MEDIA RELEASE

FSC Australia response to Forestry Tasmania controlled wood certificate.

Australia 12 November 2016: FSC Australia is encouraged that Forestry Tasmania, an FSC Australia member since 2013, has been accredited to the Controlled Wood standard for their plantation estate by the independent auditor, SCS Global Services.

Following extensive consultation and improvements made by Forestry Tasmania, FSC Australia CEO Adam Beaumont explains this is an example of the FSC system at work.

While Forestry Tasmania has not yet achieved full FSC Forest Management certification, Beaumont said the state-owned forest manager had improved their forestry management practices by attaining the FSC entry level standard, Controlled Wood, on their plantation estate.

“Controlled Wood is part of a step wise process to getting full forest management certification” Beaumont said. “It’s great that Forestry Tasmania’s plantation estate is now part of the FSC system.

“We encourage Forestry Tasmania to continue to work with their stakeholders towards full FSC Forest Management certification for their native forest estate. The previous SCS audit findings provide a good basis to continue this good work.”

FSC Controlled Wood is not the same as FSC Forest Management Certification. Forestry Tasmania has not obtained FSC Forest Management Certification. Controlled Wood is something very different and is an entry level standard, and not designed as full assurance of forest sustainability. This is why no promotional claims are allowed.

Despite being the entry level standard, Controlled Wood certification still has an impact on the way this production forest will be managed in the future, over and above any government regulatory scheme, legal requirements or other certification schemes.

Beaumont said despite Forestry Tasmania already holding Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC) approval, obtaining the second tier standard, Controlled Wood, highlighted FSC’s member driven standards remained the most stringent in the industry.

Under the FSC Australia High Conservation Values Evaluation Framework, designed to assist in interpreting the FSC Controlled Wood standard, Forestry Tasmania must identify and conserve High Conservation Values.

FSC Australia encourages Forestry Tasmania and other Forest Managers to continue their pursuit of certification and appreciate their commitment and support of FSC’s mission to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world’s forests.

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Prepared Questions and Answers for reference

What is Controlled Wood?

Controlled Wood is material that can be mixed with the certified material during manufacturing FSC mix products. Controlled wood has enabled manufacturers to manage low and fluctuating supplies of FSC certified forest products while creating demand for FSC certified wood.

Click here to learn more about the difference between Controlled Wood and Full FSC Certified Wood.

Can the Forestry Tasmania now label wood sourced from this area with the FSC logo?

No. Timber sourced from the Forestry Tasmania are not fully FSC certified, and therefore Forestry Tasmania cannot label their wood with the FSC logo or make any promotional or marketing claims about meeting the Controlled Wood standard.

No claims of ‘FSC Controlled Wood’ are allowed for promotional purposes, and no labelling is allowed for products sold as ‘FSC Controlled Wood’.

Only FSC certified processors and manufacturers could mix ‘FSC Controlled Wood’ into their products with fully FSC certified or recycled sources. Only under these conditions can the final product be labelled as ‘FSC Mixed’.

Who assessed the Forestry Tasmania against the Controlled Wood standard?

FSC certification assessments and preliminary assessments are carried out by internationally accredited auditors monitored by Accreditation Services International.

FSC Australia is not involved in decisions about who receives FSC certification or which auditor is chosen to assess forest managers.

The independent auditor that assessed Forestry Tasmania against Controlled Wood, in this instance it was SCS Global Services.
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What was the process?

Independent forest management auditor, SCS Global Services, has conducted a lengthy audit process of the Government-owned Forestry Tasmania management practices across their entire native and plantation forest estate.

At this stage, following an extensive assessment and consultation process, SCS Global Services has found Forestry Tasmania has met the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council’s (FSC) Controlled Wood standard on their plantation estate.

Notes to producers/editors

- For information regarding the auditor’s process and assessment, please contact Robert Hrubes at SCS Global Services – www.scsglobalservices.com
- Forestry Tasmania sought a Controlled Wood certificate for their plantation estate.
- There are two different levels of assessment in the FSC System: (a) Full Forest Management and (b) Controlled Wood
- Full Forest Management certification is based on FSC’s 10 Principles and Criteria that sets the rules of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management.
- Controlled Wood ensures the avoidance of wood in FSC Certified products that come from unacceptable sources such as:
  - Illegally harvested wood
  - Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights
  - Wood harvested from forests where High Conservation Values are threatened
  - Wood harvested from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest uses
  - Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted
- No claims of ‘FSC Controlled Wood’ are allowed for promotional purposes and no labelling is allowed for products sold as ‘FSC Controlled Wood’. FSC certified processors and manufacturers can only mix ‘FSC Controlled Wood’ into products containing FSC certified or recycled sources under specified conditions. These products can be labelled ‘FSC Mix’.
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About FSC Australia:

- **FSC Australia** is a registered charity and national office of an international non-government, non-profit organisation that promotes responsible forest management practices through multi-stakeholder standard setting and an internationally-recognised certification labelling program.

- FSC certification assessments are carried out by accredited certification bodies, such as SCS, SGS, Soil Association, that are internationally qualified and managed by Accreditation Services International (ASI).

- FSC Australia is not involved in decisions about who receives FSC certification or which independent auditor undertakes the certification – we are the guardian of the scheme and organise the membership to set the standards.

- In Australia 1.25 m hectares of forests have been certified to full FSC Forest Management standards.

- Globally the FSC has certified more than 193 million hectares of natural and plantation forests in more than 80 countries with just over 1,400 certified forest managers. See FSC Internationals website (fsc.org) for more facts and figures.

- Natural forest dominates the FSC-certified forest area Internationally at 65 percent, while plantations make up just 8.2 percent of the global FSC certified area.

- FSC Australia has tasked nine representatives from economic, environmental and social backgrounds with developing the first unique set of Australian owned forestry standards. The second rounds of stakeholder consultation and expert input is currently underway.