Wespine Industries Pty Ltd Verification of Controlled Wood supply 2016-17.

Executive Summary

Wespine has controlled wood supply for their products from local controlled material sources. Local supply is from the following suppliers listed in Table 1 - Suppliers to WESPINE Industries Pty Ltd.

Wespine has conducted a risk assessment on supply as part of their verification program for controlled wood sources under FSC-STD-40-005(V2-1) EN. Given that FSC Australia have published an FSC accredited national (Annex 2) risk assessment there is already a determination of Low risk for Western Australia at the annex 2 level for 4 controlled wood criteria. Therefore the risk assessment is confined to an Annex 3 verification focused on High Conservations values (HCV) only.

The risk assessment found an unspecified risk for HCV. Therefore a verification process according to FSC-STD-40-005(V2-1) EN. Annex 3 needs to be carries out. In order for the wood to qualify as controlled wood this verification needs to confirm that suppliers have a strong system of control for HCV at all stages of their operations.

This verification process has been updated to be consistent with FSC ADVICE-40-005-14 and FSC Australia guidance on controlled wood implementation http://www.fscaustralia.org/policies-and-standards/controlled-wood/guidance-on-controlled-wood-implementation

For the determination of a strong system of control for HVC the FSC Australia guidelines have been used. http://au.fsc.org/download.high-conservation-values-evaluation-framework-final-v3-4.231.htm

In addition all applicable and current FSC International advice notes are followed.

**WESPINE concludes that there is a strong system of control for wood that it procures.**
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### Table 1 - Suppliers to WESPINE Industries

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Supplier Name</th>
<th>Product type</th>
<th>Material category</th>
<th>FSC, CoC certificate or CW (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Forest Products Commission  
3 Baron Hay Court  
KENSINGTON WA 6151 | W1.1 Roundwood (logs)  
And Woodchips (in-field) W1.3 | Controlled material | N/A |
| Australian Forestry Services  
200 South Western Highway (Box 266), Donnybrook, WA 6239 for Private wood lots | | | N/A |
| WAPRES  
53 Victoria St, Bunbury WA 6230, Australia | W1.1 Roundwood (logs) | Controlled Material | FSC Controlled Wood certified |
| New Forest  
managed by PF Olsen 294-296 Middleton Rd  
Albany WA 6330 | W1.1 Roundwood (logs)  
and Woodchips (in-field) W1.3 | 100% FSC | FSC Certified 294-296 |
1. Introduction

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2. Assessment of the HCV Control System

2.1. Forest Products Commission

General

The controlled materials are sourced from Pinus radiata from public land grown by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) and harvest by Forestry Products Commission (FPC).

For all plantations a Forest Management Planning pre disturbance (on Form 019) outlines the overall strategy for management including HCV issues like Biodiversity and cultural heritage. There is a 5 year strategic harvest plan for wood flows over those 5 years and Annually produced detailed harvest plans for coups to be harvested in that year. The harvest plans must be submitted for approval by DPAW for compliance to the Forest Management Plan.

HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.

DPAW biodiversity overlays are used to identify and RTE species, If any are identified they are noted in the harvest plan, maps and the document that is given to contractors to operationalizes the plan (form 377) and DPAW provides a prescription as to their management and this is noted in the harvest plan. The presence of RTE values is also noted on maps that are contained in the harvest plans.

HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

Not many areas under harvest are in large landscape level forests. Others however do have areas of significance

Areas of plantation forests do not occupy any significant part of the landscape so normal management practices can be conducted so as to not impact on the landscape values.

Those areas with landscapes intact are known and have assessments done on them. Harvest plans will consider impacts on these values on a coup by coup basis and mitigate them. Plans are approved by DPAW.

HCV 3 Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

DPAW biodiversity overlays are used to identify and RTE ecosystems e.g. Informal reserves, Conservation reserves, Informal habitat zones, Threatened communities, RAMSAR sites., If any are identified they are noted in the harvest plan and DPAW provides a prescription as to their

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1 The forest is significant in the region due to its size, condition, and/or importance to biodiversity conservation. Factors to consider include:
Rarity of forests of this size and quality within the region. (FSC Australia)

2 egRegional surveys: vegetation communities, condition assessment, wilderness assessment, concentrations of species, old growth, wilderness, growth stage, vegetation condition and remnant vegetation, logging history (FSC Australia)
management and this is noted in the harvest plan. The presence of RTE ecosystem values is also noted on maps that are continued in the harvest plans. There is a mechanism to feed back to DPAW in the event that new values are noted that are not on the overlays and maps managed by DPAW.

**HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.**

Although the Code of practice is not compulsory for general forestry FPC are required to be followed


The code of practice meets the requirements of HVC 4³

The FPC Timber Harvest Manual is based on the CoP and is followed.

Values are identified before harvest and incorporated into the harvest plan. In particular, where the coup is in an irrigation or drinking water catchment specific requirements are followed. For country or metro water supply catchments approvals by the water authorities is required under legislation.

Pre operations planning (019) and checklists used during harvest are based on the CoP. These are collated and signed off as part of the documentation recording compliance in a harvesting coup.

In 2013 there was the introduction of a new soils assessment procedure.

**HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.**

NOTE: These are not applicable in this situation⁴ e.g. no one relies on these forests for firewood or shelter.

**HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)**

DPAW use publically available information to identify and heritage sites on their land. If any are identified they are noted in the harvest plan and DPAW provides a prescription as to their management and this is noted in the harvest plan. There is also consultation with the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) and the South West Ind and Sea council on the adequacy of these measures. The presence of Heritage values is also noted on maps that are continued in the harvest plans.

There is also cultural heritage training on observation and recognition of cultural heritage and dealing with cultural heritage issues is covered in the Timber harvesting manual.

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³ Identification and mapping of HCV value areas pre harvest. Expert elicitation (documented in the code of practice) Code of practice which is followed. (FSC Australia)

⁴ Local people use the area to obtain resources on which they are critically dependent. (FSC Australia).
If sites or artifacts are found during activities the appropriate authority (DIA) is alerted and their instructions followed. (Note this is mandatory in WA for Aboriginal sites). DIA are responsible for informing the South West land and Sea Council in such cases.

### 2.2. Australian Forestry Services

**General**

The controlled materials are sourced from Pinus spp mainly *P. radiata* from private plantations or farm forestry plantations grown in Forest management lots upto 150 Ha.

For the purposes of sampling this forest have been considered Small Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF)

If plantations have been established shire approval is needed for the establishment.

In the case of wood harvest on behalf of private growers there is a grower questionnaire that establishes to the best of the private growers knowledge about the presence of HCVs on their land.

In addition publicly available information is interrogated to determine the presence or absence of HCV e.g. [http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/default.aspx](http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/default.aspx)

Any findings of HCV are recorded on maps and form part of the harvest plans. Harvest

**HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.**

In general these are small plantations in and around farmed land with little or no native bush or habitat areas so the presence of Rare Threatened or Endangered (RTE) is unlikely. However there following steps are taken:

- The owner is asked if they know of any known sites with RTE species.
- Non planted areas are shown on a site map.
- Publically available maps and overlays are interrogated for the presence of RTE species.
- In the event that there are significant populations of RTE advice is sought on their management.
- The Non planted areas including native bush integral or adjacent to the FMU are not disturbed during harvest (NB the protection of bush is mandatory in WA and any clearing e.g. for safety etc. is heavily regulated).

**HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

In general these are small plantations in and around farmed land. There are no large landscape level forest considerations these FMU.

**HCV 3 Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.**

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5 FSC Australia Has determined that in Australia FMUs of up to 1000 ha can qualify as SLIMF
The same actions as for HCV 1:

- The owner is asked if they know of any known sites with RTE ecosystems.
- Non planted areas are shown on a site map.
- Publically available maps and overlays are interrogated for the presence of RTE ecosystems.
- In the event that there are significant RTE ecosystems advice is sought on their management.
- The Non planted areas including native bush integral or adjacent to the FMU are not disturbed during harvest (NB the protection of bush is mandatory in WA and any clearing e.g. for safety etc is heavily regulated).

**HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.**


There is an on site analysis pre harvest to identify issue, this leads to control measures eg:

- Riparian zones are excluded from disturbance during harvest.
- Creek lines are kept free of activity or debris.
- For erosion control roading is maintained and drainage is maintained.
- Stream crossing is only at designated points.
- In wet periods there is no harvesting in heavy or steep land.

**HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.**

NOTE: These are not applicable in this situation ie. This is private land, no one relies on these forests for fire wood or shelter.

**HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)**

The owner declares any known sites heritage sites.

For post Colonial heritage sites. If the land has been recently established then a record of shire approval should also show a cultural heritage check.
If sites or artifacts are found during activities the appropriate authority is alerted and their instructions followed. (Note this is mandatory in WA for Aboriginal sites).
3. Procedures for verifying the supplier’s procedures at Annex 3 level.

For all suppliers including private growers detailed records are kept of supplying blocks and these are made available to FSC auditors.

Wespine has adopted the FSC Australia Annex 2 risk assessment. It identified low risk for all controlled wood categories except HCV (3.1 and 3.2) which was undetermined at all IBRA bioregions in Australia.

Therefore Wespine completes an annex 3 risk assessment on HCV for all its suppliers using the draft guidelines from FSC Australia as the benchmark. “High Conservation Values (HCVs) evaluation framework for use in the context of implementing FSC Controlled Wood standards http://au.fsc.org/download.high-conservation-values-evaluation-framework-final-v3-4.231.htm

Under this approach there is verification that appropriate ‘tools’ have been used to satisfy the 6 classes of HCV. The assessments have been completed of all suppliers using FSC Australia guidelines (the ‘tools not rule approach’). Under this there is verification that appropriate ‘tools’ have been used to satisfy the 6 classes of HCV e.g. publically available ecological maps of RTE species and ecosystems for HCV 1 and HCV 3

In the Annex 2 risk assessment under 3.1 and 3.2 there is an undetermined risk. Therefore the onus is on the supplier to demonstrate a strong system of control that Wespine can confirm in their verification audits. The system of control for each of the suppliers is set out in detail in this document (above).

4. Stakeholder Consultation

Wespine has developed a stakeholder consultation process including NGOs and local indigenous representatives. On an annual basis these stakeholders are consulted on the verification audits. Where issues are raised these are taken into account if possible/practical.

The publication of this document is part of that stakeholder process.

5. Auditor training

WESPINE personnel conducting field verification audits have had appropriate training on the concept of High Conservation Values against the requirements of the FSC Australia HCV framework. Training records are kept.

* Note audits were outsourced to a suitably qualified consultant, http://pinnaclebypinnacle.com/
6. Audit timing

Audits will occur at a timing that prevents uncontrolled wood passing through the supply chain. In practical terms this means audits will be on active harvesting blocks just before or just after the wood is harvested.
7. Districts and Sampling Plans

There are 3 districts for the sampling plan. These are selected because these are distinct geographic regions with common features landscapes and morphology. Supply from all of these regions is either Pinus or Eucalypt plantations. All are in the Central Forest Region but are considered 3 separate districts for the purpose of sampling because they are not under the same management control.

**District 1.** Central Forest District *Pinus* Radiata Plantations under the management of FPC. The Central forest district is a single forest management unit (FMU) under a defined management plan in a geographic region. There are many harvest blocks in the central region but for the purposes of sampling they are treated as part of the same FMU.

**District 2** Central Forest District *Pinus* Spp Plantations under private ownership and sourced on behalf of Wespine by Australia Forestry Services Limited. These are considered Small Low intensity managed Forests (SLIMF) and therefore were sampled at a lower rate per the standard (see below).

**District 3.** Private forest supply part managed by Wespine under contract to the forest owner. In this region there is also one FMU. This block is audited individually every year.

**NB**

1. Any full FSC certified supply is outside the scope of the Wespine controlled wood certification, they are therefore excluded from the calculation of the sampling plan.
2. Private Wood is sometimes purchased on a spot market basis. As part of this verification process 100% of private wood sales from all regions the owner or their agent completes a grower declaration to give a history of the plantation and any impacts on HCV that they are aware of.

The sampling plan is calculated on the basis of the number of:

\[
\text{Sample frequency} = 0.8 \times \sqrt{n\text{FMUs}}
\]

(For SLIMF Sample frequency = 0.6 $\times \sqrt{n\text{FMUs}}$)

The FSC definition of a Forest Management Unit (FMU) is:

A clearly defined forest area with mapped boundaries, managed by a single managerial body to a set of explicit objectives which are expressed in a self-contained multi-year management plan.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1 ref FSC Glossary of Terms FSC-STD-01-002 (V1-0) EN

For the purpose of the sampling plan the number of harvest blocks (not FMUs) in an audit year is used to calculate a meaningful sample. With the exception of the SLIMF blocks harvested by Australian Forest Services (AFS) who are a forest contractor specializing in small harvest jobs for private growers. Most of the work is done on a ‘spot basis’ it is not possible to have a list of harvests planned in any one year upon which to base the sample. Therefore the
sample is estimated on the total blocks harvest in the previous complete harvest year as an estimate of the blocks that will be harvested in the current year.

In all cases this sample will always meet or exceed the sample rates required by FSC STD 40 005 Annex 3.

This results in the following audit frequency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier</th>
<th>FPC</th>
<th>AFS</th>
<th>SBTF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMU</td>
<td>1 (central district forest management unit)</td>
<td>12 (SLIMF)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample based on harvest blocks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>