Public Briefing Paper for
Forest Management Certification Assessment of
Gunns Limited in Tasmania, Australia
15th of June, 2012

Introduction - The Rainforest Alliance is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of Gunns Limited located in Tasmania. The assessment will be implemented from 30th of July to 3rd of August of 2012.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the plantations managed by Gunns Ltd, using the Rainforest Alliance Interim Standards for Assessing Forest Management in Australia (FM-32). To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact Rainforest Alliance by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. FSC is continuously seeking input from stakeholders, and it is taken into account at the periodic standard revisions. Rainforest Alliance is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. RA evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and collects related comments from stakeholders.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Addis Tsehaye, Mr. Addis Tsehaye, (PhD & MSc Forestry). The team members will be: Chris Weston, (BSc PhD Botany), Anita Neville (BA, journalism, social aspects) and Malory Weston (MSc Botany).

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

♦ Assessment organization – The Rainforest Alliance team will assemble in Launceston on 30th of July, 2012
♦ Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by Gunns Ltd from 31st of July to 3rd of August.
♦ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Gunns forest management. This may include private interviews and discussions, or open stakeholder meetings.
♦ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with FME managers to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
♦ Draft report production – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to FME and a minimum of 2 independent peer reviewers. This should occur around 30 - 45 days after completion of the assessment.
Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from FME forest managers and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, a final report will be completed and Rainforest Alliance will reach a certification decision.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Gunns forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME’s management and protection of High Conservation Values within the area under evaluation. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to 10th of August so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with an audit team member during or shortly after the fieldwork. Please, contact Anita Neville, Representative and Communications Advisor for the Rainforest Alliance in Australia for arrangements.

2. Call and give comments to Anita Neville. If this person is not in the office, please contact Rainforest Alliance Task Manager for Australia, Maria R Gismero.

3. Submit written comments by mail, fax or email to Anita Neville. Unless you request otherwise, your comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Gunns Ltd.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and Rainforest Alliance staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Rainforest Alliance’s Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at www.rainforest-alliance.org.

Contacting Rainforest Alliance

- Email: aneville.consultant@ra.org for Representative and Communications Advisor for the Rainforest Alliance in Australia
- Email: mgismero.consultant@ra.org for FM Task Manager for Australia
- Telephone: Anita Neville: +61 (0) 431 913 214
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