

Public Statement on the FSC Certification Evaluation of Forestry Tasmania

29 December 2014

As addressed in prior public announcements, SCS Global Services, Inc. (SCS) has been engaged by Forestry Tasmania (FT) to undertake an evaluation of FT's forest management operations against the SCS *Interim Standard for Natural Forest and Plantation Forest Management Certification in Australia under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)* as well as the *FSC Controlled Wood Standard, FSC-STD-30-010*. A preliminary assessment of FT's operations against these standards was conducted in early April, 2014.

The full certification evaluation was initiated in October 2014 with the field component, including extensive stakeholder consultations, occurring during the weeks of November 24th, December 1st and December 8th. The evaluation is being undertaken by a 4-person team comprised of three Australian/New Zealand forest science experts (Dr. Hugh Stewart, Dr. Rod Kavanagh and Mr. Graeme Lee) and the Lead Auditor, Dr. Robert J. Hrubes, SCS Global's Executive Vice-President. The field component of the process ended on December 9th.

The findings from the audit are presently being written by the audit team and will be conveyed to FT in early January, 2015. Given the nature of the conformity assessment process, the audit team may raise three possible types of findings: Major Non-Conformities, Minor Non-Conformities and Observations. A full certification evaluation report will be conveyed to FT in mid to late February, 2015.

Per FSC protocols, SCS Global Services and its auditors will not respond to inquiries or make public comment about the nature and details of the findings resulting from the FT audit process. The results of the audit team's assessment of FT's conformity to the FSC/SCS Interim Standard for Forest Stewardship as well as the FSC Controlled Wood Standard will be made publicly available only in the event that FT were to achieve certification.

More information about FSC and the certification process can be found at <https://ic.fsc.org/>, <http://au.fsc.org/> and <https://ic.fsc.org/3-steps-to-certification.36.htm>.