

10 October 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to provide an update on the Forest Stewardship Council<sup>®</sup> Forest Management main evaluation process for Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), conducted by SCS Global Services.

The closing meeting of the field audit portion of the evaluation occurred on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. At that point, initial findings were delivered orally to STT management representatives. Since that time, the audit team has been in the process of drafting the report. The initial report draft has taken longer to complete than anticipated, based on the high volume of stakeholder input received before and during the audit. Additionally, technical questions related to the implementation of the new FSC Australia National Standard has slowed the process.

As of today, a draft report has not been delivered to STT. The report is nearing completion, but still must undergo an internal technical quality review. We anticipate that process will be completed shortly. At that point it will be transmitted to STT for a review and correction of any factual issues contained in the report.

After the review by STT, the report must undergo a peer review process. According to FSC audit protocols, initial Forest Management evaluation reports are required to be peer reviewed by two natural resource professionals not employed by SCS and not involved in the audit process. The peer reviews are the final step before report finalization and allow the reviewers an opportunity to raise any concerns regarding the audit process and the SCS's judgments on STT's conformity to FSC certification requirements.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Brendan Grady

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