

## FSC Forest Management Audit

### Public Summary Report

Audit Conducted By	SCS Global Services 2000 Powell Street Ste. 600  Emeryville CA 94608 United States of America <a href="http://www.scsglobalservices.com">www.scsglobalservices.com</a>
Contact Person	Brendan Grady
Report last updated on	14 April 2025
Certificate Holder	Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd World Trade Centre, Tower 4, Level 12 18 - 38 Siddeley St Melbourne Victoria 3005 Australia <a href="http://www.hvp.com.au">www.hvp.com.au</a>
Contact Person	Rod Lewis
Certified Forest Areas	Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd
FSC certificate registration code	SCS-FM/COC-007709
Certificate issue date	10 January 2024
Certificate expiry date	09 January 2029
Audit Sequence	Surveillance

This forest has been certified by SCS Global Services as meeting the requirements of FSC national forest standard FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN .

# Certificate Holder and Certification Body Details

Question	Inputs
<b>Certificate Holder</b>	
1.01 Certificate holder name *	Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd
1.02.1 Street Address *	World Trade Centre, Tower 4, Level 12
1.02.2 Address Line 2	18 - 38 Siddeley St
1.02.3 City *	Melbourne
1.02.4 State or Province	Victoria
1.02.5 Postal Code	3005
1.03 Country *	Australia
1.04 Contact person full name *	Rod Lewis
1.05 Email *	rod.lewis@hvp.com.au
1.06 Telephone	
1.07 Website *	www.hvp.com.au
<b>Certificate Parameters</b>	
1.08 FSC licence code *	FSC-C014387
1.09 Certificate code *	SCS-FM/COC-007709
1.10 Former certificate code (if any)	
1.11 Certificate type *	FM/COC
1.12 Group certificate *	No
1.13.1 Initial certification date *	2004-02-10
1.13.2 Most recent certification date *	2024-01-10
1.13.3 Certificate expiry date *	2029-01-09
1.14 Total number of MUs in the scope of certificate *	1
1.15 Total area certified *	239,976.0 ha
1.16 Change of scope since previous audit *	Yes
1.16.1 Nature of scope change	1848 ha additional forest area, due to 2049 ha acquisitions and -201 ha for remapping and land use change
1.17 Ecosystem services (ES) in the scope *	No
1.25 Name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)	Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd
<b>Certification Body</b>	
1.18 Certification body name *	SCS Global Services
1.19.1 Street Address *	2000 Powell Street Ste. 600
1.19.2 Address Line 2	
1.19.3 City *	Emeryville
1.19.4 State	CA
1.19.5 Postal Code	94608
1.20 Country *	United States of America
1.21 Contact person full name *	Brendan Grady
1.22 Email *	bgrady@scsglobalservices.com
1.23 Telephone	+1.510.452.8000
1.24 Website *	www.scsglobalservices.com

## The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
<b>Audit Parameters</b>	
2.01 Audit type *	Surveillance
2.01.1 Audit sequence	Surveillance
2.02 Audit start date *	2024-11-25
2.16 First stakeholder consultation date for this audit	
2.03 Audit finish date *	2025-02-20
2.04 Total person days *	9.0
2.05 Date of report *	2025-03-10
2.06 Total area under evaluation *	239,976.0 ha
<b>Normative Documents</b>	
<b>2.07 Evaluated international normative document(s)</b>	
2.07.1 Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 *	Yes
2.07.2 Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 *	No
2.07.3 CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 *	No
2.07.4 ES procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 *	No
2.07.5 Excision Policy FSC-POL-20-003 *	Yes
2.07.6 Pesticides Policy FSC-POL-30-001 *	Yes
2.07.7 Applicable NTFP Standard *	No
2.07.8 CIP FSC PRO 30-011 *	No
2.08 Code(s) of NFSS or INS used *	FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 EN
2.09 Web link to the standard used	<a href="https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/263">https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/263</a>
2.10 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard	

## The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
<b>Certification Decision</b>	
<b>2.20 Conditions (corrections of minor non-conformities) or pre-conditions (corrections of major non-conformities) associated with the certification decision</b>	
2.20.1 No specific condition *	NA
2.20.2 Correction of minor NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.3 Correction of major NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.4 Correction of the pre-conditions to certification identified *	NA
2.20.5 Other	
<b>2.21 Lead auditor opinion</b>	
2.21.1 The certificate holder's system of management, if implemented as described, is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation. *	NA
2.21.2 The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to correction of the identified non-conformities, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate. *	Yes
<b>2.22 Auditor recommendation for the certificate holder's management system and performance</b>	
2.22.1 A certificate can only be issued/reissued/maintained when all identified Major CARs are closed *	NA
2.22.2 The FM system of the evaluated enterprise does not comply with the provisions and standards of FSC. Due to the number of identified major non-compliances the auditors recommend the immediate suspension of the certificate *	NA
2.23 Certification decision *	Maintain
2.24 Decision detail	
2.25 Decision date *	2025-03-10
2.26 Decision making entity *	SCS Global Services

**Audit itinerary**

4.01 Audit Itinerary Item	4.02 Hours	4.03 MUs or members	4.04 Activities	4.05 Site detail	Type of Site															
					4.06 1 Other	4.06 2 Subcontractors	4.06 3 Heavy	4.06 4 Prohibit area	4.06 5 Prohibitor used area	4.06 6 Prohibitor emissions	4.06 7 Area used to store or transport fuel	4.06 8 Materials	4.06 9 Power lines	4.06 10 Chemical storage	4.06 11 FSCs	4.06 12 Logging area	4.06 13 Logging line	4.06 14 Plantation area	4.06 15 Mobile equipment	4.06 16 Other - please specify
2024-11-25	8.00	HVP	Opening meeting, company overview, CAR review/discuss, staff interviews and document review re Criteria 2.3 and Principle 7.	Melbourne Office	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
2024-11-26	8.00	HVP	Interviews with koala spotter/supervisors/contractors re koala management, site hazards, powerlines and telecom lines, cultural heritage sites, custodial land, neighbour communications, comes with HVP, contract rates and length of contract, contractor management, working alone	Boolia forest, McColis Rd, Coupe E17995, Bluegum (deadfell) harvest, koala management Boolia Forest, W4 Track, rd verge, Boolia Forest E9, Site Prep Boolia Forest Toongabie, planting on failed plantation area	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
2024-11-27	8.00	HVP	Interviews with crew/supervisors/contractors re site hazards, water and soil management powerlines and telecom lines, cultural heritage sites, custodial land, neighbour communications, comes with HVP, contract rates and length of contract, contractor management, Chemical store review of on-site chemicals, SDS's and chemical register, emergency equipment, fire equipment	Glencoe Forest, Bertams, pine 2nd production thinning Glencoe Forest, Saxtons, pine ground based, deadfell Carrington Forest - Cummings Track, Pine deadfell, tethered harvesting Flynn Chemical and Fire Store	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
2024-11-28	8.00	HVP	Staff interviews and document review re Criteria 4.4, 4.5, 6.4, 6.6, 6.10, 9.1, 9.4 and Principle 10.	Gippsland Office, Churchill	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
2024-11-29	8.00	HVP	Staff interviews and document review re Principle 1, Audit Summary and CAR review, Closing meeting.	Melbourne Office	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
2025-02-18	1.00	NA	Update to FSC, confidentiality, review scope of complaint	Meeting with FSC-ANZ Representative																
2025-02-19	2.00	Stakeholders	Intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality, review scope of complaint and evaluation methods	Meeting with Stakeholders. In-person On-site adjacent to MU.																
2025-02-19	3.00	HVP	Evaluate management system planning and implementation, Complaint investigation review	On-site Fellas Coupe				Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			
2025-02-20	1.00	South Gippsland Shire council	Introductions, intro to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality, review scope of complaint, evaluation methods	Meeting with South Gippsland Shire council																
2025-02-20	2.00	HVP	Planning documents and GS review, staff interviews	Churchill HVP Office	Yes															
2025-02-21	3.00	SCS Technical team	Discuss site visit details and stakeholder meetings with SCS technical team.		Yes															

# Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
<b>Forest Area</b>	
5.02 Brief description of any area of forest over which the certificate holder has some responsibility, whether as owner (including shared or partial ownership), manager, consultant or other responsibility) which the certificate holder has chosen to exclude from the scope of the certificate, together with an explanation of the reason.	<p>The Cowwar Nursery in Gippsland at 25 hectares and the Gelliondale Nursery in the Western Region at 191 hectares are both excluded from the scope of certification as there is no market requirement for certified seedlings exists.</p> <p>Leased land under share farming arrangements are excluded from the certificate scope, only 6 farms/207 ha are still in operation.</p>
<b>5.03 Area of forest owned/managed but excluded from MUs in the scope of certification</b>	
5.03.1 According to FSC-POL-20-003 *	0.0 ha
5.03.2 Other reasons *	0.0 ha
<b>Forest Workers</b>	
<b>Impacted Parties</b>	

# Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
<b>Environmental Values</b>	
5.20 Description of environmental safeguards	Buffers are implemented to minimise impacts from harvesting disturbance to flora, fauna, water, fire, recreation, aesthetics, and residential and community areas.

# Management Units

Area Units: ha

7.01 MU name *	7.02 Forest zone *	7.03 SLIMF type *	7.04 Tenure-ownership *	7.05 Tenure-management *	7.06 Centroid Latitude *	7.07 Centroid Longitude *	7.08 Total production forest area *	7.09 Total non-production forest area *	7.10 Total area of MU *
<b>Number of Valid Entries:</b>					<b>Area Totals</b>		<b>172,967.00</b>	<b>67,009.00</b>	<b>239,976.00</b>
	1								
HVP	Temperate	Non-SLIMF	Private	Private	-37.01370700	144.84805100	172,967.00	67,009.00	239,976.00

## Main commercial timber species included in scope of the certificate

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name	8.05 Remarks
Pinus radiata	W1.1 Roundwood (logs	radiata pine	
Pinus radiata	W3.1 Wood chips	radiata pine	
Eucalyptus globulus	W3.1 Wood chips	Tasmanian Blue Gum	Includes Eucalyptus regnans, Eucalyptus smithii

## Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01 Active ingredient *	10.02 Restriction	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA *
glyphosate	Restricted	9,650.0 ha	weed control, firebreak maintenance	17,981.0 litres	Control of certain annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds. Primarily ground based spot and boom application.
clopyralid	Unrestricted	6,053.0 ha	weed control	5,330.0 litres	Med/High risk on aquaculture and horticulture = extend buffers. Volume of herbicide used may be reduced with good pre plant weed control followed by brushcutting post plant.
hexazinone	Unrestricted	1,495.0 ha	weed control	2.1 metric tonnes	Foliar contact and residual herbicide for woody weeds, spot spray application among pine trees.
metsulfuron	Unrestricted	11,814.0 ha	weed control	1.0 metric tonnes	Pre-plant residual weed control. Control of broadleaf and woody weeds including blackberry, gorse and bracken. Often used in conjunction with other herbicides. Spot spray application.
picloram	Unrestricted	548.0 ha	weed control	164.0 litres	Dicotyledon specific persistent herbicide use to control woody weeds including gorse, blackberry and St John's wort. Spot spray application.
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	3,038.0 ha	weed control	2,819.0 litres	Low toxicity herbicide for control of woody weeds, usually spot or boom spray application.
sulfometuron	Unrestricted	7,700.0 ha	weed control	0.3 metric tonnes	Selective herbicide for control of annual and perennial weeds pre and post planting in radiata plantations, applied with spot and boom application.
haloxyfop	Unrestricted	1,506.0 ha	weed control	627.0 litres	Selective herbicide for control of annual and perennial weeds post planting in radiata plantations, applied with spot and boom application.
oxyfluorfen	Restricted	2,633.0 ha	weed control	1,423.0 litres	Post emergent contact herbicide, spot application for target species of weeds.

# Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.28 Description of the forest	HVP Plantations estate is situated across areas of southern Victoria, extending from Gippsland in the east to the border with South Australia in the west and large plantations in the north east of the state. The total area of land managed by HVP equates nearly 240,000 ha. About 165,000ha of this land is pine and eucalypt plantation.
11.29 Description of the management system	HVP grows predominantly Radiata Pine on its estate with around two thirds of the estate being softwood. The remaining portion of the estate is Tasmanian Blue Gum that is progressively being clearfelled and replace with Radiata Pine, which has superior growth rates and is suited to local sawmill markets. Managed on a 30 year rotation, pines are thinned at approximately age 12 to a desired stocking of 600 stems per hectare, producing mostly pulpwood at this age. A second thinning is scheduled around age 18-22 that will produce small sawlogs and a portion of pulpwood. A final clear fell harvest at around age 30 produces a high proportion of high value sawlogs for local markets.
11.01 Legislative, administrative and land use context of the forest operation	Freehold land is held under Title, remainder of estate within the FSC certificate scope is granted legal tenure under the Victorian Plantations Corporations Act 1993.
11.02 Roles of responsible government agencies involved in aspects of forest management	The Victorian State Government department known as VicRoads regulates and audits the heavy vehicle accreditation program that regulates the use of overmass vehicles (prime movers towing multiple trailers). All HVP haulage contractors are required to achieve and maintain heavy vehicle accreditation. Each Local Government Authority publishes an Annual Firebreak Notice regarding fire break installation and maintenance for the summer season and other bushfire risk mitigation standards. As its plantation estate covers numerous local government areas, HVP abides by varying standards according to local bylaws. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) regulates water resources including streams that may flow through the plantation estate. HVP abides by water management guidelines and native forest clearing regulations across its land estate. The Department also housed the fire organisation Fire Management Victoria (FMV). HVP works in collaboration with FMV to achieve fuel reduction and bushfire response on HVP estate and the neighbouring State forests. First Peoples - State Relations maintains a Register of Sites that records the details of sites of importance to Indigenous people. HVP consults the register to ensure protection of Indigenous sites near, or on, company land and that may be impacted by its operations including haulage. DEECA is also responsible for the road and track network throughout State forests. HVP sometimes uses DEECA managed roads to haul its harvested material from plantations to join major public roads.
11.03 Ownership and use-rights (both legal and customary) of lands and forest of external parties other than the certificate holder	Legal ownership and use rights are bestowed on the company as Freehold Title extinguishes Native Title under Australian law.
<b>11.04 Non-forestry activities being undertaken within the area evaluated, whether they are undertaken by the certificate holder or by some other party (e.g. mining, industrial operations, agriculture, hunting, commercial tourism, etc.)</b>	
11.04.1 mining	Yes
11.04.2 industrial operation	No
11.04.3 agriculture	No
11.04.4 hunting	No
11.04.5 commercial tourism	Yes
11.04.6 other, please specify	
11.05 Forest management objectives	HVP employs over 700 staff and contractors. The company supplies over 3 million tonnes of wood annually to manufacturing industries. These manufacturing industries are primarily local, the main ones being structural sawn timber, fibre board products, pulp and paper. HVP was the first plantation company in Australia to be third-party certified under the internationally recognized Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®, FSC-C014387) process in 2004. They are also certified under the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) via Responsible Wood.
11.06 Land use and ownership status of the forest resource	HVP is one of Australia's largest private plantation companies. Locations of HVP's 240,000 hectare estate extend from Gippsland in the east of Victoria to the border with South Australia in the west, and through the north east region to the NSW border. The 170,000 hectares of pine and eucalypt plantations annually supply over three million tonnes of fibre to manufacturing industries. In addition to commercial timber production, HVP owns over 48,000 hectares of native forest managed solely for conservation, cultural and biodiversity values
11.07 Socio-economic conditions of the forest management	The proactive management of community relationships and establishment of partnerships with HVP stakeholders promote the company as a responsible manager of environmental and community values, build positive relationships and mutual understanding and reduce business risk. In the long run, these outcomes are essential to achieving VP goals and generating and preserving long-term investment value. While maintaining a balance between economic, social and environmental considerations HVP's social policy goals are to provide a safe place to work and respect the rights of all employees and contractors.
11.08 Brief description of forest composition	HVP manages around 240,000 hectares of land across three land tenures; freehold, leasehold and Plantation License. HVP's plantation estate of approximately 170,000 hectares is predominantly Radiata Pine that is grown on a 30 year rotation involving two thinning phases prior to clear fell and re-establishment. A portion of the estate contains eucalypts, which are gradually being re-planted to Radiata Pine. The nearly 50,000 ha of native vegetation managed for conservation contains significant plant and animal species and cultural sites.
<b>11.09 Profile of adjacent lands</b>	
11.09.1 urban	Yes
11.09.2 agriculture	Yes
11.09.3 wetland	Yes
11.09.4 mining	No
11.09.5 desert	No
11.09.6 pasture	Yes
11.09.7 orchards	Yes

## Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.09.8 other, please specify	
11.10 Management structure of the certificate holder	Melbourne-based HVP is one of Australia's largest private timber plantation companies. The company is owned by a combination of Australian, Canadian and US superannuation and investment funds. Manulife Investment Management's timberland group, based in Boston, acts as overseeing manager on behalf of investors. Senior management from Manulife Investment Management's timberland group also represent U.S. investors on the HVP Board.
11.11 Division of forest management responsibilities	HVP has a Melbourne based CEO and Senior Leadership Team with Regional Managers based in three rural towns or cities. Field operations are largely completed by contractors who are supervised by HVP District Foresters.
<b>11.12 Use of contractors by the certificate holder</b>	
11.12.1 silviculture	Yes
11.12.2 road building	Yes
11.12.3 harvesting	Yes
11.12.4 transportation	Yes
11.12.5 forest protection	Yes
11.12.6 pest and disease control	Yes
11.12.7 other, please specify	
11.13 Training implemented by the certificate holder	HVP provides a range of in-house and external training for its forest management activities, chemical use, first aid and fire control and training in OH&S, quality systems, chain of custody and forest management standards. HVP also supports staff development opportunities by providing financial support for tertiary training and graduate forestry programs.
11.14 Silvicultural system/regime implemented by the certificate holder	Radiata Pine is the predominant plantation species and is grown on an approximate 30 year rotation. Post establishment weed control is implemented to ensure optimum stocking, vigour and form of pine trees that are monitored for nutrition in the early growth years. Fertiliser and foliar nutrients are applied if necessary. First thinning is usually carried out around age 12 to establish extraction rows at a fifth row intervals with thinning to stocking of 600 spha within the retained bays. Second thinning is programmed at around age 18-22 to improve sawlog production. At this age, small sawlogs and pulp logs are produced for local markets. At clearfell, around age 30, a high proportion of large sawlog is produced for local markets. Tasmanian Blue Gum is grown on approximately 30% of the plantation estate. A program of clearfelling around age 25 to 30 is in place with replanting to Radiata Pine which has shown to produce higher yields and better commercial returns.
<b>11.15 Technique used for harvesting operations of the certificate holder</b>	
11.15.1 mechanized harvesting	Yes
11.15.2 manual harvesting	No
11.15.3 semi-mechanized harvesting	No
11.15.4 animal hauling	No
11.15.5 other, please specify	elect use of hand felling using chainsaws may occur on a very small proportion of the HVP estate where exotic trees were planted in small trial plots several decades ago.
11.16 Management strategy for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species	Keeping up to date with State, National and local records and monitoring to retain awareness of potential sightings. The use of best available information on State databases (e.g. the Natural Values Atlas). Koala management plans including use of thermal cameras is implemented to manage koala habitat and species. On ground surveys in the preparation of Timber Harvesting Plans are used to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species. Prescriptions are in place to guide management actions in the event of finding known and previously unknown species.
<b>11.17 Forest monitoring methods implemented by the certificate holder</b>	
11.17.1 forest inventory	Yes
11.17.2 drone monitoring	Yes
11.17.3 remote sensing	Yes
11.17.4 social survey	Yes
11.17.5 sampling plots	Yes
11.17.6 other, please specify	

## Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.18 Elaboration of Monitoring of growth, yield and forest dynamics including change of fauna and flora	Timber harvest levels are reviewed annually at present to ensure they are based on current growth estimates, regulatory requirements, previously recorded actual versus projected yield and market conditions. Standard inventory and mensuration processes are applied to measure plantation performance and dynamics, and growth modeling is used to predict yields. Yields are monitored through short, medium and long term inventory extending out to 30 years with actual harvest levels planned accordingly.
11.19 Environmental and social impacts, and costs, productivity, and efficiency	The HVP Forest Management Plan includes monitoring results (including results of certification audits) and evaluation results. Stakeholder engagement objectives are included in the HVP Forest Management and Stewardship 2023/4 Report to Stakeholders. New scientific and technical information and changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances are considered in each annual review. The revision history of the HVP Forest Management Plan shows that the plan has been revised regularly.
11.20 Explanation of the assumptions (e.g. silvicultural) on estimate of the maximum sustainable yield for the main commercial species	Timber harvest levels are based on analysis of the current best available information from the Woodstock optimizer and in field data. The Long-Term Plan is presented annually to the Board of Directors for approval who also approve the projections for the next 59 years. Carbon reporting is done on an annual basis reported to the parent company. Timber harvest levels are reviewed annually. Updated inventory is collected year-round. Inventory is at age 9, measured again post each thinning and preharvest.
11.21 Reference to the source of data (e.g. inventory data, permanent sample plots, yield tables) on which estimates are based	Using the long term yield modelling and short term inventory, the timber harvest level matches the productive capacity of the site. Predicted yields are compared with actual yields and are continually reviewed. This is conducted on a plantation by plantation basis. Timber harvest levels are reviewed annually at present to ensure they are based on current growth estimates, regulatory requirements, previously recorded actual versus projected yield and market conditions.
11.22 Investments and measures taken for the prevention and control of natural hazards (fires, storm, flood, disease, pests, pathogens etc.) during the last calendar year	All contractors are required to maintain firefighting equipment on site during plantation harvesting operations. Planned burning is carried out in collaboration with Fire Management Victoria. All plantations are inspected for firebreak compliance prior to the commencement of summer and during the bushfire season. HVP carry out an internal audit annually for its two quarries plus an internal audit of weed presence. Pre-season fire equipment inspections are completed to ensure relevant staff have the necessary equipment in their fire bag.
11.23 The risk of products from non-certified sources (including any areas specifically excluded from the scope of the certificate) being mixed with products from the forest area evaluated	Every HVP Harvest Area is set up in Nexus with a Location Code to identify if the timber harvesting operation is HVP Estate or Non Estate (Private). This initial stage ensures dockets are created correctly in the field to ensure associated information is correct. Docket information is linked to customer information and transferred to invoicing as required.
11.23.1 Description of segregation controls implemented	All material is certified and physically separated during growing, harvesting, haulage and sale from all other material.
11.24 Explanation of the control (tracking and tracing) systems in place that address the risk identified	e-dockets utilize GPS and geo-fence to identify operation code and location. 2. System device in transport vehicles pre-programmed with coupe, contractor, product and customer information. 3. Entire plantation estate is included in FMU.
<b>11.25 The documentation or marking system that allows products from the certified forest area to be reliably identified</b>	
11.25.1 documents with transportation	
11.25.2 tree mark	
11.25.3 bar code or quadratic code	
11.25.4 other, please specify	
11.26 Elaboration of the chain of custody documentation or marking system	HVP activates Location Codes in Nexus to make them accessible to drivers. Electronic delivery dockets (e-dockets) are used that utilize GPS and a geofence to provide precise information that is downloaded by the driver when approaching or arriving at a coupe. Nexus has built in robust hurdles that prevent an incorrect Location Code from being entered as the dockets can only be created by a device that is physically within the geofence. HVP has established all relevant customer destinations within Nexus. HVP advises the transport contractor of the weekly cut and delivery requirements and e-dockets will only show details of viable Harvest Areas, product and destination combinations.
<b>11.27 The final point or forest gate of the certified product</b>	
11.27.1 log yard	Yes
11.27.2 road side	No
11.27.3 other, please specify	

## Stakeholder comment(s)

12.01 Stakeholder group	12.02 Stakeholder description	12.03 Stakeholder's comment	12.04 Notified before audit?	12.05 Interviewed during this audit?	12.06 CB's follow up
Forest workers, contractors	11 contractors/crew interviewed	Some feel they are being micromanaged by HVP, particularly harvesting. Most had concerns with length of contract, not being long enough to pay back machinery used for operations, concerns with 70% indexation level and future work availability One contractor noted a lack of recognition of contractors who are Forest Fit accredited	No	Yes	Used as evidence of conformance re communication. HVP noted that they may review their contractor management and oversight, including the potential role of Forest Fit HVP noted that there are several contracting RFPs open and it is understandable that there is uncertainty and concern from crews.
Environmental interests	Private individual(s)	A complaint was received by SCS Global Services regarding conformance with P6, P9, P10 during harvesting operations.	Yes	Yes	An investigation of the complaint was conducted by the CB. The annual surveillance audit raises Corrective Action Requests for related indicator(s) under Principles 6 and 9. Concerns about conformance with Principle 10 are being appealed to FSC for clarification.

**Nonconformities/Observations raised**

14.01 Unique Finding number *	14.02 CB Non-conformity Ref	14.06 Grading *	14.07 Open / Closed *	14.08 Standard *	14.09 Clause *	14.03 Issue date *	14.04 Due date *	14.05 Close date *	14.10 Requirement *	14.11 Description of audit finding *	14.12 Corrective action taken by the auditee	14.13 CB's review of corrective actions
2023-C014387-1		Obs	Closed	NFSS	2.3.2	2023-11-29		2024-11-29	The WH&S program is implemented in consultation and cooperation with workers and/or workers' representatives.	While the auditor received an induction at each site, there was some variability in the thoroughness of three inductions.		During the 2024 audit the auditor visited 8 sites (3 closed, 1 2nd time, 1 site prep, 1 road upgrade, 1 newly planted area and the Flynn chemical store). The inductions at all sites were thorough and covered the relevant site risks, emergency meeting point, location of first aid kits, first aiders on site. Obs. Closed
2023-C014387-2		Obs	Closed	NFSS	2.3.3	2023-11-29		2024-11-29	Workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks and its use is enforced.	A contractor had introduced new equipment without carrying out a risk assessment and was seen using the petrol powered blower without hearing protection or eye protection.		Job Safety Analysis for the Blower (petrol operated) has been added to the contractor OHS system, dated October 2024. The JSA includes the use of hearing and eye protection. Obs. closed.
2024-C014387-1	2024.1	Minor	Open	NFSS	2.3.1	2025-03-10	2026-03-09		A Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) program is in place, that meets or exceeds the LO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work, and which complies with relevant workplace health and safety legislation and regulations, facilitates improvement in WHS and adapts working conditions that do not endanger workers.	The hazardous, dangerous goods register at Flynn depot wasn't dated and didn't accurately show the amount of chemical stored for one of the chemicals stored (Acher 750: Cetylalid in 20 l containers).	29.11.24: HVP tried to reconcile the Agrichemical register for Acher/75 with chemical in stock and outgoing since Nov. 8. But the register and actual in store are still not consistent.	29.11.24: Archer/75 register is still missing 300 l of chemical, that has been removed from the store and not recorded. While this is only 2% of the current stock, it equates to fifteen 20 l containers. CAR remains open
2024-C014387-2	2024.2	Minor	Closed	Trademark standard FSC-STD-00-001	SCS Trademark Annex for FME's FSC Trademarks, FSC-STD-00-001 V2.0, clause 1.3 and 1.6	2024-11-29	2025-11-28	2024-12-04	1.3: The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material. 1.5: The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval.	The Forest Management & Stewardship 2024 Report to Stakeholders, available in the HVP website, doesn't include the HVP trademark license code on first use of "FSC" or have SCS approval.	HVP submitted their website and the Forest Management & Stewardship 2024 Report to Stakeholders to SCS for approval	The HVP Forest Management & Stewardship 2024 Report to Stakeholders now has approval. SCS trademark approval case number 514461 dated 2.12.24
2024-C014387-3	2024.3	Minor	Open	NFSS	6.4.4	2025-03-10	2026-03-09		The rare and threatened species* and their habitats* in the Management Unit* are protected*, at operational and landscape* level, including through the provision of conservation zones*, protection areas*, connectivity*, and other direct means for their survival and/or viability, such as species recovery programs.	Rare and threatened species were identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a harvest at Fella's Coup and protection measures were taken; however, the EIA does not include a full written description of the conservation zones/protection areas to be applied for their survival and/or viability.		
2024-C014387-4	2024.4	Minor	Open	NFSS	9.3.2	2025-03-10	2026-03-09		The strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance and avoid risks to High Conservation Values* are implemented, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of High Conservation Values* are uncertain.	Critically endangered species significant at global, regional or national levels (ICV1-1), were identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment for a harvest at Fella's Coup and protection measures were taken; however, the EIA does not include a full written description of the strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance and avoid risks to the high conservation values.		
2024-C014387-5	2024.5		Open	NFSS	10.1.1	2025-03-10			Harvested sites are regenerated* in a timely manner* and using a method that: 1) Protects affected environmental values*; and 2) Is suitable to recover overall pre-harvest* or native forest* composition and structure.	At the Fella's Coup tract in Gippsland Victoria, HVP has harvested Eucalyptus plantations and stated their intention to regenerate the site with Redgum Pine. Concerns were raised by a stakeholder complainant that this method of regeneration would not recover overall pre-harvest or native forest composition and structure in a timely manner. The audit finding is under appeal by the CH. Because of this, the due date and grading have not been finalized. During the appeal process, implementation of a corrective action is stayed until the appeal is resolved. Use of the Precautionary Approach as described in the NFSS Standard is required during this period.	HVP considers that the complaint leading to this CAR has no basis, and has submitted an appeal.	

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	<b>P1</b>	<b>The Organization shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally- ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C1.01	The Organization shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration, with written authorization from the legally competent authority for specific activities.	0	HVP is a Pty Ltd company sitting underneath the parent holding company.
	C1.02	The Organization shall demonstrate that the legal status of the Management Unit, including tenure and use rights, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.	0	Freehold land is held under Title, remainder of estate within the FSC certificate scope is granted legal tenure under the <i>Victorian Plantations Corporations Act 1993</i> .
	C1.03	The Organization shall have legal rights to operate in the Management Unit, which fit the legal status of The Organization and of the Management Unit, and shall comply with the associated legal obligations in applicable national and local laws and regulations and administrative requirements. The legal rights shall provide for harvest of products and/or supply of ecosystem services from within the Management Unit. The Organization shall pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.	0	Activities are undertaken under a prescriptive forestry agreement in line with the incidental use definition under the <i>Victorian Plantations Corporations Act 1993</i> .
	C1.04	The Organization shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.	0	HVP has introduced the Human Power Pass program to regulate allowable activities (such as bushwalking and mountain bike riding) in its plantations and to prohibit those activities that are unauthorised or illegal. HVP has developed a program on unauthorised access management, spotters, gates, patrols and working groups.
	C1.05	The Organization shall comply with the applicable national laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit, and/or up to the point of first sale.	0	HVP has a comprehensive legal risk register that includes legislation which must be complied with.
	C1.06	The Organization shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes over issues of statutory or customary law, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner, through engagement with affected stakeholders.	0	The <i>Dispute Resolution Procedure 2017</i> involves steps for dispute resolution.
	C1.07	The Organization shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities and the risk of corruption.	0	The HVP commitment to non-bribery and anti-corruption is stated by the recent CEO on the company website.
	C1.08	The Organization shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria in the Management Unit, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a publicly available document made freely available.	0	HVP has been certified to the FSC standard for more than 15 years and as such demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and applicable FSC Policies and Standards, in the Management Unit. Policy statement is publicly available.
	<b>P2</b>	<b>The Organization shall maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C2.01	The Organization shall uphold the principles and rights at work as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) based on the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions.	0	Staff and workers at HVP are employed either by contractual Individual Employment Agreements or by way of a collective agreement.
	C2.02	The Organization shall promote gender equality in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement and management activities.	0	HVP have a recruitment policy that includes the requirement for all interviews to be conducted within the Equal Opportunity Policy, and also includes a significant list of questions that cannot be included.
	C2.03	The Organization shall implement health and safety practices to protect workers from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.	1	Page 13 of the FMP sets out the Health and Safety Policy. HVP's safety system is currently aligned to ISO 4801.
	C2.04	The Organization shall pay wages that meet or exceed minimum forest industry standards or other recognized forest industry wage agreements or living wages, where these are higher than the legal minimum wages. When none of these exist, The Organization shall through engagement with workers develop mechanisms for determining living wages.	0	Salaries for those in the Enterprise agreement are benchmarked against industry awards. HVP do this internally and it is then verified and signed off by the union. Staff are compared against the national Silviculture Award and the Timber Workers' Award.
	C2.05	The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the management plan and all management activities.	0	HVP provided fire training for field staff using the Country Fire Authority of Victoria as the training body. Staff can undertake development training externally (e.g. leadership training) and can also be provided individual training applicable to their position. HVP promote Equal Opportunities, driving and worker training, and also support worker development training.
	C2.06	The Organization through engagement with workers shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation to workers for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases, or occupational injuries sustained while working for The Organization.	0	Employees have access to the FWC and the relevant union. Union coverage is available for forestry workers and nursery workers.
	<b>P3</b>	<b>The Organization shall identify and uphold Indigenous Peoples' legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land, territories and resources affected by management activities.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C3.01	The Organization shall identify the Indigenous Peoples that exist within the Management Unit or those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these Indigenous Peoples, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit. The Organization shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.	0	The HVP Aboriginal Cultural heritage Procedure version 10-0 dated 22 October 2019 confirms that Indigenous Peoples are identified.
	C3.02	The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources and lands and territories. Delegation by Indigenous Peoples of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	0	At a strategic level, this is done through a Working Group that has been established with the aim of developing a Reconciliation Action Plan.

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	C3.03	In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a binding agreement between The Organization and the Indigenous Peoples shall be concluded through Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The agreement shall define its duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions. The agreement shall make provision for monitoring by Indigenous Peoples of The Organization's compliance with its terms and conditions.	0	No circumstance exists where the delegation of control over management activities has been exchanged between Indigenous Peoples and HVP.
	C3.04	The Organization shall recognize and uphold the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).	0	HVP policy confirms that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 in 3.4.1, are recognized and upheld.
	C3.05	The Organization, through engagement with Indigenous Peoples, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these Indigenous Peoples hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization and their management, and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these Indigenous Peoples.	0	The <i>First Nations Peoples Cultural Heritage Protection Procedure</i> , version 10 dated 23 August 2022 describes how HVP identifies cultural landscapes and sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which Indigenous Peoples hold legal rights and/or cultural responsibility.
	C3.06	The Organization shall uphold the right of Indigenous Peoples to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property. A binding agreement as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization and the Indigenous Peoples for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.	0	No formal agreements have been entered into by HVP for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.
<b>P4</b>		<b>The Organization shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C4.01	The Organization shall identify the local communities that exist within the Management Unit and those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these local communities, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit.	0	Local communities that may be affected by management activities are identified through a systematic process using the Stakeholder Management system.
	C4.02	The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of local communities to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories. Delegation by local communities of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	0	Stakholder engagement policy and procedures commit HVP to recognize and uphold legal and customary rights.
	C4.03	The Organization shall provide reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale and intensity of its management activities.	0	Reasonable opportunities are communicated and provided to local communities in numerous examples across the HVP estate.
	C4.04	The Organization shall implement additional activities, through engagement with local communities, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale, intensity and socio-economic impact of its management activities.	0	The provision of opportunities for local social and economic development identified through engagement with local communities and other relevant organisations has remained constantly high since the previous audit.
	C4.05	The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of those activities and negative impacts.	0	HVP has a principles-based approach to social impact evaluation enabling it to evaluate potential impacts and develop consultative processes that reflect the activity, the anticipated scale of impacts and anticipated community interests relevant to the scenario.
	C4.06	The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation to local communities and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of The Organization.	0	Members of the public can raise a dispute by sending a message to the email address onfo@hvp.com.au
	C4.07	The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization, and their management and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these local communities.	0	HVP have developed a First Nations and Traditional Owners Respectful Communications Guide June 2022 to provide processes to engage as an organisation, and when cultural involvement is required. Staff and contractors are trained in the written procedures – Procedure for the Management of Natural and Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage.
	C4.08	The Organization shall uphold the right of local communities to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property. A binding agreement as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization and the local communities for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.	0	No use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property is undertaken by HVP.
<b>P5</b>		<b>The Organization shall efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the Management Unit to maintain or enhance long term economic viability and the range of environmental and social benefits.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C5.01	The Organization shall identify, produce, or enable the production of, diversified benefits and/or products, based on the range of resources and ecosystem services existing in the Management Unit in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities.	0	Products from HVP estate are raw logs and woodchips that have increased on the local market across Victoria, NSW, and SA as exports have been reduced.
	C5.02	The Organization shall normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.	0	Sixty year yield predictions are modelled to ensure sustainable harvesting and reafforestation.
	C5.03	The Organization shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities of operation are included in the management plan.	0	Strategies and safeguards to prevent, mitigate or compensate for potential negative social and environment impacts of management activities are identified and included in the draft <i>HVP Forest Management &amp; Stewardship 2023 Report to Stakeholders</i> .

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	C5.04	The Organization shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk. If these are not locally available, The Organization shall make reasonable attempts to help establish these services.	0	The <i>HVP Forest Management &amp; Stewardship 2023 Report to Stakeholders</i> contains descriptions of how HVP supports local services, processing and purchasing.
	C5.05	The Organization shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk, its commitment to long-term economic viability.	0	HVP budgets for stewardship activities on a ten year basis. All funds from any offset credits go to the stewardship budget to focus enhancement on the specific property and to build capacity.
	C5.06			
	<b>P6</b>	<b>The Organization shall maintain, conserve and/or restore ecosystem services and environmental values of the Management Unit, and shall avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C6.01	The Organization shall assess environmental values in the Management Unit and those values outside the Management Unit potentially affected by management activities. This assessment shall be undertaken with a level of detail, scale and frequency that is proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, and is sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary conservation measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.	0	Environmental values are identified through the Site Values Checklist (SVC), developed using the best available information during Timber Harvest Plan preparation, with expert consultants gathering data during sale layout. Native vegetation and intact native forest areas are carefully assessed using tools like ArcGIS, aerial photographs, and on-ground checks to avoid impacts from forest operations. Bushfire and planned burning activities are mostly conducted in neighboring State forests to reduce risk, with limited burning in native forest areas and plans underway to assess ecological impacts. HVP supports its management through GIS tools and written procedures covering forest operations, timber harvesting, waterway protection, and the conservation of rare and threatened species.
	C6.02	Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, The Organization shall identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values.	0	HVP has established conservation areas over 15 years of landscape and stand-level assessments, protecting biodiversity assets like ecological communities and threatened species, with locations mapped in GIS layers and Timber Harvest Plans. Since May 2020, HVP has conducted annual assessments of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests and does not harvest timber from species listed as endangered or threatened locally or internationally. Field evidence, including at the Carboor Plantation, shows species-specific protections (e.g., fencing around the unique Concave Pomaderris), and contractors are trained to recognize and report rare or threatened species, as demonstrated in the Northern Region Fire management is coordinated with FMV and CFA, and the Site Values Checklist is completed before any site-disturbing activities to assess and mitigate environmental impacts.
	C6.03	The Organization shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of these impacts.	0	HVP submits a Timber Harvest Plan alongside the Site Values Checklist to comply with Code requirements, with the Fellas Coup plan reviewed and found in conformance, and no violations identified by Conservation Regulators during an operational compliance audit. HVP applies detailed environmental protection standards and procedures, including controls for soil conservation, erosion risk, native vegetation management, and fire prevention, as demonstrated in its response to the 2019/20 bushfires with a \$1 million recovery plan. Across various plantations, HVP employs specific environmental safeguards such as vegetation buffers, erosion control measures, sterile grass seeding, and selective weed control to protect soil, water, and biodiversity values. Field trials are also underway to reduce smoke from slash disposal, and environmental incidents are tracked and addressed promptly, with roads and infrastructure observed in good condition despite challenging weather.
	C6.04	The Organization shall protect rare species and threatened species and their habitats in the Management Unit through conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and to the conservation status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species. The Organization shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species beyond the boundary of the Management Unit, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit.	1	HVP integrates rare and threatened species management into operational planning using data from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, GIS mapping, and the internally maintained RATSAC register, which outlines species-specific protection requirements. Expert consultants collect field data during sale layout, and contractors receive training and guidance documents, with evidence of RATSAC protocols being followed, such as Koala monitoring at Boola Forest and Booroolong Frog surveys at Guys Forest Creek. HVP has developed management plans for multiple RATSAC species and communities, with protections implemented through exclusion zones, modified harvest plans, and continuous monitoring. While the Fellas Coup Environmental Impact Assessment identified RATSAC species and applied protection measures, a written description of the conservation zone was missing, noted under CAR 2024.3, but interviews confirmed no unauthorized activities and low risk of species collection due to limited public access to sensitive location data.
	C6.05	The Organization shall identify and protect representative sample areas of native ecosystems and/or restore them to more natural conditions. Where representative sample areas do not exist or are insufficient, The Organization shall restore a proportion of the Management Unit to more natural conditions. The size of the areas and the measures taken for their protection or restoration, including within plantations, shall be proportionate to the conservation status and value of the ecosystems at the landscape level, and the scale, intensity and risk of management activities.	0	Values which are of outstanding significance and critical importance have mostly already been recognised in some way in Victoria due to the extensive assessment and reporting over the last 30 years of the State Government's Land Conservation Council (LCC), now operating as the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC). The role of that Council is to conduct investigations that are requested by the Victorian Government relating to the protection and ecologically sustainable management of the environment and natural resources of public land. As a result of their extensive investigations, forest values such as areas of global, regional, or national significance, and other values considered of outstanding significance or critical importance, have been placed in reserves.

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	C6.06	The Organization shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and genotypes, and prevent losses of biological diversity, especially through habitat management in the Management Unit. The Organization shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.	0	HVP's 2024 Forest Management & Stewardship Report outlines its approach to protecting native fauna habitat through GIS mapping of Ecological Vegetation Classes, rainforest management procedures, and the use of Victorian Government and internal datasets to guide conservation planning. Threatened species on HVP land are protected through mapped prescriptions, staff training, monitoring of threatening processes, and site-specific protocols—for example, for species like the Giant Gippsland Earthworm and the Concave Pommaderis. Native vegetation within operational areas is clearly identified and excluded from harvest, with 15,000 hectares under voluntary conservation in Gippsland and a 20-year restoration plan in place for the Stockdale Forest Chain of Ponds. Although an incident in May 2024 involved unapproved clearing within a covenant area, HVP implemented corrective actions, completed site remediation, and strengthened internal procedures to prevent recurrence.
	C6.07	The Organization shall protect or restore natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity. The Organization shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.	0	HVP demonstrated strong water protection measures across ten operational sites, including the use of buffers and machinery exclusion zones to safeguard watercourses and riparian zones, with GIS tools ensuring compliance with the 2022 Victorian Code of Practice. Modified harvesting systems like cable and tethered logging were used in sensitive areas such as the Bright Plantation, prioritizing environmental outcomes over cost and ease of operation. Water quality monitoring is ongoing at sites like Ovens and Warrenbayne, with long-term stakeholder collaboration and internal reviews helping to refine practices. No damage from past or current management activities was observed, and HVP has proactively addressed legacy infrastructure failures, such as replacing an inadequate culvert at Warrenbayne.
	C6.08	The Organization shall manage the landscape in the Management Unit to maintain and/or restore a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience.	0	HVP has formalized a landmark conservation commitment through an agreement with the State of Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, securing the long-term protection of the Cores and Links area in the Strzelecki Ranges. This agreement permanently connects over 23,000 hectares of native vegetation, with 8,000 hectares (including 6,500 ha of core biodiversity zones) returned to public ownership and an additional 15,000 hectares placed under on-title protection to prohibit harvesting. Regeneration of native forest species will occur in previously plantation-harvested areas. HVP's Native Vegetation Management Procedure designates native forests on custodial land for conservation, reinforcing this commitment with voluntary covenants. Conservation efforts aim to protect, maintain, and where feasible, enhance or restore environmental values. In Gippsland's Stockdale Plantation, HVP plays a key role in conserving the rare 'Chain of Ponds' ecosystem within the Perry River catchment—an ecologically significant system now largely lost across southeastern Australia. Through the ongoing 'Protecting Our Ponds' project, led by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Trust for Nature, HVP supports the restoration of riparian vegetation. This initiative, funded by the Victorian Government and supplemented by HVP's contributions, underscores the company's proactive approach to ecosystem restoration and long-term biodiversity conservation.
	C6.09	The Organization shall not convert natural forest to plantations, nor natural forests or plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land use, except when the conversion: a) Affects a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit, and b) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, and c) Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.	0	1. The HVP Forest Management & Stewardship 2023 Report to Stakeholders reaffirms HVP's long-standing and ongoing commitment to managing over 48,000 hectares of native forest exclusively for conservation, cultural, and biodiversity values. According to the Environment & Stewardship Manager, this policy has been in place since HVP assumed ownership in 1998, with a strict stance that no native forest is harvested or converted to plantation. 2. Additionally, the Environment & Certification Manager confirmed that HVP does not revert plantation areas to non-forest uses, maintaining the estate's forested integrity. The sole exception is a one-hectare area within the Stockdale Plantation in the Gippsland Region, which was excised to protect Indigenous cultural heritage, reflecting HVP's respect for and responsiveness to cultural values on its estate.
	C6.10	Management Units containing plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forest after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where: a) Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or b) The conversion affected a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit.	0	HVP's Native Vegetation Management Procedure designates native forests on custodial land for conservation, reinforcing this commitment with voluntary covenants. Conservation efforts aim to protect, maintain, and where feasible, enhance or restore environmental values. HVP has made land acquisitions in the past year under the Gippsland Plantation Investment Program (GIPI). A review of the GIS system confirmed that all newly acquired areas were either existing plantation forest or pasture, with no conversion of native forest involved. No areas have converted from native forest since 1994.
	P7	<b>The Organization shall have a management plan consistent with its policies and objectives and proportionate to scale, intensity and risks of its management activities. The management plan shall be implemented and kept up to date based on monitoring information in order to promote adaptive management. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform affected stakeholders and interested stakeholders and to justify management decisions.</b>	0	

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	C7.01	The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of its management activities, set policies (visions and values) and objectives for management, which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable. Summaries of these policies and objectives shall be incorporated into the management plan, and publicized.	0	The HVP Vision Statement is on the company website and commits the organization to environmentally sound and socially beneficial management.
	C7.02	The Organization shall have and implement a management plan for the Management Unit which is fully consistent with the policies and management objectives as established according to Criterion 7.1. The management plan shall describe the natural resources that exist in the Management Unit and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The management plan shall cover forest management planning and social management planning proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of the planned activities.	0	HVP have shifted from a retrospective Management Plan and Sustainability report to a forward looking HVP Management Plan that is updated annually. The HVP Forest Management & Stewardship 2023 Report to Stakeholders, currently in draft, is to be made publicly available.
	C7.03	The management plan shall include verifiable targets by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives can be assessed.	0	The document titled Procedure for assessing risks, aspects and impacts and setting objectives and targets dated 18 September 2019 includes verifiable targets.
	C7.04	The Organization shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	0	Objectives and indicators are monitored and reviewed according to the Policy and Procedure for Monitoring, Reporting and Internal Audit. Objectives and indicators are assessed on a company wide basis, what they currently do and monitoring indicators.
	C7.05	The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the management plan free of charge. Excluding confidential information, other relevant components of the management plan shall be made available to affected stakeholders on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.	0	The auditor reviewed the HVP Forest Management Plan and Sustainability Report 2021/22 that is published on the company internet.
	C7.06	The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall engage interested stakeholders on request.	0	The HVP Forest Management and Stewardship Report 2023 identifies stakeholder engagement procedures and results.
	<b>P8</b>	<b>The Organization shall demonstrate that, progress towards achieving the management objectives, the impacts of management activities and the condition of the Management Unit, are monitored and evaluated proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, in order to implement adaptive management.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C8.01	The Organization shall monitor the implementation of its Management Plan, including its policies and management objectives, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its verifiable targets.	0	The HVP Stakeholder Engagement Framework 2023 includes details of monitoring, including how HVP's Resource Planning System plans the management of the plantation resource.
	C8.02	The Organization shall monitor and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out in the Management Unit, and changes in its environmental condition.	0	A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) at an industry level is supported through financial and management contribution by HVP to the Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) not for profit industry services company.
	C8.03	The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.	0	Adaptive management procedures are covered in the FMP planning and monitoring processes. This is where aspects and impacts and targets are entered into the operational and environmental monitoring program and then into the FMP.
	C8.04	The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information.	0	The HVP Stakeholder Engagement Framework 2023 includes a summary of the monitoring results in a format comprehensible to stakeholders including maps and excluding confidential information and is made publicly available at no cost through placement on the company website.
	C8.05	The Organization shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit that are marketed as FSC certified.	0	HVP has implemented a system of electronic dockets to track FSC certified material along the supply chain from the harvest site, during transport, across the weighbridge for measurement and delivery to the buyer's yard. The e-docket system is used for paying harvest and haulage contractors and for invoicing customers.
	<b>P9</b>	<b>The Organization shall maintain and/or enhance the High Conservation Values in the Management Unit through applying the precautionary approach.</b>	<b>0</b>	
	C9.01	The Organization, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following High Conservation Values in the Management Unit, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the High Conservation Values.	0	In 2020, HVP engaged ecological consultants to assess its estate against the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) High Conservation Value (HCV) categories, creating a High Conservation Values dataset based on data from HVP's GIS layers. This assessment was aligned with the 2018 FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) HCV categories and included a revised HCV Management Framework. As part of the Gippsland Plantations Investment Programme (GPIP), HVP reviews environmental values before purchasing properties, with the Site Values Checklist noting HCV native vegetation and cultural heritage sites, as seen in the Stockdale Forest. Stockdale Forest, with numerous HCV cultural heritage sites, is undergoing cultural heritage management planning in collaboration with heritage advisors and GLAWAC.

# Principles & Criteria Summary

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	C9.02	The Organization shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.	0	HVP's Management and Monitoring Plan for High Conservation Values (HCVs) includes site-specific measures to protect or restore identified HCVs, with plans to publicly release these measures in the HVP Forest Management & Stewardship 2023 Report to Stakeholders. The report confirms HVP's long-standing policy of not harvesting native forests or converting them to plantations since the company's acquisition of the estate in 1998, with a voluntary commitment to conservation. In 2020, HVP worked with ecological consultants to assess the estate against FSC HCV categories, using this data to define and protect HCVs, including through consultations with stakeholders like South Gippsland Shire council. Management of HCV communities involves establishing Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) mappings and management plans, informed by studies, with notable examples including rainforest areas in the Strzelecki Ranges.
	C9.03	The Organization shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values. These strategies and actions shall implement the precautionary approach and be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities.	1	HVP has drafted the "HVP Forest Management & Stewardship 2023 Report to Stakeholders," which provides public guidance on High Conservation Values (HCVs) and outlines the company's annual program to maintain and enhance these values, with progress reported at the year's end. A CAR 2024.4 was issued where critically endangered species (HCV-1.1) were identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment for a harvest at Fella's Coup and protection measures were applied, the EIA lacked a complete description of strategies to maintain or enhance these values.
	C9.04	The Organization shall demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of High Conservation Values, and shall adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective protection. The monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, and shall include engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.	0	HVP conducts regional High Conservation Value (HCV) monitoring as specified in the HCV Framework, with district-level reports providing detailed updates. The company's monitoring program is outlined in the "HVP High Conservation Values Management System v1" (June 2022), and specific management plans, such as the Concave Pomaderis Management Plan (2023-2033), specify annual monitoring. Monitoring results are presented in documents like the HVP Forest Management & Stewardship 2024 Report to Stakeholders, which includes case studies on projects like the restoration of the Honeysuckle-Airstrip Rennick and the Chain of Ponds ecosystem. HVP works with local stakeholders and authorities to ensure compliance, and environmental safeguards are adapted for site-specific protection, such as fencing to prevent four-wheel-drive damage to regenerating areas in the Chain of Ponds.
	P10	<b>Management activities conducted by or for The Organization for the Management Unit shall be selected and implemented consistent with The Organization's economic, environmental and social policies and objectives and in compliance with the Principles and Criteria collectively.</b>	0	
	C10.01	After harvest or in accordance with the management plan, The Organization shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.	1	The auditor visited four sites in the Gippsland Region where timber harvesting occurred, confirming that replanting is done promptly, following a process that includes post-harvest weed control, site preparation, and pre-plant weed control. A high standard of environmental protection was observed at these sites, with measures such as tethered logging systems to minimize machinery impact on waterways and native forest areas. HVP's plan for regeneration at Fella's Coup, however, resulted in a NC. The audit finding is under appeal by the CH. Because of this, the due date and grading have not been finalized. The audit finding is under appeal by the CH. During the appeal process, implementation of a corrective action is stayed until the appeal is resolved. Despite this, HVP maintains a policy of not harvesting native forests.
	C10.02	The Organization shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the management objectives. The Organization shall use native species and local genotypes for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.	0	Radiata Pine is the predominant plantation species grown within the HVP estate. The FMP outlines how this species enables it to maximise returns to investors, reduce management risk due to the breadth of knowledge in management of the species and sell products to a broad range of established, stable markets.
	C10.03	The Organization shall only use alien species when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.	0	Radiata Pine is used almost exclusively on the HVP plantation estate for reforestation after harvesting of pine and eucalypt plantation areas. Radiata Pine can be invasive, however Australian experience shows that ongoing monitoring and removal of wildings provides effective control.
	C10.04	The Organization shall not use genetically modified organisms in the Management Unit.	0	No genetically modified organisms are used on the HVP Management Unit.
	C10.05	The Organization shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives.	0	HVP uses helicopters for weed spraying in preference to using ground-based machinery on steep slopes. Modified timber harvesting systems using either cable logging or tethered logging are used to improve silvicultural results, particularly slash management. Cable and tethered logging systems enable accurate and lower impact shifting of slash away from drainage lines, waterways and modified harvest zones.
	C10.06	The Organization shall minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers. When fertilizers are used, The Organization shall demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values, including soils.	0	Routine site preparation following cut to length clear-fell operations involves rolling slash on extraction tracks. The slash will not be burnt; therefore avoiding nutrition loss and will be allowed to dry out and decompose over coming years.
	C10.07	The Organization shall use integrated pest management and silviculture systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of chemical pesticides. The Organization shall not use any chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC policy. When pesticides are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values and human health.	0	The HVP Forest Health Policy Revision 7, dated 18 August 2020, states a commitment to manage pests and diseases with a primary reliance on prevention and alternative control methods rather than use of chemical pesticides.

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	C10.08	The Organization shall minimize, monitor and strictly control the use of biological control agents in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols. When biological control agents are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values.	0	No biological control agents are used on the HVP Management Unit.
	C10.09	The Organization shall assess risks and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk.	0	No biological control agents are used on the HVP Management Unit.
	C10.10	The Organization shall manage infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.	0	Road construction, maintenance and upgrade and use of infrastructure is planned in accordance with legislated requirements and HVPs Best Management Practices. The <i>Site Values Checklist</i> , that forms part of the Forest Stewardship & Health and Safety Systems, is used in the planning process to check for rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values.
	C10.11	The Organization shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products so that environmental values are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.	0	Timber harvesting is planned in accordance with the Procedure for Planning and Management of Timber Harvesting, Version 8, October 2020, which references the Site Values Checklist process map.
	C10.12	The Organization shall dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner.	0	Chemical purchase, distribution for use and return of containers is managed by HVP at a regional level through a central coordinator. This procedure ensures no chemicals are purchased that are not permitted in accordance with FSC standards. Disposal standards are contained in contract arrangements with contractors ensuring disposal in an environmentally appropriate manner.