

Thank you for your interest in becoming an FSC Australia member. FSC Australia (FSCA) has specific criteria and documentation requirements for different categories of membership. The requirements of membership for each Chamber are set out in Clause 3.4 of the [FSC Australia Constitution](#). Please read the following guidelines to ensure you satisfy the criteria for the relevant category before completing an application.

To apply, please complete the [FSCA membership application form](#) and attach the additional documentation required for the category of membership under which you are applying. Please submit your application to FSC Australia at info@au.fsc.org. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the FSC Australia office at info@au.fsc.org. Your application will be reviewed for completeness and then assessed by the FSCA Membership Committee which is a chamber balanced sub-committee of the FSC Australia Board. The FSCA Membership Committee will then make a recommendation regarding your application for endorsement by the FSC Australia Board.

Applying for Membership

1. Individual or Organisational Membership?

First you need to decide whether to apply for an organisational or individual membership.

The requirements and application procedure vary depending on the type of membership you choose.

For a greater voice and influence, we encourage you to pursue organisational membership. As an organisational member you represent a larger number of people – therefore your vote in FSC elections weighs more. The votes of all individual members in each chamber are weighted so that they only represent a maximum of 10% of the total vote of the chamber, while the votes of all member organisations make up the other 90%.

2. Which Chamber?

To join FSC you must join one of three chambers, depending on your interest in forests.

If you principally have a **commercial** interest in forests, the production of forest products or the activities of FSC, you are eligible to join the **economic** chamber. Eg – a forest management company.

If you principally have an **environmental** interest in forests, the production of forest products or the activities of FSC, you are eligible to join the **environmental** chamber. Eg – an environmental non-government organisation.

If you principally have a **social or community** interest in forests, the production of forest products or the activities of FSC, you are eligible to join the **social** chamber. Eg – a trade union representing workers in the forest industry.

The FSC Australia Board will assess your application including your work experience and other evidence of your affiliation with any chamber against the criteria detailed below. Though you nominate for a Chamber, the Board makes the final decision regarding which chamber you will be allocated to. The Board can also assign you to a specific chamber if you are uncertain. You can also contact the FSC Australia Office at info@au.fsc.org if you are uncertain to which chamber you should apply.

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3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for membership you must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the FSC Principles and Criteria for responsible forest management. How you may demonstrate your commitment depends on the nature of your interest in forests and so for the purposes of assessing eligibility there are different categories of membership to which specific criteria apply. For example, forest managers are required to be FSC certified or actively seeking FSC certification. To achieve [FSC certification](#), you must adhere to [ten rules](#) that cover the essentials of responsible forest management. These rules are outlined in the Principles and Criteria of the FSC Australia Forest Management Standard (FSC-AUS-FM-2018) and are consistently applied worldwide, across all ecosystems and cultural, political, and legal systems, with specific guidance provided for local interpretation.

To assess whether you satisfy these criteria, the Board requires specific documentation to be provided with your application form. We have provided the criteria and documentation requirements for each category of membership FSC Australia in the tables below. You can use this guide as a checklist in preparing your application.

4. Proposer and Secunder

Your application for membership must be proposed and seconded by existing members of FSC Australia. There is space on the application form to name the proposer and seconder, however if you do not know any current members willing to support your application, you may leave this section blank.

Applications are assessed by a sub-committee of the Board, who provide a recommendation to the Board as to whether your application should be accepted. Members of the sub-committee may nominate and second your application if it is to be recommended for acceptance.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Economic Chamber

Membership of the Economic chamber is open to persons or organisations that principally have a commercial interest in forests, the production of forest products or the activities of FSC and that have demonstrated **active commitment to implementing or promoting the FSC Principles and Criteria** for responsible forest management.

Prospective members must meet the following minimum criteria; however the ultimate test is that the FSCA Board is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated a genuine, substantive and ongoing active commitment to the Principles and Criteria.

Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
(A) Forest/plantation management and forest/plantation product companies;	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST EITHER:</p> <p>a) have obtained FSC certification for a significant part of their operations (relative to the company’s total production forest estate, plantation estate and/or product lines, as relevant), or</p> <p>b) be in the process of obtaining FSC certification. Companies relying on this criterion must obtain certification within a reasonable timeframe (normally no more than two years from the date of acceptance as a member). Companies that fail to obtain certification within what the Board considers to be a reasonable timeframe will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the company’s commercial activities <input type="checkbox"/> Forest management companies: summary of the company’s forest/plantation estate including location(s), area(s), harvested species, management system <input type="checkbox"/> Forest product companies: details of the company’s forest product sources <input type="checkbox"/> Certified companies: list of certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Non-certified companies: evidence of current active pursuit of certification such as contact with a certification body, company 	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
	<p>have their membership suspended or cancelled.</p> <p>AND FURTHERMORE:</p> <p>The Board must be satisfied that any non-certified part of the company's operations:</p> <p>a) are of a standard that would not damage the reputation of FSC by association (in the case of forest managers, this means that any uncertified portions of the estate must meet controlled wood standards), and</p> <p>b) will become certified within a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>NB - This means that partial certification will not qualify forest management or forest product companies for membership indefinitely: full certification is expected within a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>The Board reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule where full certification is impractical and continued association with the company</p>	<p>policy etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Partially certified companies must explain why part of their operations remain uncertified, why association with their non-certified operations would pose no risk to the reputation of FSC and provide evidence of an active commitment to obtain certification for their entire operation <input type="checkbox"/> Identity of current Directors, parent company and other relevant commercial relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report (or equivalent) <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential</p>	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
	poses minimal risk to the reputation of FSC.		
(B) Certification bodies;	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST EITHER:</p> <p>a) be accredited by Accreditation Services International as an FSC certification body, or</p> <p>b) be in the process of becoming accredited by Accreditation Services International as an FSC certification body. Certification bodies relying on this criterion must obtain accreditation within a reasonable timeframe (normally no more than one year from the date of acceptance as a member). Certification bodies that fail to obtain accreditation within what the Board considers to be a reasonable timeframe will have their membership suspended or cancelled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the company’s commercial activities (including location of offices, scope of certification services etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Identity of current Directors, parent company and other relevant commercial relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report (or equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of accreditation or the pursuit of accreditation <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential</p>	
(C) Industry associations (whether for profit or not-for-profit);	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST:</p> <p>a) support FSC certification of member groups and/or the industry as a whole in current policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current policies in relation to certification <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of members 	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential</p>	
(D-i) Wholesalers, retailers and traders	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST EITHER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have obtained FSC chain of custody certification, or b) be in the process of obtaining FSC chain of custody certification. Companies relying on this criterion must obtain certification within a reasonable timeframe (normally no more than one year from the date of acceptance as a member). Companies that fail to obtain certification within what the Board considers to be a reasonable timeframe will have their membership suspended or cancelled. <p>AND FURTHERMORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) have made a commitment to have a significant percentage of their forest product sales in FSC certified products by a set date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the company’s commercial activities, including sources of forest products <input type="checkbox"/> Certified companies: list of certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Non-certified companies: evidence of current active pursuit of certification such as contact with a certification body, company policy etc <input type="checkbox"/> Identity of current Directors, parent company and other relevant commercial relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report (or equivalent) <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential</p>	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
	in the reasonable future.		
(D-ii) End-user and consulting companies;	<p>There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>Examples of how this active commitment may be demonstrated include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) purchasing policy that specifies a preference for FSC certified products b) educational and/or promotional activities on the value of FSC certification c) participation in the FSC system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the company's commercial activities <input type="checkbox"/> Identity of current Directors, parent company and other relevant commercial relationships. <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report (or equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential.</p>	
(E) Academics and researchers whose primary interest relates to commercial activities associated with forests, production of forest products or the selling of	<p>There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of institution's operations (number of staff, research focus, publications etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of present and recent employment / research situation and any relevant professional

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
forest products;		and Criteria	associations <input type="checkbox"/> List of published works <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria
Other	There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.	Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.	Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria

Environmental Chamber

Membership of the Environmental chamber is open to persons or organisations who principally have an environmental interest in forests, the production of forest products or the activities of FSC and that have demonstrated **active commitment to implementing or promoting the FSC Principles and Criteria for responsible forest management.**

Prospective members must meet the following minimum criteria; however the ultimate test is that the Board is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated a genuine, substantive and ongoing active commitment to the Principles and Criteria.

Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required - organisations	Documentation required – individuals
(A) not-for-profit, non-government environmental organisations whose principal purpose is protection, preservation or conservation of the natural environment;	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST:</p> <p>a) support FSC certification in current policies; and</p> <p>b) satisfy the Board that they are a genuine environmental organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current policies in relation to certification <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of members (if relevant); <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> Two referees from (separate) non-profit community organisations, preferably 	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required - organisations	Documentation required – individuals
		existing FSC members NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential	
(B) not-for-profit, non-government organisations whose principal interest is to promote or represent activities (such as bird watching or bush walking) and whose principal interest in FSC is the protection, preservation or conservation of the natural environment;	There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria. Examples of how this active commitment may be demonstrated include: a) support for FSC certification in current policies b) purchasing policy that specifies a preference for FSC certified products c) educational and/or promotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of members (if relevant); <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required - organisations	Documentation required – individuals
	<p>activities on the value of FSC certification</p> <p>d) participation in the FSC system</p>	confidential	
(C) academics and researchers whose primary interest relates to the protection, preservation or conservation of the natural environment;	There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of institution's operations (number of staff, research focus, publications etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of present and recent employment / research situation and any relevant professional associations <input type="checkbox"/> List of published works <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria
Other	There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.	Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria	

Social Chamber

Membership of the Economic chamber is open to persons or organisations that principally have a social or community interest in forests, the production of forest products or the activities of FSC and have demonstrated **active commitment to implementing or promoting the FSC Principles and Criteria for responsible forest management.**

Prospective members must meet the following minimum criteria; however the ultimate test is that the Board is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated a genuine, substantive and ongoing active commitment to the Principles and Criteria.

Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
(A) not-for-profit, non-government organisations of forest community organisations or community forest organisations;	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST:</p> <p>a) support FSC certification in current policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current policies in relation to certification <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of members (if relevant); <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential</p>	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
(B) organisations of indigenous people;	<p>There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>Examples of how this active commitment may be demonstrated include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support for FSC certification in current policies b) purchasing policy that specifies a preference for FSC certified products c) educational and/or promotional activities on the value of FSC certification d) participation in the FSC system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of members (if relevant); <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria <p>NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential</p>	
(C) trade unions and other organisations representing forest workers, workers fabricating or producing forest products or using forest products;	<p>PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support FSC certification in current policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current policies in relation to certification <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of 	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
		members (if relevant); <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential	
(D) other not for profit, non-government organisations whose principal interest is the social benefits of forests;	PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST: a) support FSC certification in current policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Current policies in relation to certification <input type="checkbox"/> Rules/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited annual report <input type="checkbox"/> Any publicly available list of members (if relevant); <input type="checkbox"/> List of current Directors (or equivalent) NB - at the request of the prospective member, the Board may treat financial information from the prospective member as confidential	

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Type of Interest	Mandatory criteria	Documentation required – organisations	Documentation required – individuals
(E) academics and researchers whose primary interest is social issues associated with forest management	There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of institution’s operations (number of staff, research focus, publications etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of present and recent employment / research situation and any relevant professional associations <input type="checkbox"/> List of published works <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria
Other	There are no specific mandatory criteria for prospective members in this category, however applicants must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria.	Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria	Evidence of active commitment to implementing or promoting the Principles and Criteria