



Public Briefing Paper for

**FSC Forest Management Controlled Wood
Annual Audit 2012 of
Gunns Ltd**

February 10, 2012

Introduction - The Rainforest Alliance is conducting the FM Controlled Wood Annual Audit 2012 of Gunns Ltd. The forest area under the scope of this certificate (SW-CW/FM-005365) is located in Western Australia (Albany area) and Green Triangle (SA and Victoria), with a total area of approximately 195.000 has.

At this Annual Audit 2012, the audit team will visit a sample of sites in Western Australia state from the **12th to the 16th of March of 2012.**

The purpose of the Audit will be to assess the ability of Gunns Ltd to supply controlled wood as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the *FSC standard for forest management enterprises supplying non FSC-certified controlled wood (FSC-STD-30-010, version 2-0)*. The intent of this standard is to allow forest management enterprises to supply FSC Controlled Wood to FSC chain-of-custody certified operations for mixing with FSC certified materials in production of FSC mixed products.

Scope - Continued compliance with the specified controlled wood Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for forest management enterprises supplying non FSC-certified controlled wood (FSC-STD-30-010, version 2-0) allows forest management enterprises (FMEs) to provide evidence that the wood they supply has been controlled to avoid wood from the five controversial categories defined by FSC. Controversial categories include wood that is:

- 1) Illegally harvested;
- 2) Harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights;
- 3) Harvested in forest management units in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities;
- 4) Harvested in areas in which forests are being converted to plantations or non-forest use; or
- 5) Harvested from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

FSC-STD-30-010 v2-0 provides the basic requirements at the forest management unit level to demonstrate that wood from the FME's forest area(s) is controlled. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact Rainforest Alliance by telephone, fax, email or website listed below. SmartWood program of the Rainforest

Alliance is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and this audit process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. Rainforest Alliance evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders

Audit Team Composition - The audit team will be led by Mr. Addis Tsehay, (PhD & MSc Forestry) and will also include Chris Weston (BSc PhD Botany).

Audit Steps and Schedule - Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Audit organization – The SmartWood team will assemble at the Albany office, on the 12th of March 2012.
- ◆ Field visits – The team will visit sites managed by Gunns Ltd during the 12st to 16th of March, 2012
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Gunns Ltd, forest management in towns surrounding the forest area. This may include private interviews and discussions, and stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Final audit briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Gunns Ltd managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The audit team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Gunns Ltd and a minimum of two SW reviewers.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the FM CW certification process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Gunns Limited forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management CW standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the audit process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the audit, during the audit, so that we can take them into consideration. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a SmartWood audit team member during or shortly after the fieldwork. Please, contact SmartWood Task Manager Maria R Gismero, the SmartWood person responsible for coordinating this audit from Asia Pacific Regional Office, for arrangements.
2. Call and give comments to Anita Neville, Representative and Communications Advisor for the Rainforest Alliance in Australia. If this person is not in the office, please contact SW Task Manager, Maria R Gismero.
3. Submit written comments by mail, fax or email to Anita Neville. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Gunns Ltd.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and SmartWood staff. Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access SmartWood's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at www.rainforest-allaince.org.

Contacting Rainforest Alliance

- ◆ Email: aneville.consultant@ra.org for Representative and Communications Advisor for the Rainforest Alliance in Australia
- ◆ Email: mgismero.consultant@ra.org for Australia FM Task Manager
- ◆ Telephone: Anita Neville: +61 (0) 431 913 214
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