Public Notification Letter

To: Interested Parties
From: SCS Global Services
Date: June 17, 2013
Re: Notification of Pending FSC Controlled Wood Evaluation of Bunbury Treefarm Project

Summary: As part of an FSC Controlled Wood assessment, SCS is currently seeking stakeholder input regarding the forest management of Bunbury Treefarm Project. Please comment via email, or call our offices or representatives to discuss (contact info below).

Bunbury Treefarm Project (BTP) is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Controlled Wood (CW) certification for their plantation land in Western Australia. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world’s forests. FSC sets standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. FSC Controlled Wood standards ensure manufacturers and traders avoid unacceptable timber and timber products, including: illegally harvested wood; wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; wood harvested in forests in which High Conservation Values\(^1\) are threatened through management activities; wood harvested from conversion of natural forests; and wood harvested from areas where genetically modified trees are planted.

BTP is committed to establishing and growing ecological sustainable forest resources of up to 15,000ha of plantation in the Bunbury region, in the south west of Western Australia. BTP’s total ‘fence to fence’
estate under management is approximately 21,000 hectares. This includes BTP owned and leased properties, and also Australian Afforestation Pty Ltd (AAP) and Eco Tree Farm Pty Ltd (ECOT) properties managed by BTP. Primary plantation species include Bluegum (*Eucalyptus Globulus*) and Smithii (*Eucalyptus Smithii*).

**Scope and Certification Evaluation Process**

SCS Global Services (SCS), a FSC-accredited certification body based in Emeryville, California, will conduct this FSC evaluation.


The CW Evaluation Process Includes the Following Phases:

- **Public notification**: distribution of the standard and solicitation of comments on the certification applicant; Audit planning and document review;
- **Field assessment**: A representative sample of field sites and operations within the defined forest area are inspected by a team of auditors;
- **Stakeholder consultation**;
- **Synthesis of findings**: Compliance with the standard is ascertained and the certification decision is formulated;
- **Reporting**: A draft report describing the evaluation process, findings, and certification decision is produced;
- **Delivery of final certification report**;
- **Certification decision**: a public summary of the certification report is released, if certification is awarded.

**Call for Public Participation**
SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of BTP or other topics pertinent to their seeking FSC CW certification, such as whether BTP complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the CW standard or identification of high conservation value forests\[1\] within their plantation lands. Comments can be submitted via email, standard mail, or facsimile to Dr. Melissa Turner, social auditor. The audit team can make arrangements to allow stakeholders to meet with them during the evaluation upon request. All comments and sources will be kept in strict confidence at the request of the commenter.

**Dates**

The field evaluation is scheduled to commence during the week of July 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2013. SCS will make arrangements to meet with interested parties during the evaluation if appropriate, but it is preferred that comments are submitted before the evaluation commences.

**Dispute Resolution Procedure**

As provided by the FSC Interim Dispute Resolution Protocol and the SCS Forest Conservation Program Quality Manual, dispute resolution procedures are in place and available to interested parties at [http://www.scsglobalservices.com/your-feedback](http://www.scsglobalservices.com/your-feedback)

**Additional Information**

More information about FSC and SCS can be obtained from [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) and [www.SCSglobalServices.com](http://www.SCSglobalServices.com).

**Please contact us**

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