

The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

This is clearly a uniquely challenging moment for our country as we face the unprecedented health, social and economic impact of COVID-19. You and the National Cabinet have the full support of Australia's two forest certification schemes, Responsible Wood and the Forest Stewardship Council, in leading our proud nation through this crisis.

While we recognise and fully support the strong suite of measures introduced by the National Cabinet to curtail the spread of COVID-19, we urge you to identify the wood products industries as essential services in the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic should further restrictions be placed on Australia's businesses.

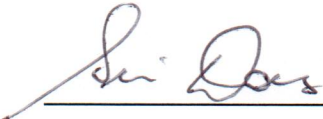
The wood products industries supply a raft of critical products required to ensure the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure during the response to the pandemic. With products ranging from toilet paper and face masks to high-quality wood products to aid in the construction of potential emergency housing and healthcare facilities, the wood products industries are really the glue that holds the nation together.

The consequences of a perceived shortage of critical products has been abundantly clear recently in Australia's supermarkets. We implore you to avoid further turmoil by exempting the forest product supply chain from future mitigation efforts.

Finally, shutting down the wood products industries will significantly delay the economic recovery in the wake of the crisis as many of the sectors that will drive the rebounding economy are reliant on Australian forest products.

With your support, the nation's wood products industries can continue its steady supply of critical products needed by the Australian public during and after this crisis.

Best wishes,



Simon Dorries
Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Wood



Damian Paull
Chief Executive Officer
FSC Australia and New Zealand

A copy of this letter has been sent to Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, David Littleproud, and Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Jonathon Duniam.