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## VicForests takes next step towards seeking FSC

VicForests has taken a further step towards seeking FSC Controlled Wood certification with the release of updated drafts of its Forest Management Plan and High Conservation Management Strategy.

VicForests' acting CEO, Nathan Trushell, said the documents are now available for public comment.

"We are seeking further feedback on VicForests' forest management practices as part of our plans to seek FSC Controlled Wood in 2015," Mr Trushell said.

"Our Forest Management Plan and High Conservation Value Strategy documents are key sources of information for people wanting to know more about VicForests operations.

"Both documents have been updated following feedback from the community over the last year.

"We have received valuable input regarding our management of high conservation values, adapting our practices and the long-term economic benefits of forestry.

"As the next step towards seeking FSC certification, we're looking for additional feedback on the updated documents," he said.

Mr Trushell said VicForests will be undergoing an audit against the FSC Controlled Wood standard in 2015.

"Seeking Controlled Wood certification will complement our existing Australian Forestry Standard certification and provide further assurance that timber from Victoria's forests comes from sustainable forestry practices," he said.

"We will be going through a range of engagement activities in the coming months to give stakeholders the opportunity to provide further comment on our forest management.

"This includes an online survey asking the community's views on what they believe are the key issues for forest management in Victoria and how they would like to engage with VicForests," Mr Trushell said.

Controlled Wood certification ensures timber is sourced from harvesting operations that are legal, do not violate traditional or civil rights, do not threaten High Conservation Values, do not convert natural forest to plantations or non-forested areas and do not contain genetically modified trees.

Updated drafts of VicForests Forest Management Plan and High Conservation Value strategy, and a summary of the changes made as a result of previous feedback are available at <http://www.vicforests.com.au/consultation-opportunities>