MyEnvironment Inc.
Office 5 Church Street
Healesville, 3777
Australia

30th January 2014

Dear Sarah,
Dear Jill,

Thank you for your letter to FSC International of 1 November 2013, and apologies for this late reply. In your letter you object to the membership of VicForest in FSC. However, VicForest is currently not a member of FSC International, and we also have not received any application for membership from VicForest. We therefore have no basis for taking any direct action related to VicForest.

However, your letter also raises other questions with regard to the membership of organizations in FSC. In this context, it is important to note that FSC Australia and FSC International signed a joint membership contract in which we have agreed to bring the Australian membership in line with FSC International's.
FSC International is an open and inclusive global membership organisation, and it is our general rule that members fulfilling the membership criteria in our statutes, supporting FSCs mission and/or demonstrating compliance with FSCs Principles and Criteria are most welcome.
We understand that VicForest, State Forestry Agency in Victoria, which supplies to Australian Paper, are under assessment for FSC certification. This seems to us to be an indication that VicForest is seeking to demonstrate compliance with FSC's Principles and Criteria, by which they would be eligible for membership. We would not find it appropriate to expel a member from any FSC organisation when they are actively undertaking an FSC certification process.

For us, it would seem more logical to us to take the opportunity of VicForest's certification process to engage in the stakeholder consultations around it. These consultations will inform the certification process and be an important part of the considerations for any successful FSC certification of VicForest.

In the current situation, we would therefore like to encourage you to continue a dialogue with VicForest in stakeholder consultations in certifications in Australia. We firmly believe that such dialogues can bring change in forest management practices. And if this happens, there will no longer be any question whatsoever of VicForest's membership of FSC.

Please note also Membership and certification are not the same thing. Through its membership, VicForest are part of the consensus seeking processes with the other members of FSC Australia. They will have voting power, but no more than any other organizational member, and there will at the same

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time be opportunities to influence them through the consensus seeking processes. And VicForest cannot use their membership status as a way to increase the 'green' nature of their products.

With kind regards,

Kim Carstensen
FSC Director General