

## Introduction

Queensland Commodity Exports Pty Ltd (QCE) is a wood processing and export business located at the Port of Brisbane.

We are committed to protecting high conservation values through responsible forest management. QCE's wood supply chain is certified to FSC<sup>®</sup> standards (<u>FSC-STD-40-004</u>, <u>FSC-STD-40-005</u>).

We only source plantation timber that originates from tree plantations in South East Queensland and northern New South Wales. Our suppliers are commercial plantation forest managers (eg. HQPlantations, FCNSW), small private plantation growers and several local sawmills.

We invite stakeholders to provide any comments about our wood supply in relation to High Conservation Value (HCV) protection and other values such as social and economic aspects. Section 3 contains information about HCVs and control measures employed by QCE to mitigate risk to HCV.

You may use this form to provide us with written comments or concerns you may have with our activities and wood procurement.

Once complete, please send this form to us via email fscenquiries@qldcommodity.com.au or fax (07) 3895 1111. Alternatively you may wish to contact us by telephone on (07) 3895 2160 to discuss any relevant issues.

## Section 1 – Consultation Details

| Date                         |           |              |  |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| Feedback from<br>Stakeholder | 🗌 Email   |              |  |
|                              | Telephone | Company Rep: |  |
|                              | ☐ Fax     |              |  |

## Section 2 – Stakeholder Details

| Name      |  |
|-----------|--|
| Address   |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email     |  |

Do you consent to the publication of any comments you provide?

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# Section 3 – Stakeholder Comments – High Conservation Values

Table 1 below outlines FSC Australia's HCV framework that classifies high conservation values into 6 categories. The link contains information published by FSC Australia about each HCV.

| HCV Framework – FSC Australia<br>https://au.fsc.org/preview.high-conservation-values-evaluation-framework-final-v3-4.a-513.pdf |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| HCV 1  | Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.   |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |
| HCV 3  | Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.   |  |  |  |
| HCV 4  | Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.   |  |  |  |
| HCV 5  | Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.   |  |  |  |
| 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)  |  |  |  |

QCE's controls to mitigate HCV risk are provided below. Please add any comments or concerns in relation to HCV in the Stakeholder Comments section following.

QCE's control measures to mitigate HCV risk

## 1. Site assessment

This control checks if any HCVs (HCV 1-6) are present or likely to be present at the origin of the wood supply prior to the forest operation. The site assessment checks for the presence of listed species and critical habitats and ecosystems, water catchments, water supply sources, slope and erosion control, landscape issues, cultural and heritage values.

The process includes a desktop search of national and state databases, review of any relevant plantation permit requirements, and review of information developed by experts for known and potential HCVs. The Australian Government's <u>EPBC</u> <u>Protected Matters Search Tool</u>, and the <u>Species Profile and Threats Database</u> are examples of national databases that are used in this process. Doc 28 Site

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Assessment lists other database resources used and provides further information on aspects checked during this process.

QCE does not source plantation wood from any areas located in declared intact forest landscapes (IFLs - <u>http://intactforests.org/data.ifl.html</u> - HCV 2).

A pre-harvest field inspection is typically done to confirm the presence of known HCV and to check for any further HCV. Where HCVs are identified, control measures for risk mitigation and recovery plans are considered and determined in consultation with experts as necessary.

QCE employs its site assessment process for all plantation wood it harvests and for all forest-direct wood it receives at its mill gate, unless the supplier has an equivalent site assessment process approved by QCE and is able to provide required evidence of HCV assessment when periodically audited by QCE.

# 2. Stakeholder consultation

Landowners and neighbours are notified prior to harvest operations and consulted to gather local information regarding the presence of known HCVs. Feedback from other interested and affected stakeholders is also sought regularly. Valued feedback that assists in the protection of HCV is considered and incorporated into work plans accordingly.

# 3. Timber Harvest Plan (THP)

HCVs identified from the site assessment and consultation processes are included in the THP. HCVs are clearly marked on operational maps. Risk control measures to protect identified HCVs are specified in the THP.

Areas of remnant vegetation, waterways and riparian buffer zones, for example, are clearly marked on operational maps and excluded from the harvest area, and the THP specifies prescriptions to manage these and other HCV values in accordance with timber code requirements (eg. required buffer and machine approach distances). The THP refers to relevant sections of the timber code for protection of HCVs 1 to 6. Specific guidelines are specified in the THP for koala monitoring and management.

The timber codes applicable to QCE's wood supply are Timber Plantation Operations Code of Practice for Queensland - July 2015, and the Plantations and Reafforestation (Code) Regulation 2001 (NSW).

Exclusion zones are marked in the field as appropriate to ensure HCV protection during operations.

## 4. Harvest Supervision and Monitoring

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Forest workers are inducted on-site. Site specific HCV values and control measures defined in the THP are communicated to workers. Routine harvest inspections are conducted to confirm that identified HCVs are protected from operations and in compliance with the relevant timber code. Inspections for soil and water values, for example, include checks of erosion controls, drainage feature set-backs, stream crossings and soil disturbance at log landings.

Forest workers assist in the identification of any new HCVs on-site. Should a potential new HCV be identified or a HCV is (or likely to be) impacted by operations, standard protocols in the THP are to cease work in the immediate area and notify the harvest supervisor. QCE has response procedures for investigating, assessing and addressing HCV issues or concerns.

# 5. Plantation Wood Specification

Suppliers are provided with a wood supply specification that specifies the plantation species to be supplied. Wood supply is visually inspected at log landings in-field and on receipt at the QCE mill to ensure compliance.

## 6. Verification Audits

Verification audits are conducted periodically on a select number of random supply units. Independent verification audits of QCE's wood supply are periodically conducted by QCE and also by QCE's certification body at supplier and sub-supplier sites. Wood supply documentation is reviewed and field site visits are conducted as part of the verification audits in order to verify HCVs have been suitably protected for the supply of FSC controlled material to QCE.

Further information about QCE's Due Diligence System is outlined in Doc 968 Due Diligence System.



## Section 3 – Stakeholder Comments – High Conservation Values

| Do you have any comments about the wood QCE is sourcing | Yes | 🗌 No |  |
|---|-----|------|--|
| in relation to its control measures for HCV protection? |     |      |  |

Please record any comments or concerns about HCV aspects associated with of our activities or wood procurement below.

Stakeholder comments

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# Section 4 – Stakeholder Comments – Other values (eg. Social, Economic)

| Do you have any other comments you would like to make   | 🗌 Yes | 🗌 No |
|---|-------|------|
| about QCE's plantation wood procurement activities e.g. |       |      |
| economic or social benefits?                            |       |      |
|   |       |      |

Please record any other comments or concerns about non-HCV aspects in the section below

## Stakeholder comments

Thankyou for your comments.

Please submit this form to fscenquiries@qldcommodity.com.au or fax (07) 3895 1111.

We will respond to you within sixty (60) days after the end of the consultation period to advise you of how your comments were taken into account.

See contact details following for further information or if you would like to submit a complaint.

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## MAKING A COMPLAINT

We aim to address any complaints as soon as possible.

Please submit complaints relating to forest management, logistics or wood supply to the **Resources Manager**.

Lodge your complaint by:

- Letter Queensland Commodity Exports Pty Limited, PO Box 817, Wynnum Central, QLD 4178
- **Telephone** (07) 3895 2160
- In person during business hours Queensland Commodity Exports Pty Ltd, 35 Port Drive, Port of Brisbane, QLD 4178
- Email fscenquiries@qldcommodity.com.au
- **Fax** (07) 3895 1111

## **Supporting Information**

To assist us with responding to your complaint in a timely manner, please provide us with the following information where possible:

- Your name and contact details.
- The nature and details of the complaint including dates, times, location, any known QCE or contractor personnel associated with the issue.
- Copies of any supporting statements or documents.