



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

Public Briefing Paper for Forest Management Certification Pre-assessment of Gunns Limited, Australia June 11, 2010

Introduction - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting a forest management certification pre-assessment of Gunns Limited located in Australia. The most intensive part of pre-assessment field work for selected region(s) will be implemented from 12 to 16 July, 2010. Consultation has already begun with some parties (as of June 11, 2010) and will continue before, during and after the field work - prior to completion of a draft report.

Purpose of the Pre-assessment – The main objective of the pre-assessment is to provide Gunns Limited with an analysis of its conformance with the FSC standards for Forest Management and to evaluate the ability of the company 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 pre-assessment also enables SmartWood to familiarize itself with Gunns and major forest stewardship issues in the region.

Scope of the Certification Pre-assessment – The forest management certification pre-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest plantations managed by Gunns Limited in selected region(s), using the SmartWood Interim Standards for Australia version June 2008 and FSC standard for forest management enterprises supplying non FSC-certified controlled wood (FSC-STD-30-010, version 2-0).

The forest area under the scope of Gunns Limited FSC pre-assessment is located across Australia including Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria with the total area of approximately 429,250 hectares. This consists of approx. 316,000 hectares of plantations (*Eucalyptus nitens*, *E. globulus* and *Pinus radiata*), with the balance consisting of natural forests (productive, non-productive and reserved).

To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact SmartWood by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and this pre-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Preassessment Team Composition – The pre-assessment team will be led by Keith Moore (SmartWood Lead Auditor). The other team member will be Graham Lea (SmartWood FM Country Representative for Australia). The team will be partially complemented by Richard Donovan (Senior Vice President Forestry) and Irwan Gunawan (Forestry Services Manager) in view of stakeholders' consultations.

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

- ◆ Pre-assessment organization – The SmartWood team will assemble in Launceston, Tasmania on July 12, 2010.
- ◆ Field pre-assessments – The team will visit sites from July 12 to 16, 2010.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding forest management, and this will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Final pre-assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Gunns Limited's managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The pre-assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be provided to Gunns Limited. This will occur 30 days after completion of the pre-assessment field work.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification pre-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Gunns Limited forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management 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 pre-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the pre-assessment, during the pre-assessment, or prior to July 31, 2010 so that we can take them into consideration. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a SmartWood pre-assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to either Graham Lea (SmartWood FM country representative for Australia) or to Irwan Gunawan or Indu Bikal Sapkota, the SmartWood staff person responsible for coordinating this certification pre-assessment from Asia Pacific Regional Office.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Indu Sapkota. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Gunns Limited.

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 dispute resolution procedures at www.smartwood.org.

Contacting SmartWood

Attn: **Graham Lea**

SmartWood FM country representative for Australia/Audit team member

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SmartWood Asia Pacific Regional Office

Attn: **Irwan Gunawan** and **Indu Bikal Sapkota**

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