Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Forest Management carried out by Forest Products Commission Western Australia (FPC)

[NB. This letter is being distributed by FPC on-behalf of Soil Association Woodmark in accordance with Public Sector Commission principles regarding confidential information and privacy principles set out in the Freedom of Information Act 1992.]

In May 2013 Soil Association Woodmark will carry out a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) assessment of the forest management by Forest Products Commission Western Australia, within the state-owned karri forest in South West WA available for timber production (GR: Latitude: 116 deg. E. Longitude: 34 deg. S), against the requirements of the FSC-STD-30-010 version 2 (October 4th 2006), FSC Controlled Wood Standard, (you can view this standard at www.soilassociation.org/woodmark). A map of the Forest area within the scope of the audit is attached.

Woodmark are seeking comments about forest management carried out by Forest Products Commission Western Australia.

Please complete the attached feedback form and return it to wmconsultation@soilassociation.org or hard copies to the address below, by 30th April 2013. If your comments are site specific, please state very clearly which site they refer to.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Yours faithfully

Emily Blackwell
Woodmark Certification Manager

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Consultation Feedback
Guidance

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that has developed internationally-recognised Standards for forest management encompassing managerial as well as legal, environmental and social requirements. Forest managers meeting the requirements of FSC Standards are allowed to sell their products as FSC certified; enabling businesses and consumers to easily identify responsibly sourced forest products. More information about FSC is available here: [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org).

Soil Association Woodmark is accredited by FSC to assess forest managers using FSC Standards. More information about Woodmark is available here: [www.sacert.org/woodmark](http://www.sacert.org/woodmark). Before making site visits we contact a range of individuals and organisations that may wish to comment on a forest manager’s activities.

Positive feedback is always welcome. However, it is most important that we are made aware of any concerns so that these can be investigated. Our consultation with you should not replace any communication which may normally take place between yourself and the forest manager – you should raise your concerns with the forest manager first as issues can often be resolved if forest managers are aware of them. If you are unable to do this please let us know your rationale. A summary of issues raised and how they have been addressed will be included in our audit report (all reference to specific consultees will be excluded from the report). Examples of specific issues we are interested in are listed below.

**Statutory bodies – are you aware of any of the following:**

- Outstanding claims of legal non-compliance? Or evidence that the relevant codes of practice, guidelines and agreements are not being followed?
- Problems with consultation on revisions to management plans?
- Inadequate consultation regarding sites and features of special cultural significance?
- Significant negative environmental impact resulting from forest management?

**Individuals and organisations - are you aware of any of the following:**

- Problems with existing permissive or traditional forest uses?
- Unreasonable refusal of access?
- Problems regarding hunting?
- Outstanding disputes over the conversion of forest land?
- Evidence that legal or customary tenure or use rights of local communities are not sustained?
- Lack of reasonable effort to employ and train, workers from local communities?
- Cases when employees have been deterred from joining unions or negotiating collectively?
- Indigenous or traditional peoples living in or near the forest area?
- Local communities who rely on the forest for subsistence needs?