



global-mark



Global-Mark Pty Ltd

Summary Report

Sustainable Forest Management



**Responsible
Wood** RW/1-44-2

This document is external





	Comments
Certification standard	AS 4708:2013
Client Name / Business name	Private Forestry Service Queensland Inc.
Business address of the client	<u>Office & depot</u> : 8 Fraser Road Gympie, QLD 4570
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members:	Dr. Wayne Tibbits [audit team leader, all three days]
Dates of review:	Tuesday 29 th , Wednesday 30 th November and Thursday 1 st December 2022 = on-site; Thursday 8 th December 2022 = stakeholder contact; Sunday 11 th December 2022 = review corrective actions.
Scope of activities within the scope of certification	Processes involved in the management and protection of private native forest, plantations, and revegetation land use activities.
Type of review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 1 pre-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2 certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance post certification; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up or special audit
Scope of the audit / review including sites visited	Criteria 0-9 of the Standard. Sustainable Forest Management System [FMS] as assessed at office and in field by document review, systems demonstration, and evidence gathered in the field.
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>This one-person re-certification surveillance review on-site over three days focused on the full set of AS 4708 criteria, namely the full suite of requirements related to management system, stakeholders, biodiversity, productive capacity, ecosystem health, soil & water, carbon, culture/heritage, and social & economic values. Each requirement was assessed, where possible, within the overall Forest Management System [FMS] and field operations across the defined forest area. The included site visits assessing forest operations and conditions one full day in the field. Its focus was on sites near Gympie. It also included half a day off-site contact with stakeholders and review of additional evidence by way of corrective action for audit findings.</p> <p>Since the previous audit in November 2021, there has been several changes in key members of staff supporting the forest management system. Mark Delaney joined PFSQ about half a year ago as a Forestry Undergraduate. Natasha Scott has commenced as Finance manager. Arna Love, who had been Executive Officer, left the organisation.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder feedback</u>: This audit included consultation a sample of the organisation’s stakeholders. The audit team leader contacted by telephone one affected stakeholder in the week after the audit. This was one with an economic interest in the management of the defined forest area. This stakeholder expressed opinion that, “PFSQ are honest operators. PFSQ do work at a quality level. It is possible to have a good working relationship with PFSQ. They are aware of the sustainability issues of relevance to this stakeholder.” They had no reason to have any complaint or dispute with the forest manager.</p> <p>During this audit we closed the two of the three previous findings that were all observations. The third was escalated to a minor nonconformance, as additional field evidence showed insufficient improvement that forest operations had minimal damage to forest growing stock. This 2022 audit raised 16 new findings, 12 as observations, and four as nonconformance, with one as a major nonconformance. The client was required to formulate a corrective action plan for these matters of nonconformance. The major nonconformance related to no current or future estimate of carbon stored in the defined forest area, and could be readily rectified by the client.</p> <p>A corrective action plan was received 6th December. It was assessed 11th December. The corrective action evidence for the major nonconformance was assessed by the audit team leader and downgraded re-classifying it as a minor</p>



	Comments
	<p>nonconformance. Global-Mark’s rules allow that it “may still award a certificate, provided that the forest manager identifies the root cause of the non-conformance and provides a plan acceptable to the certification body to meet the outstanding requirements within an agreed time frame”. The audit team leader confirms all matters as sufficiently addressed to recommend re-certification. The next scheduled audit is around September 2023 as a surveillance with transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021.</p> <p>We believe that the organization listed above at the sites listed above, <u>provided it addresses the matters of nonconformance</u>, has the capability to systematically meet the requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard and for the activities/products and sites listed on the Global-Mark scope of certification.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest staff have a thorough knowledge of the forests in the properties that they manage. This appears, at least in part, to come from these people over the years doing much of the silviculture activities themselves. 2. Incorporation of the SiteDocs App, for “Safety compliance made easy”. This is used for checking the environment, safety, operations, and administration. Photos are included to demonstrate evidence of evaluation of activities. 3. Consideration of the non-tree components of the forest ecosystem in its plans and activities. An example is the placement of epiphytes and bird/bat nesting boxes on trees at Blue Sky. <p><u>Improvement matters are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There was a decision to not progress an overarching forest management plan that was under development in 2021. It appears that now this initiative started in 2021 might require more attention, in order to align to the requirement in AS/NZS 4708: 2021 of a “public summary of management may be referred to as the forest management plan” [clause 7.4.4]. 2. Need to refine new processes and systems used to audit, monitor , and review sustainable forest management system. 3. Consideration could be given to additional checks and maybe peer review of property plans as, at least in part, several audit findings [66, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 78] related to this part of planning.
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units] and Defined Forest Area [DFA]	Forests are in two main FMUs. Native forest and hardwood plantation.
Guidance as to how to obtain further details of the DFA	At https://www.pfsq.org.au/about-us/
The area of the DFA as advised to the Scheme Owner	<p>Of the total of 6,163 hectares forest area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,835 hectares are owned by Energy Queensland. • 171.8 hectares at Brooweena are owned by PFSQ. <p>Four other owners averaging 16 hectares each.</p>

Review team declaration:

We confirm that for the purpose of this review:

- We did not have any conflict of interest with and are fully independent from the company listed above.
- The review team had sufficient resources, and competences to complete its review and reach its conclusions summarised here.
- We had the appropriate credentials to perform this review in accordance with Global-Mark Pty Ltd and applicable accreditation requirements.

Comment and disclaimer on this report:

- This summary report does not and should not be seen as advice. Please consult a qualified advisor or consultant for advice.



- Due to the sampling nature of third party business reviews, the time available and samples size, some issues, nonconformance, non-compliances or improvements might not have been identified in the present audit summarised reported. This does not imply that these issues do not exist or are in conformance or compliance. Employees, management, and other stakeholders of the organization need to and are responsible for, continuously identifying and taking necessary controls to ensure continued conformance with the standard.
- Readers of this report should make judgement taking the above into account.
- The summary report has been prepared for the abovementioned client/ business to make publicly available without request.

End of summary report



Document Information and Revision History of Template

Document Number & Name	AS 4708 / NZS 4708 Summary Report
Original Author(s)	Wayne Tibbits

Revision	Date	Author(s)	Notes
0	5 th July 2019	Dr W. Tibbits	Initial release in new format. Excludes personal information of confidential nature from content.
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