 hectares of custodial lands (mostly native forest) in three geographical areas (Gippsland, Northern and Western Regions) of Victoria.

Defined forest area:	237,487 Ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	21 May 2021
Certificate expires on:	31 March 2022

Report prepared by:

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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT