
INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF EKOS KĀMAHI LIMITED

Reporter: New Zealand Forest Research Institute Limited

Registered address: Unit 1, 49 Sala Street, Whakarewarewa, Rotorua, 3010, New Zealand

McHugh & Shaw Limited was engaged to conduct independent assurance of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reported by New Zealand Forest Research Limited (Scion) for the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The engagement was completed during the month of December 2023. This statement applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below.

The determination of the GHG emissions is the sole responsibility of Scion. McHugh & Shaw Limited was not involved in determining the GHG emissions. Our sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on the accuracy of the GHG emissions reported, and on the underlying systems and processes used to collect, analyse and review the information.

This statement is only to be used for the purpose that it was intended i.e. to report against measured greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the mandatory requirements of ISO 14064-1.

This statement is not to be used to make any claims including but not limited to:

- Certification to ISO 14064-1;
- Compliance with ISO 14064-1;
- Carbon neutral or net zero emissions claim (outside of the Ekos certification programme); and
- Verified emission reductions from a base year where McHugh & Shaw Limited have not been the verifiers for all years covered by the reduction claim.

Environmental claims

Information regarding your responsibility when making environmental or carbon claims under the Fair Trading Act is available at the [New Zealand Commerce Commission website](#). Guidance for making an environmental claim in Australia is available at the [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission website](#).

If you are making a claim outside of New Zealand and New Zealand, then check the legal requirements for that Country.

GHG assurance objectives

McHugh and Shaw will perform such tests and procedures, as considered necessary under the particular circumstances, to enable McHugh and Shaw to express an opinion, on the level of assurance as specified below and that the GHG inventory reported (GHG Statement) meet the criteria stated.

Boundaries of the reporting company GHG emissions covered

- Operational Control
- New Zealand

GHG emissions information assured (to which this statement applies)

- GHG Report Reference: Scion_Report_Org_FY23.pdf, dated 21/12/2023
- GHG Calculations Reference: Scion_Emissions Breakdown_Org_FY23.xlsx

GHG emissions and removals by category (metric tonnes CO₂e)

Scope 1	Cat 1: Direct GHG Emissions		1,061.19
Scope 2	Cat 2: Indirect GHG Emissions from imported energy (Electricity, location-based)		315.22
Scope 3	Indirect GHG Emissions		
	Cat 3: Transportation and distribution:	883.52	
	Cat 4: Products and services used by the organisation:	390.02	
	Cat 5: Use of products from the organisation:	59.83	
	Cat 6: Other sources:	NR	1,333.37
		Total GHG Emissions (Gross)	2,709.78
		Cat 1: Removals	NR
		Total GHG Emissions (Net)	2,709.78

Notes:

- Data and information supporting the Scope 1/Category 1 and Scope 2/Category 2 GHG emissions assertion were historical in nature.
- Data and information supporting the Scope 3/Category 3-6 GHG emissions assertion were in some cases estimated rather than historical in nature.
- Data quality: Good
- NR (not reported): out of scope, not applicable, or not verified.

Period covered by GHG emissions statement (base year)

- 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

GHG reporting protocols against which assurance was conducted

- ISO 14064-1: 2018 Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organisational level for quantification.
- Ministry for the Environment. 2023. Measuring emissions: A guide for organisations: 2023 detailed guide. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.
- Ekos Programme Rules for Organisations.

GHG assurance protocol(s)

- ISO 14064-3:2019 Greenhouse gases – Part 3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions.

GHG assurance methodology

A risk assessment and evidence gathering plan was completed. Our assurance strategy used a combined data and controls testing approach. Evidence-gathering procedures included but were not limited to the following:

- Review of the Scion GHG Report written by Ekos;
- Review of the Scion GHG Calculator as provided by Ekos;
- Testing, tracing and retracing of data trails back to primary data;
- Evaluation of relationships among GHG and non-GHG data;
- Remote and in person interview of personnel involved in data collection;
- Evidence to support the reporting boundaries, organisational and legal structure reported;
- Site visits to inspect the completeness of the inventory including interview of site personnel to confirm operational behaviour and any standard operating procedures and sample of site based records;
- Verification of primary data including energy supplier invoices, fuel card reports, fertiliser placement records, PCard transactions, freight reports, chiller maintenance reports, and staff commuter survey.
- Review of emissions factors and conversion factors used within the calculations for source appropriateness; and
- Review of assumptions, quantification methodologies and the setting of operational boundaries.

Assurance findings are issued and tracked on a separate Findings Log as part of the assurance working papers.

Projected emission reductions or removal enhancements

The reporter did not seek validation of projected emission reductions or removal enhancements. The reporter provided an emissions reduction and management plan which meets the Ekos requirements for organisations.

Achieved level of assurance

- Scope 1/ISO Category 1 Emissions and Scope 2/ISO Category 2 Emissions: Reasonable Assurance
- Scope 3/ISO Category 3-6 Emissions: Limited Assurance

Assurance opinion

Based on the assurance process and procedures conducted, we conclude that:

- The Scope 1/ISO Category 1 Emissions and Scope 2/ISO Category 2 GHG Emissions assertions shown above are materially correct and are a fair representation of the data and information.
- There is no evidence that the Scope 3/ISO Category 3-6 GHG Emissions assertion shown above is not materially correct or not a fair representation of the GHG emissions data set; and
- Scion has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of quantitative

data for determination of GHG emissions for the stated period and boundaries, and has implemented underlying internal assurance practices that provide a reasonable degree of confidence that such information is complete and accurate.

Qualifications

There are no qualifications.

Other matters

- The knowledge and methodologies used to determine the emission factors and processes to calculate or estimate quantities of GHG sources is evolving. Therefore, quantifying GHG emissions is subject to inherent uncertainty.

Facts found after verification

There are no facts found after the verification was finalised.

Statement of independence, impartiality and competence

McHugh & Shaw Limited is an independent professional services company that specialises in sustainability assurance with over 10 years history in providing assurance services.

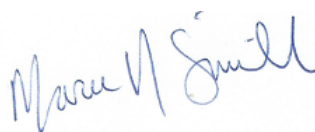
No member of the verification team has a business relationship with Scion, its Directors or staff beyond that required of this assignment. We conducted this work independently and to our knowledge there has been no conflict of interest or risks to impartiality.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, quality, sustainability and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of the methodology for both reporting and assurance of greenhouse gas information statements.



Jeska McHugh, Lead Verifier

McHugh & Shaw Limited
Christchurch, New Zealand
21 December 2023



Maree Smith, Independent Reviewer

McHugh & Shaw Limited
Auckland, New Zealand
8 January 2024

This assurance statement, including the opinion expressed herein, is provided to Scion/Ekos and is solely for the benefit of Scion/Ekos in accordance with the terms of our agreement. We consent to the release of this statement by you to interested parties but without accepting or assuming any responsibility or liability on our part to any other party who may have access to this statement. Any correspondence regarding this statement is to be directed to info@mchugh-shaw.co.nz