

Bulletin

Summer 2021



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The PEFC General Assembly, a virtual affair for 2020

PEFC in 2020 was virtually unmissable: working together

As an alliance we worth together as a globally-committed team

THE year 2020 has been a special one for the PEFC alliance ... 12 months in which we had to adapt and to find new ways of doing our everyday work to maintain our impact.

Despite the challenges, we remain committed to unlocking and building on the full contribution of forests for a sustainable world.

As the PEFC alliance grows, we continue to work together as a global team,

Focusing our engagement in sectors such as construction,

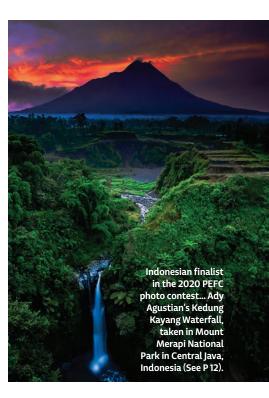
packaging, fashion and rubber

collaborating and supporting each other.

We keep driving innovation by using novel technological approaches such as remote auditing, and we have implemented the revised 2020 standards, developed a new label generator and established new working groups.

We keep focusing our engagement in sectors such as construction, packaging, fashion and rubber, and have been striving to further increase our communications effectiveness, raising awareness of the importance of forests and certification through online campaigns, publications and videos.

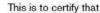
Although we couldn't see each other in person this year, we made the most of our first virtual PEFC Week, and made sure to stay physically distant from each other, but socially close.



CERTIFICATE



OF MEMBERSHIP



UPM KYMMENE CORPORATION

was accepted as PEFC International Stakeholder Member by the PEFC General Assembly on 11 November 2020.





Peter Latham, OBE, Chairman



Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General

UPM, PEFC's newest international stakeholder member, along with the Association for Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Products and Services Certification (SOYDER).

Responsible Wood welcomes three new PEFC members to the alliance

Strengthening sustainable forest management globally

THE 25th PEFC General Assembly, the first to be held virtually, has welcomed three new members.

The General Assembly, our highest decision-making body, voted Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and UPM Kymmene Corporation into the alliance.

"We look forward to joining PEFC to further strengthen our role in promoting sustainable forest management globally," Inka Musta, senior manager, Global Forest Affairs at UPM said.

"UPM owns more than 770,000 ha of PEFC-certified forests and has been involved in the development of PEFC for more than 20 years," he said.

"Becoming an international member is a natural continuation of this work."

UPM is committed to the sustainable use of forests, and responsibility is one of the company's strategic priorities. "Since there are almost 320 million ha of PEFC-certified forests globally, PEFC is a very effective tool for promoting sustainable forest management," Mr Musta added.

PM-Kymmene is a global forestry industry company creating renewable and responsible solutions across six business areas.

The Association of Private Forest Owners ("Naša Šuma) and the Association for Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Products and Services
Certification (SOYDER) are
the new national members for
Bosnia and Herzegovina and
Turkey, respectively. They are
our 54th and 55th national
members.

"I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the PEFC General Assembly who entrusted Naša Šuma as the national member for the Republic of Srpska/Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Aleksandar Mrkobrada, secretary-general.

"Our goal is not modest, but it is not unattainable ... that all our forests achieve PEFC certification," Mr Mrkobrada said.

Goksel Korkmaz, vice-president of SOYDER added: "Becoming a

Responsibility is one of the company's strategic priorities

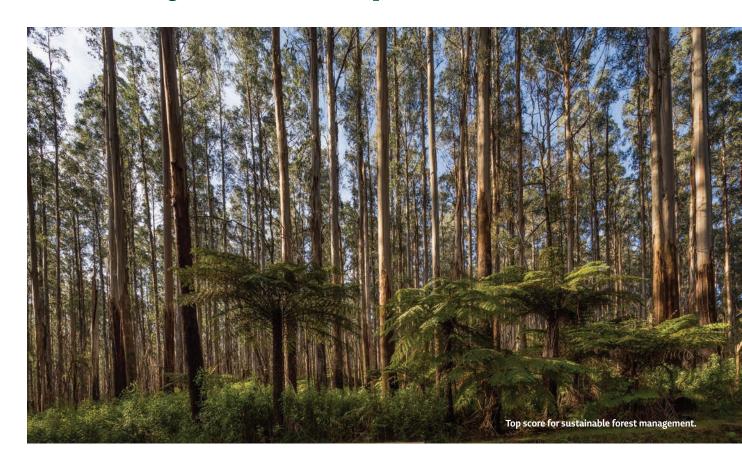
member of PEFC means joining the world's leading forest certification system that is committed to unlocking and building on the full contribution of forests for a sustainable world."

"It will give our forest certification international credibility and create new business opportunities in international markets."

He said the next step would be a development of national standards and working on the necessary procedures, together with our stakeholders."

PEFC receives highest ranking against ASEAN guidelines

Forest management scores 9.5 points out of 10



PEFC has achieved the highest ranking in the assessment against ASEAN RAI guidelines for promoting responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry, thanks to a regional approach.

A report assessing the alignment with

The report maps industry and investment standards and principles to the ASEAN guidelines

ASEAN RAI, shows PEFC's sustainable forest management principles scored 9.5 out of 10 points.

The report maps industry and investment standards and principles to the ASEAN guidelines. Published by Grow Asia, the report assesses the alignment between 12 regionally relevant food, agriculture and forestry.

The report shows that agribusinesses or financial investors certified or as signatories to many of the reviewed standards are also aligned with the ASEAN guidelines.

The report outlines how certifications or alignment to standards may help agribusinesses become more competitive and attractive to financiers.

The report assessed the PEFC sustainable forest management standard, using six main criteria.

The first five PEFC principles align with the ASEAN RAI guidelines on food nutrition, economic development, natural resources, climate change and rule of law and governance, the report highlights.

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The sixth PEFC principle (maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions) emphasises economic development, support to marginalised populations (women, young people and indigenous people) as well as tenure rights and data collection.

With two out of six PEFC sustainable forest management principles, including specific references to regional policy and approaches, PEFC achieved a partial match with guideline 10.

On the whole, PEFC's forest management principles align with 9.5 out of 10 of the ASEAN RAI guidelines.

Other standards assessed in the report include Fairtrade International, the Forest Stewardship Council, the Marine Stewardship Council and the Rainforest Alliance.

The primary purpose of the ASEAN

guidelines is to promote investment in food and agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, in the ASEAN region that contributes to regional economic development, food and nutrition security, food safety and equitable benefits, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.

The guidelines distil the global best practices by ensuring larger scale agribusiness investments are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable and inclusive. It provides future partners a roadmap for future investments. The guidelines aim to become the de facto foundation of these types of agricultural investments across southeast Asia.

PEFC keeps driving innovation by using novel technological approaches, such as

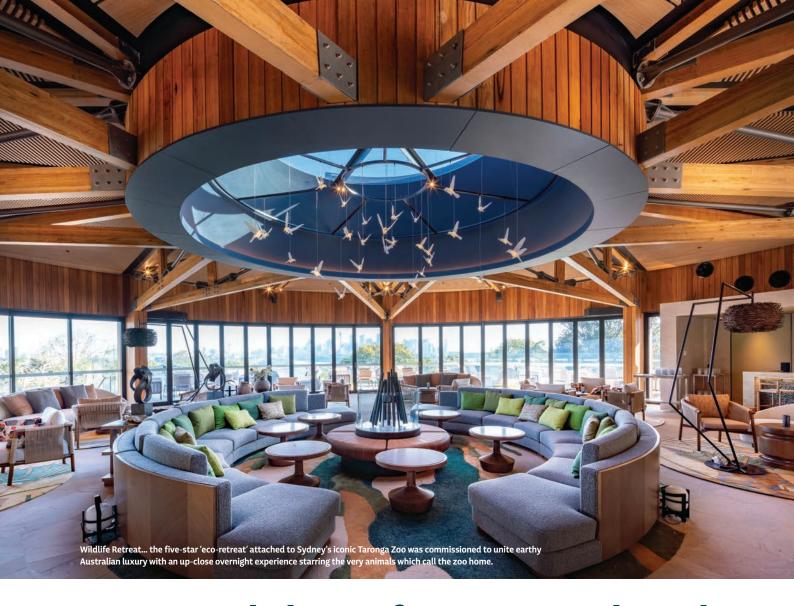
PEFC keeps driving innovation by using novel technological approaches, such as remote auditing

remote auditing. It focuses on engaging in sectors such as construction, packaging, fashion and rubber and has strived to further increase communications effectiveness by raising awareness of the importance of forests and certification through online campaigns, publications and videos.

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries welcomed the release of the report and reiterated the importance of forest certification in meeting commitments for responsible and sustainable forest management.

"Responsible Wood and PEFC forest certification provides a framework for global forests to be managed sustainably for multi-generational use," he said.

"Whether its minimising poverty and hunger, promoting education, good health and wellbeing and gender equality or clean health, sanitation, affordable and clean energy and decent work opportunities, forest certification plays an all-important part in setting benchmarks and standards."



Sustainability of Greenstar hotel reflected in certified timber award

Australian-grown hardwoods shape Wildlife Retreat

A HIGHLY-acclaimed Australian architectural practice and an award-winning structural engineer have combined to produce the winner of the Australian

A significant portion of timber provided on the project was Responsible Wood certified

certified timber prize presented by Responsible Wood at the 21st Australian Timber Design Awards in December.

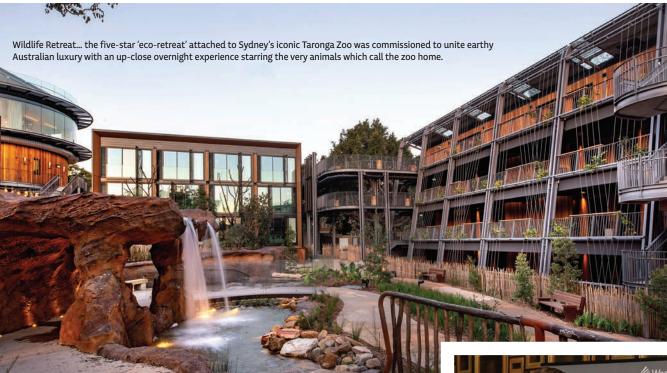
The Wildlife Retreat, a lush bushland oasis just a stone's throw from the Sydney CBD and one of Australia's fore 5-star Greenstar rated hotels, was opened by the Taronga Conservation Society in October 2019.

The five-star 'eco-retreat' attached to Sydney's iconic Taronga Zoo was

commissioned to unite earthy Australian luxury with an up-close overnight experience starring the very animals which call the zoo home.

The retreat, a combined project by Cox Architecture and civil engineer Taylor Thomson Whitting, combines a rich tapestry of timbers with Responsible Wood certified Australian Sustainable Hardwoods and Warringah Timbers featured extensively throughout the project.

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A significant portion of timber provided on the project was Responsible Wood certified.

Features included high conservation values, sustainability and public access which are critical components of the sustainable forest management standards.

The award celebrates building projects that best showcase Australian certified timbers.

Responsible Wood certification was carried by the majority of entrants and according to the marketing and communications officer Jason Ross provides the ultimate 'stamp of approval' for Australian-grown timber from a sustainable source.

The awards were hosted 'virtually' for the first time by Julian Brenchley, residential architect on The Block Insider, the popular home renovation TV show, who has been both lecturer and tutor in design theory at the University of Technology, Sydney.

"In this strange year where nothing is normal, we are humbled by the continuing

interest in the awards," said Andrew Dunn, CEO, Timber Development Association, which has organised the event since it was conceived in 1999.

"Expecting designers to be distracted this year, we were pleased to see an increase in entries over last year," Mr Dunn said.

"We are also seeing a maturing of timber design," he said.

"Initially, timber design was only considered for housing or coverings to other materials. But over the years the continued growth in the non-residential categories has again seen this category split the division into two – catering for public buildings in one and commercial in another.

"We are also noticing an increased use of timber for structural purposes; designers



Designers recognise timber can offer the dual benefit of structure and decoration – plus sustainability



Responsible Wood's Jason Ross presents Cox Architecture director Nick Tyrrell with the Australian Certified Timber Award for Wildlife Retreat at Taronga.

recognise timber can offer the dual benefit of structure and decoration."

Mr Dunn said the diversity and excellence of projects submitted demonstrated unique and thoughtful consideration of the selection of timber and endorsement of the structural, natural and aesthetic qualities excellently employed by the high calibre of Australian designers.

An intimate awards plaque presentation was held on December 8 at the Union Hotel in North Sydney.



Sharing a vision... Peter Arcus and Mick Stephens at the 'timber hub' in Brishane

Meet the expert craftsman bringing the 'timber hub' to life in Brisbane

Shared vision for Responsible Wood and Timber Queensland

WHEN Timber Queensland and Responsible Wood relocated together at their new offices in Brisbane, an opportunity arose for both to create the 'timber hub' – a shared vision to showcase Responsible Wood certified Queensland timber species to visitors and stakeholders.

Working with long-term Timber Queensland members and stakeholders, the timber hub has undergone a transformation with timber materials and supplies for the new fit-out donated by variety of members.

And behind every great transformation is an expert craftsman.

Enter Peter Arcus of Anything Wood, who draws on 45 years of craftsmanship in carpentry and joinery:

"I was thrilled to be commissioned by Timber Queensland to be a part of this broad-spectrum project," Peter said. "It was not without its fair share of construction issues but sorting these and getting results satisfactory to all involved is always for me a powerful motivator. And all the while keeping within budget."

A native New Zealander, Peter runs his own timber joinery operation in Brisbane and has also spent time working on Norfolk Island as manager of the local sawmill and timber cabinetry business.

With a passion for joinery and music, Peter's company Anything Wood specialises in delivering bespoke timber carpentry and joinery services. He installed the pre-fabricated walls as well as other on-site detailing, including timber doors and cladding, bringing the original vision for Timber Queensland developed by Mark Hogan from Architectus to life.

Individual offices, common and break areas and the foyer have been framed with a variety of timbers and hardwood upright dowels – a deliberate emphasis on 'biomorphism' where wood is used to reflect the patterns and shapes as seen in nature.

"The concept from day one was to reflect the warm and wonderful features of wood

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Behind every great transformation is an expert craftsman





» TOP A timber 'forest'... a feature in the foyer at Timber House.

» LEFT Individual offices, common and break areas and the foyer have been framed with a variety of timbers and hardwood upright dowels.

The concept from day one was to reflect the warm and wonderful features of wood as well as showcase the commercial timber products and species produced in Queensland

From P8

as well as showcase the variety of commercial timber products and species produced in Queensland," Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens said.

The 'timber forest' screens in the foyer were a highlight of the project and a testimony to Peter his craftsmanship, having put into practice the artistic vision of the concept design.

As the project nears completion, the next phase will be the installation of timber furniture including an exquisite board room table using three Far North Queensland species sourced from Branch95 and produced by DTM Timber in Maryborough. Mary Valley Timbers from Dagun are also producing a raised meeting table using local eucalyptus hardwood from southeast Queensland.

"As a finishing touch, I'd also like to enhance the office space

with a locally crafted timber surfboard as a well as a fine acoustic guitar made with local wood species," Mick Stephens said.

"This would provide additional life and ambience to the office space and would represent the ubiquitous nature of wood in our everyday lives. Many of the great people working in the Queensland timber industry are avid surfers, and at the end of the day who doesn't like music?"

And I'm sure a fine craftsman

like Peter would also appreciate these final touches, combining a passion for timber, music and the great outdoors."

The offices will be officially opened on March 18 by Queensland Housing Minister Mick de Brenni. This will be followed on March 19 by the Doing Timber Business in Queensland symposium with a linked IFA field trip to Imbil near Gympie in the Wide Bay-Burnett region on March 21 – the UN's International Day of Forests.

Responsible Wood re-commits to Aussie Made campaign



In order to achieve certification, businesses must undertake an extensive auditing process, conducted by independent certification bodies. (VicForests photo)

Trademark underpinned by a third-party accreditation system

RESPONSIBLE Wood has re-committed to the Australian Made Campaign.

Forest certification provides the trust that Australian forest products meet the social and environmental expectations of consumers

AS custodian of the Australian standards for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) and Chain of Custody for Forest Products (AS 4707), the organisation is strongly aligned to the campaign's message.

"The famous Australian Made, Australian Grown certification trademark is the true mark of Aussie authenticity, recognised widely and underpinned by a third-party accreditation system," Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said.

"Responsible Wood certification is used right across the Australian forest products value chain and demonstrates to customers and buyers that timber and paperbased products are grown in sustainably-managed forests and manufactured, retailed and sold through Australian businesses," he said.

"As a 'campaign associate', Responsible Wood will continue to promote the Australian Made, Australian Grown message to consumers."

The Australian Made logo has confirmed its international appeal, with new Horizon Consumer Science research finding 97% of overseas consumers have a positive first impression of the iconic green and gold kangaroo.

The research, which was carried out in six diverse export markets, found that more than two-thirds (70%) of consumers spontaneously recognised Australia as the country of origin for products carrying the logo. Trust in the green and gold kangaroo was also high, with 85% confident products carrying the Australian Made logo are genuinely Australian.

Responsible Wood marketing and communications officer Jason Ross said forest certification provided the trust that Australian forest products met the social and environmental expectations of consumers.

"In order to achieve certification, businesses must undertake an extensive auditing process, conducted by independent certification bodies accredited by JAS-ANZ," he said.

More than 11.2 million ha of defined forest is covered by Responsible Wood certification, with more than 250 Australian businesses participating in the 'chain of custody' scheme.





Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries, David Syme, SDAC auditor), and Alan Snow, Responsible Wood's certification coordinator.

Responsible Wood: compliance 'tick' from Standards Australia

A trust that timber products are from a sustainable source

RESPONSIBLE Wood has passed an audit and 'check compliance' with flying colours with development activities meeting all requirements of Standards Australia.

Connecting remotely, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the surveillance audit provides Responsible Wood with an opportunity to demonstrate to Standards Australia the organisation's ongoing commitment to standards development.

Alan Snow, Responsible Wood's certification coordinator explains: "Standards Australia is the owner of the standards and trademarks, and as one of five accredited Standard Development Organisations we are licensed to develop

Australian standards for forest certification through our ongoing Standards Development and Accreditation Committee (SDAC) accreditation."

As an SDO, Responsible Wood is accredited to develop Australian standards for forest management in addition to Australian standards that support the Australian Forest Certification Scheme.

These standards are used to support claims on timber or paper-based products recognised and endorsed by PEFC globally.

Responsible Wood CEO Simon
Dorries says the Responsible
Wood certification scheme's
unique position as an accredited
SDO provides consumers of
timber and timber-based
products with the trust that
products have been sourced

from a sustainable source.

"But it is the overarching governance structure, the commitment to independence in the certification process, that is of utmost importance," Mr Dorries said.

"If consumers are looking for a credible forest certification scheme, the Responsible Wood certification scheme ticks all the boxes," he said.

Responsible Wood is also working towards the revision of AS 4708.

The revision ensures the standard incorporates the latest knowledge, best practices, and evolving stakeholder expectations and it will meet the requirements for a fully-fledged JAS-ANZ accredited sustainable forest management system.

"This is highly unique," Mr Dorries said. "The new standard will cover sustainable forest management and will underpin PEFC forest certification in Australia and New Zealand."

The new standard can be used for PEFC and/or Responsible Wood claims and it can be used to meet timber legality requirements for import and export.

Responsible Wood passes audit with flying colours

In addition, Responsible Wood has turned its attention to the revision of AS4707 Chain of Custody of Forest Products. Interested stakeholders have been invited to nominate candidates for the AS/NZS 4707 standards reference committee and working groups.



And the winner is... Keril Chairil, for his beautiful image 'Morning Activities' taken at Situ Gunung Lake in West lava. Indonesia.

PEFC photo of the year captures magic of Indonesian forest lake

Picking a winner from thousands of stunning images no easy task

TWELVE countries,
8000 entries and one
winner. Responsible
Wood is delighted to
announce the 2020 PEFC
Photographer of the
Year in a contest titled
'Experience Forests,
Experience PEFC'.

The award went to Keril Chairil for his beautiful image 'Morning Activities', taken at Situ Gunung Lake in West Java, Indonesia, which captures the magical atmosphere at a forest lake in the early morning.

"It's great that my photo can open people's eyes to the importance of forests," Chairil said. PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg said choosing a winner was not easy. But the jury agreed Keril's photo was exceptional ... "we loved the fishermen, the greenery, the water reflections – what is there not to like about this photograph?"

Victor Rodriguez, a photographer and member of the PEFC International judging panel, shares the high points of the winning photo: "The action is eye-catching and is the key to the image – the casting of the net and the link between the fishermen and life under water ... it reminds us that humans can be part of nature in a beautiful way."

For the fourth time, the



'Experience Forests, Experience PEFC' contest invited photographers and forest lovers from around the world to show their best forest photos, with thousands of stunning images received.

National contests were run by PEFC members in 12 countries. The top 12 images were presented on Facebook Live and will star in the PEFC 2021 photo calendar.

On location with HQPlantations





Stewardship goals: sustainable forest management protects environmental values for future generations



This standard is used by forest growers to make Responsible Wood and PEFC claims on forest and tree-based products.

In September last year, Responsible Wood's Simon Dorries and Jason Ross were invited to tour the company's 85,000 ha Tuan-Toolara pine plantation on Queensland's Fraser Coast. With more than 320,000 ha of forest under management, including 196,000 ha of plantations from the Queensland border to the Kuranda, HQPlantations is one of the largest plantation growers in Australia.

HQPlantations' Kate Clapson and Dr Dominic Kain discussed tree improvement and seed production programs and the importance of practicing sustainable forest management to protect environmental values for future generations – the principle underpinning an annual forest stewardship plan.

This plan highlights contributions made to managing landscapes, soil, water, biodiversity, cultural heritage, pollution, waste management and carbon sequestration. It also outlines the company's commitment to AS 4708 - Sustainable Forest Management, a key component of the Responsible Wood certification scheme.

The Tuan-Toolara estate is one of Australia's largest contiguous plantation estates and supports a thriving regional forest sector.

The Tuan-Toolara estate is one of Australia's largest contiguous plantation estates

The view from the nursery where 2.4

Each year, around 2500 ha of the Tuan-Toolara estate is harvested and replanted with more than 2.4 million seedlings grown in HQPlantations' Toolara nursery. Across its entire estate, the company harvests only 2-3% a year and plants about 10 million seedlings a year.



Wayne the Watchman... one of six participants involved in the Tasmanian Timber campaign

Responsible Wood features at sustainability digital summit

More and more specifiers are making informed decisions on purchases

AUSTRALIA'S largest forest certification scheme, Responsible Wood, joined an expert panel in Tasmanian Timber's Q&A discussion in Sustainability Live's sustainability digital summit late last year.

The panel discussion was featured as part of the summit's lunchtime breakout sessions.

Additional checks and balances are in the system to ensure it meets our very high environmental standards

Sustainability Live is Australia's oldest and biggest sustainable built environmental education event, and for the first time will feature the 'Sustainability Digital Summit'

- the pinnacle of sustainable designs, ideas and innovation.

With more than 30 sustainability and industry leaders participating in the summit, architects and design professionals were eligible to earn five formal CPD points as endorsed by the Australian Institute of Architects.

Hosted by Tasmanian Timber, the panel answered questions from the audience and discussed the significant role responsible forest management plays in the global fight against climate change and the importance of ensuring that timber is sustainably managed, independently audited and certified to an internationally acclaimed standard.

Claire Bennett of Tasmanian Timber explains:

"Tasmanian timber, has Responsible Wood and PEFC certification at its core, but additional checks and balances are in the system to ensure it meets our very high environmental standards.

"Meeting Australian values also means supporting our local economy. Buying Responsible Wood means you are buying Australian timber for the Australian marketplace. So, when purchasing Tasmanian timber, consumers can be confident they're getting a piece of timber from a local forest that is both certified sustainable and meets Australia's environmental and social values."

Discussing Responsible Wood's involvement in the summit, Jason Ross, marketing and communications officer, emphasised the importance of forest certification schemes such as Responsible Wood and PEFC in demonstrating that forest fibre is from a sustainable source.

"More and more, specifiers are looking to do the right thing and making informed decisions on purchases," Mr Ross said.







Responsible Wood praises Woolies new Aussie-made paper bag

Six billion plastic bags have been taken out of circulation.

RESPONSIBLE Wood has welcomed an announced by Woolworths that it will be stocking PEFC-certified Australian-made paper bags in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

The move comes ahead of a progressive roll out of Australian-made paper bags over the next 12 months.

Woolworths' paper shopping bags were first launched in June 2020 in response to customer demand for a paper carry-bag option.

Woolworths Supermarkets managing director Natalie Davis said while almost all customers were now bringing their own reusable bags, unplanned shops would present a challenge from time to time.

"Earlier this year we introduced the option of a paper bag, which can be recycled at home, and the feedback from customers has been positive," Ms Davis said.

More and more, shoppers are ditching plastic packaging and opting for environmentally friendly alternatives including naturally recyclable, fibre-based products.

Responsible Wood-certified Detpak will manufacture the paper bags using PEFC

We introduced the option of a bag

that can be recycled at home and the feedback from customers has been positive certified material.

CEO of Detpak's parent Detmold Group Alf Ianniello said the paper bags supported the move to a circular economy; 70% of the contained locally-sourced recycled material."

Responsible Wood CEO Simon Dorries said by choosing paper from PEFC certified forests, consumers could have confidence that their decisions had not contributed to an unsustainable practice, nor damaged the ecological, social and economic wellbeing of forests.

Since Woolworths began phasing out single-use plastic bags in 2018, more than six billion bags have been taken out of circulation. Only 15 per cent of customers now purchase a new bag during a transaction.



Responsible Wood optimistic as standards underpins busy 2021

Historic trans-Tasman forest management initiative

BETWEEN the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of the 2019-20 summer bushfires, 2020 has been a year like no other.

As we move into 2021, Responsible Wood is looking forward to what lies ahead.

The publication of the historic trans-Tasman sustainable forest management standard (AS/ZS 4708) will provide common benchmarks for certified Australian and New Zealand forests.

Two years in development, the new standard will be audited for acceptance by PEFC International, meet the rigorous requirements of a fully-fledged JAS-ANZ accredited sustainable forest management system and

meet current and future expectations for forest management in both countries.

In addition to AS/ ZS 4708, Responsible Wood will work with the newly-appointed AS/NZS 4707 standards reference committee and working group in developing a new chain-of-custody standard for forest and tree-based products.

The Australia-New Zealand standard (AS/ ZS 4708), along with the Australian standard for Chain of Custody for Forest Products (AS/ ZS 4707) are key components of the Responsible Wood certification scheme.

Responsible Wood this year will unveil a new website which will improve the user experience for members, certificate holders and consumers of certified products.

Responsible Wood will continue to fly the flag for PEFC in Australia, particularly within export markets where it continues to collaborate with national PEFC entities in Asia.

And finally, we will soon announce the successful recipients of the Responsible Wood Small Grants Program.

Awarded to regional and rural communities connected to a Responsible Wood certified forest, the quality of applicants has impressed small grants coordinator Megan Graham.

So, while 2020 will be forever remembered as the year that reshaped the world, Responsible Wood is optimistic about what 2021 may bring.

On the board

Dr Hans Drielsma AM Stuart West Katie Fowden Mark Thomson Judy Alexander Dr Tony Bartlett Mark Gauthier Patrizia Torelli Craig Smith

Chief Executive Officer
Simon Dorries

