



## **Gunns' seeks FSC certification**

Gunns Limited is pursuing full Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management certification for a large portion of their managed forest estate.

FSC is a globally recognised forest certification programme. Certification provides certainty to Gunns' customers and to the end-users of its products that they are managing their business in a responsible, systematic and sustainable way. Having their operations independently audited by certifying bodies on a continuous basis demonstrates their commitment to the responsible and sustainable management of their forestry operations and the environment.

Currently Gunns is certified to ISO 14001, and the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) which is recognised by the international certifying body Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Gunns Limited's aim is to maintain dual certification to both AFS and FSC.

Gunns Limited has appointed SmartWood (Rainforest Alliance) to undertake the FSC audit process. The auditors are commencing the pre-assessment process in the week beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Full certification may take some time given the scale of Gunns' operations.

FSC certification is a stakeholder driven process which actively seeks the views of stakeholders. Gunns would appreciate your support in the process of it seeking FSC certification.

As Growers' you can be assured that GPL is acting in your best interests and that by Gunns achieving FSC certification for its managed plantation estate, including GPL Growers' woodlots, it will benefit the marketability of your wood.

We are encouraging you as a stakeholder to take part in the stakeholder consultation process.

### **To make sure that you have your say, we encourage you to take one of the three following actions:**

1. Call and give comments to either Graham Lea (SmartWood Forest Management country representative for Australia) or Indu Bikal Sapkota, the SmartWood staff member responsible for coordinating the certification pre-assessment from SmartWood's Asia Pacific Regional Office.
2. 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 purpose of assessing Gunns Limited.
3. Meet with a SmartWood team member during the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (details to be advised).

### **SmartWood Contacts**

#### **Attn: Graham Lea**

SmartWood FM Australian Representative/Audit team member

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#### **Attn: Indu Bikal Sapkota**

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Further details can be found on the SmartWood web-site at:

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry/documents/gunnslimitedstakenotif10.pdf>