

Request to register a revision of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN *The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia*

1. Background

FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN *The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Australia* was approved on 10 November 2018.

FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 EN *Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards* requires FSC ANZ to compile a review report on 'all the comments on the standard; changes to associated elements of the FSC system; as well as external circumstances and the continued relevance of the standard' within three years (clause 12.3). We are required to submit the review report to PSU within three years of the standard's approval and to register a revision process, if required (clause 12.4).

To this end, this document briefly summarises the FSC ANZ Board of Directors' decision regarding the need for a revision of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN. This decision was based on a comprehensive review of the standard, the results of which are described in three separate documents:

- *Changes to Associated Elements of the FSC System Review* which provides a comprehensive review of all relevant changes to the FSC normative framework since FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN was produced.
- *Standard Users' and Members' Feedback Review* which summarises solicited and unsolicited input provided to us by standard users, certification bodies and FSC ANZ members regarding the performance of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN.
- *External Circumstances and the Continued Relevance of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN Review* which provides an analysis of the external circumstances and changes in public perceptions.

These documents have been provided to PSU separately.

The following three sections summarise the findings of the individual reports and the FSC ANZ Board's decision regarding the need for a revision of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN based on these sub-parts, while the final section summarises the FSC ANZ Board's decision regarding the need for a revision of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN.

2. Changes to Associated Elements of the FSC System

There have been a number of developments in the FSC normative framework since FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN was produced, which we are required to incorporate into the standard, most notably changes in FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 EN *International Generic Indicators*; the revision of FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 EN *FSC Pesticides Policy*; and the publication of

interpretation INT-FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN. Further, a number of additional changes to the are expected to come into effect during the rest of the standard's effective period.

On this basis, the FSC ANZ Board has decided that FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN should be revised to incorporate relevant developments in the FSC normative framework since FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN was produced. Namely:

- The incorporation of all relevant new or revised International Generic Indicators in the scope of the revision. Similarly, the scope should include relevant changes to the normative framework published before or during the revision.
- Bringing Integrated Pest Management and pesticide requirements in line with the environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA) framework requirements for certificate holders in the FSC Pesticides Policy (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 EN, clauses 4.12 and 4.13) if the HHP IGIs are not published in time.
- The incorporation of interpretation INT-FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN.
- An invitation to the Standards Development Group to consider if it wishes to incorporate a risk-based approach into the revised standard.

3. Standard Users' and FSC ANZ Members' Feedback

Standard users and the FSC ANZ Board and membership have identified a number of essential revisions required to ensure the continued relevance of the standard, most notably the inclusion of non-timber forest product in the scope of the standard and addressing potentially conflicting requirements in Principles 1 and 2.

On this basis, the FSC ANZ Board has decided that FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN should be revised to incorporate relevant improvements identified by standard users and the FSC ANZ Board and membership. Namely:

- The incorporation of non-timber forest products into the scope of the standard.
- Addressing potentially conflicting requirements in Principles 1 and 2 if these are not resolved by the incorporation of the new International Generic Indicators regarding the principles of the ILO Core Labour Conventions.
- A requirement that the Standards Development Group reviews all input provided to FSC ANZ's survey to assess whether it will be addressed by the changes mandated in the scope of the revision. For those issues that are not covered by the scope of the revision, the Standards Development Group shall provide a report to the Board where it addresses all remaining issues and either argues why the scope of the revision should be expanded to encompass the individual issues, or why individual issues should not be addressed in the revision.
- A revision of the definition of 'Best Available Information' to better include traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous cultural practices through reasonable effort and cost by the certified organisation.

4. Changes in the External Circumstances and the Continued Relevance of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN

The FSC ANZ Board has identified climate change and the concomitant issue of bushfires as two cross-cutting priority. To better promote responsible forest management in the face of these challenges and to ensure the standard remains fit for purpose and continues to meet

public expectations, the FSC ANZ Board has decided that the revision must include an evaluation of how climate change and bushfire adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as post-catastrophic disturbance options can be supported by the existing framework of FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 to help promote responsible forest management in the face of these challenges.

5. Revision Decision

On this basis, the FSC ANZ Board has unanimously decided to register a revision process to incorporate the issues identified by the Board into FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN.

Further, to ensure a smooth, focussed and swift revision process, the FSC ANZ Board has decided that the revision will be a targeted revision where the necessary revisions identified by the Board constitute the scope of the revision.

Where the Standards Development Group identifies additional essential revisions, it can propose to the Board that the scope of the revision is expanded to encompass these improvements.

The two cross-cutting priority issues will by their very nature require revisions across numerous Principles and Criteria, but revisions prompted by the priority issues will be strictly limited to measures that promote responsible forest management in the face of a changing climate and potentially more frequently occurring bushfires.