



FSC Australia
Melbourne Policy Consultation Forum
7th November 2013

Book your place: <http://www.trybooking.com/DTNQ>

Where: Hilton on the Park Hotel • 192 Wellington Parade, Melbourne, VIC, 3000

This year's FSC Policy Forum will take place on the 7th of November at the Hilton on the Park, Melbourne. This Forum is significant as it occurs during an especially dynamic period for FSC's standards and policy both here in Australia, and globally as well. The policy forum gives members and stakeholders an opportunity to learn about upcoming changes and find out how they can engage in the policy process.

Some of the policy areas to be covered in the forum:

International Generic Indicators:

FSC International is preparing to release the second draft of the International Generic Indicators (IGIs). The IGIs will form the basis for all national and regional FSC Forest Management Standards.

The Australian FSC National Forestry Standard:

After several years of planning and we are now underway with the development of the Australian National Forestry Standard. During October we appointed the Standards Development Group (SDG) who will be guiding the process and developing the standard with input from members, stakeholders and experts.

Controlled Wood:

Controlled Wood is a sometimes misunderstood area of FSC's policy and standards. It is currently undergoing a significant revision and draft changes are currently out for public consultation. We will hear from FSC International about the background behind the revision and the future direction of Controlled Wood, which will involve substantial efforts to strengthen the requirements.



The future of policy and standards at FSC Australia:

FSC Australia is in the early stages of building its capacity and strategy as a hub for FSC policy advice, interpretation and discussion and would like to hear from stakeholders and members about what they would like to see from our organisation and what issues they would like to see better representation and discussion on in the future.

Morning Session 9:00am

1. **Overview of 12 months of FSC Policy and Standards** – 2012 has been a big year for moving the FSC system forward here in Australia as well as globally. The policy forum will kick off with an overview of the past 12 months and some insight into the next 12 months
2. **Moving from Principles and Criteria v4 to v5** – The shift from Principles and Criteria Version 4 to Version 5 represents a significant update of the FSC's policy and standards core. What does this entail and what does it mean for Australia?
3. **International Generic Indicators update**

In this session participants will be provided with an update on what the IGIs are, the feedback that was provided and how that is intended to be addressed. We may have version 2 of the IGIs by the date of the Policy Forum to share with you, depending on the timing of release.

FSC Australia members need to be alive to the IGIs, they are the foundation, or second rung in the ladder for our FSC Australian National Forestry Standard to have reference to.

Short Break - 10:30

Morning Session 2 - 10:45

4. **The FSC Australian National Forestry Standard**
 - a. **Broader Context** – The various international and domestic factors affecting the planning and timing of the National Standards Development process.
 - b. **Presentation of Standards Development Group (SDG)** – The chamber-balanced SDG will be responsible for the content and drafting of the FSC ANFS. The FSC Australia Board and FSC International Policy & Standards Unit will provide oversight on all phases of both processes until their final approval by the FSC Australia Board of Directors and FSC International.
 - c. **The Consultative Forum** – The role of the Consultative Forum is to ensure that all stakeholders who may be affected by or have an interest in the FSC ANFS have the opportunity to formally provide input during the process. The Consultative Forum includes individuals and representatives of organisations, reflecting the full range of stakeholders affected.
 - d. **Technical Experts** – Experts will be required for input into various areas of the standard. Such as indigenous issues, pesticides and domestic legal frameworks.

In this session participants can expect to become familiar with the processes and



importantly, why those processes must be in place. It is to ensure the development of a consensus based and robust standard that takes into account the views of all. You can meet the SDG and input into how consultation will occur, within the parameters of the requirements contained in the international standards.

Lunch - 12:30

Afternoon Session 1 - 1:30pm

5. **The future of FSC Australia's policy and standards work** - Can we move FSC Australia towards being the leading hub for policy and standards support in FSC certification and play a role in wider technical discussions in sustainable forestry?
 - a. A future role for FSC Australia.
 - b. Example issue areas:
 - i. Plantation reversion
 - ii. Pesticides
 - iii. Indigenous certification and participation
 - c. Next steps.

Afternoon Tea - 3:30

Afternoon Session 2 - 3:45

6. **Controlled Wood** - Controlled Wood exists in the FSC system to ensure FSC supply chains do not include timber from unacceptable sources. It is also intended as stepping stone to full certification. It is undergoing a significant revision. Why the change and where is going?
7. **International Project Developments** - Natalie Reynolds will speak to significant developments occurring international including:
 - Online Claims Platform
 - ForCES Project (Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services)
 - Theory of Change

Close - 5:00 pm

This forum is followed by our Annual Excellence Awards

The awards are open to Organisations and Individuals in Australia who are committed to being involved in the FSC system; creating a marketplace that promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

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