

## **Ilise Bourke**

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**From:** p.sinclair@acfonline.org.au  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 January 2013 11:43 AM  
**To:** Stuart Wright  
**Cc:** Ilise Bourke; L.Hesketh@acfonline.org.au; O.Rowan@acfonline.org.au  
**Subject:** ACF information as requested by Tas LegCo Select Committee  
**Attachments:** Tas Forests Hearing information on notice.pdf

Tasmanian Legislative Council Select Committee

Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012

Secretary

Mr Stuart Wright

Phone (03) 6212 2250

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[tfacommittee@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:tfacommittee@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Wright,

As requested please find the Australian Conservation Foundations response to questions raised by the Tasmanian Legislative Council Select Committee.

*“Clarification of the FSC Certification Standards and the time it will take to obtain a national standard for FSC certification.”*

ACF is one of over 100 members of the economic, social and environment chamber groups forming the FSC Australia National Initiative and has an ongoing commitment to the Initiative and the development of an Australian National Standard.

In response to the Council’s question we have sought to assist by explanation of the structure of the FSC system and its processes and to draw some information from the FSC Australia website.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, membership based, non-profit organisation founded in 1993 by environmentalists, social interest groups, indigenous peoples’ organisations, responsible retailers and leading forest management companies to develop standards based on the ‘10 Principles for Forest Stewardship’ by which responsible forest practice can be measured. FSC, as an international network to promote responsible management of the world’s forests, brings people together to find solutions to the problems created by bad forestry practices and to reward good forest management.

### **Clarification of FSC Certification Standards**

FSC is a stakeholder owned system for promoting responsible management of the world’s international forests. Through consultative processes, FSC sets international standards for responsible forest management and practices. It accredits independent third party organisations who can certify forest

managers and forest product producers to FSC standards. Its trademark provides international recognition to organisations who support the growth of responsible forest management. Its product label allows consumers worldwide to recognise products that support the growth of responsible forest management worldwide. FSC undertakes marketing programs and information services that contributes to the mission of promoting responsible forestry worldwide.

Over the past 13 years, over 106 million hectares in more than 81 countries have been certified according to FSC Forest Management standards while over 12,000 FSC Chain of Custody certified organisations sell several thousand products that are produced using FSC certified wood and carrying the FSC trademark. FSC operates through its network of National Initiatives in more than 46 countries.

For further information see: <http://www.fscaustralia.org/policies-and-standards/forest-management> and the most up to date information on the progress of the Australian Initiative is available online at: <http://www.fscaustralia.org/about-fsc/fsc-in-australia>

ACF believes for the FSC Australian National Standard to be successful, the FSC Australia National Standards development process needs to maximise consultation and stakeholder engagement across Australia to achieve recognition, credibility and thus durability. To this end it needs to be substantially resourced requiring adequate funding from both public and private sector interests and to apply appropriate consultative mechanisms and timelines. FSC Australia has embarked upon the process to develop a National Standard which, subject to resourcing, is expected to conclude by end of 2014 with estimates of the cost and timeline of around \$3 million over 2 years.

*At the early stages of negotiations did ACF participate in meetings involving Gunns, CFMEU and other stakeholders but not FIAT that were held outside of Tasmania?*

ACF's CEO Don Henry writes:

In recent years, Michael O'Connor CFMEU and I had an exploratory discussion about a sustainable way forward for industry, workers, and the environment as an aside to our involvement in the Copenhagen Climate negotiations in December 2009. ACF and CFMEU had had a conflicting relationship over forests till that time. After a couple of months of exploratory discussions we had found enough common ground as two national organisations with strong Tasmanian interests and membership to engage with our respective networks in Tasmania seeking a solutions based sustainable way forward.

In early 2010, once ACF and CFMEU had a sense together that there was common ground for sustainable solutions, I meet with Environment Tasmania's Director Phil Pullinger and a colleague to discuss ACF's willingness to work with ET and TWS on these matters. To the best of my recollection, Gunns was not involved in those early discussions that I was part of.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Paul Sinclair

Campaign Director (Acting)

**Paul Sinclair**

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