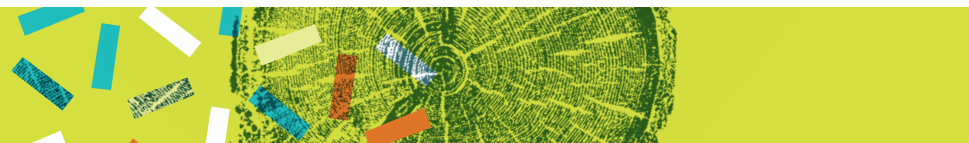




Responsible  
Wood



## Enabling Sustainability







## Australia's forests

Total forest area

124.7 million hectares

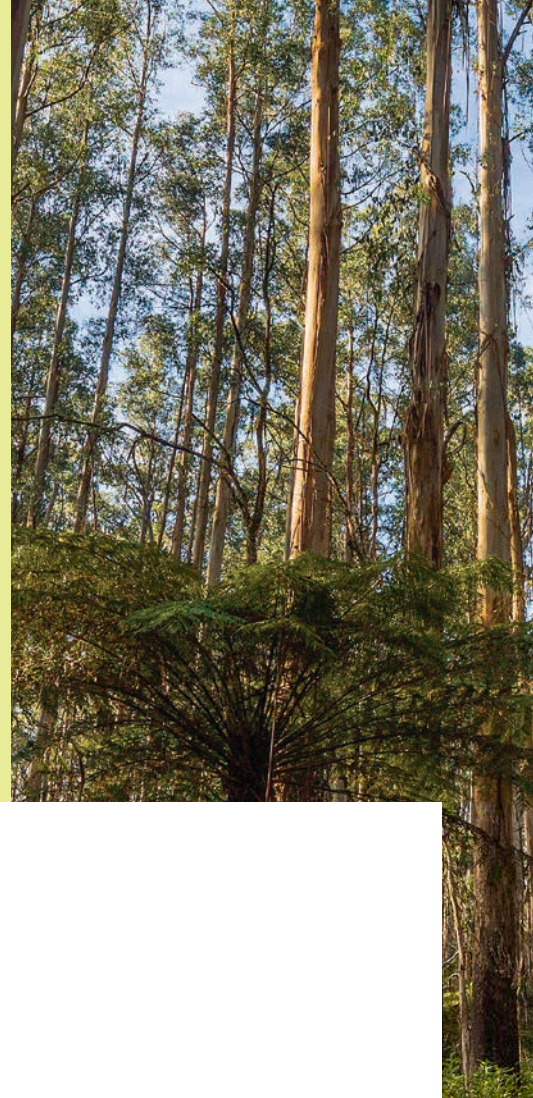
Native forests available & suitable for commercial wood production

36.6 million hectares

Area of commercial plantation forest

2.0 million hectares

Source: Australian Dept. of Agriculture and Water Resources, 2017



# About Responsible Wood

**Established in 2002, Responsible Wood\* are pioneers in the development of certification standards for wood and wood products sourced from sustainably managed forests in Australia.**

Our standards provide guidance and accountability for forest managers, manufacturers and suppliers.

We are committed to protecting and promoting Australia's unique environments with standards that ensure a forest industry that is environmentally, socially, culturally and commercially sustainable.

## We champion sustainable forests

### Vision

To ensure Australia's forests, and the products sourced from them, are amongst the most sustainable in the world.

### Mission

To achieve nothing less than total certification of all Australian wood and wood products.

### Purpose

Through certification, education and communication, we will develop demand for Australian wood products that are sourced using sustainable forest managed practices tailored to specific regions and environmental conditions. Our certification program provides confidence for consumers, differentiating certified Australian wood products, making them easier to buy.

We believe that certification plays a critical role in building a truly sustainable future that can be shared by forest growers and managers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

\* Responsible Wood, a not-for-profit standards development organisation [formerly known as Australian Forestry Standard], manages the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme.





# Why forests matter

We all know that forests are wonderful places.

They are a precious living resource that provides food, heat, energy, medicine, timber, paper and a variety of products; they promote biodiversity by giving habitats and shelter; they are an integral part of the water and carbon cycles; and they have a fundamental role in regulating the climate.

More than one in five people worldwide – an estimated two billion people – are believed to depend on forests and the services they provide for their livelihoods, yet forests are among the world's most vulnerable ecosystems.

If forests are to continue to deliver the full range of benefits that people and nature are dependent on, they need to be conserved and managed responsibly.

Sustainability is at the core of this approach, which is a continuation of the unique, millennia long relationship which has shaped the Australian landscape and its inhabitants.

## Forest Certification

### **An enabler of sustainability**

Sustainable forest management offers a holistic approach to ensure forest activities deliver social, environmental and economic benefits now and in the future. Certification is the tool to verify this and to connect the consumer with the sustainable origins of their products.

As well as providing assurance of sustainable practices, forest certification also acts as an enabler of sustainability. It empowers consumers and companies to choose sustainably-sourced, Responsible Wood-labelled products, thereby allowing us to reward responsible forest owners, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and creating an incentive for uncertified organisations to obtain certification.

This means all of us interested in safeguarding forests – responsible businesses, public authorities, organisations and consumers alike – can use our purchasing power to support the sustainable management of Australia's forests.





# Responsible Wood Certification Scheme

To enable sustainability of Australia's forests, Responsible Wood developed and manages the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme, which is underpinned by two Australian Standards® – Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) and Chain of Custody (AS 4707).

These two Australian Standards were developed through a rigorous 3-year process involving community, industry, scientific, academic, environmental, indigenous, employee and government representatives.

They combine to provide guidance and accountability to forest managers, manufacturers and suppliers. They protect and promote Australia's unique environments by ensuring a forest industry that is environmentally, socially, culturally and commercially sustainable.

## Sustaining Australia's forests

**Under Responsible Wood, Australians can be proud that:**

- Australia is the 3rd largest certified forest area (hectares) in the world
- 90% of our large public and private native (timber harvesting) forests and plantations are certified

Source: PEFC, Oct 2017

## Endorsement

### Meeting International Sustainability Benchmarks

The Responsible Wood Certification Scheme is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the global authority on sustainable forest management.

**The high standards of PEFC include requirements to:**

- Safeguard ecologically important forest areas
- Protect and enhance biological diversity
- Prohibit deforestation
- Prohibit forest conversions
- Prohibit the most dangerous chemicals
- Prohibit genetically modified trees
- Respect rights of workers and indigenous peoples
- Encourage local employment
- Provide consultation with local people and stakeholders
- Respect traditional land rights and local customs
- Provide a voice for those who depend on forest for their livelihood

PEFC endorsement follows rigorous third-party assessment and is reviewed every five years. This ensures our standards continuously improve and evolve, and that we engage all interested stakeholders on an ongoing basis.



# Implementing certification on the ground

## Sustainable Forest Management

### Enabling sustainability of Australian forests

Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) certification enables forest owners to provide assurances their forests are managed in line with challenging environmental, social and economic requirements – balancing people, planet and profit.

For large companies owning or managing huge areas of forest land, individual certification is the perfect mechanism to demonstrate compliance with Responsible Wood requirements. Group certification is the affordable option through which groups of smaller forest landholders can organise themselves, pool their resources, and work together to achieve certification.

## Chain of Custody

### Connecting the consumer with the sustainable origins of their products

The link from sustainably managed forests to the market is established through Chain of Custody (AS 4707) certification, which tracks forest-based products from sustainable sources to the final product. It closely monitors each step of the supply chain through independent auditing to ensure that certified, sustainable material reaches the consumer while unsustainable sources are excluded.

Chain of Custody certification provides assurances that wood contained in a product originates from certified Australian forests, and requires all companies along the supply chain to be Responsible Wood Chain of Custody certified. As long as this is the case, products can carry the Responsible Wood mark which assists consumers, businesses, governments, forest owners and managers, and other stakeholders in identifying, buying and promoting products and goods from forests that are managed sustainably. Increasingly, governments and companies from around the world require such certification within their procurement policies.

Individual and group Chain of Custody certification provides options for both large and small organisations to achieve certification.

### RESPONSIBLE WOOD CERTIFIED

>24.05

million hectares of forest

25

forest owners

250

individual sites operating Chain of Custody systems



Image:  
Box Office, Melbourne  
by Cox Architecture

Winner, Excellence in the use of  
timber products – Australian  
certified timber, Australian  
Timber Design Awards 2015  
Photographer: Tommy Miller

# Certification and Auditing



## How compliance with certification requirements is verified

**To ensure that certification is objective and impartial, it is carried out by independent accredited certification bodies.**

If compliance is demonstrated, the certification body issues a certificate, with a unique licence number, valid for three to five years, after which operators must become re-certified. Additional checks are done through annual surveillance audits to proactively verify on-going compliance. Only operations who continuously meet our standards earn the right to make "Responsible Wood-certified" claims and use the Responsible Wood label.

Australia's forests

>64,000 people

The estimated number of people employed in the Australian forest and wood manufacturing industries

\$23.5 billion

Annual income from forest product manufacturing sales and service

0.5% of GDP

Forest industry and forest product manufacturing contribution to annual GDP

Source: Australian Dept. of Agriculture and Water Resources, 2017



## The Responsible Wood Label

**Assisting consumers in identifying responsibly sourced products**

Many products carry endorsements and logos. For the future of the Australia's forests, look for Responsible Wood's distinctive Shield logo.

This is your assurance that wood-based products (timber, furniture, packaging or paper) bearing the Shield logo come from well-managed forests. Today it is carried on many products, providing consumers in Australia and around the world with the knowledge that the wood or fibre used in the product originates from a responsibly-managed forest.





# Getting Involved

There are many opportunities to engage with Responsible Wood, in either a personal or professional capacity.

These range from giving preference to products bearing the distinctive Responsible Wood label when shopping, to contributing your professional expertise during a forest management standard setting process.

## **Become a Responsible Wood member**

Membership of Responsible Wood is an investment in sustainable management of Australia's forests and the sound operation of the Australian wood and paper products industry. Membership is open to any individual or company that supports our aims for forest sustainability.

More information  
[responsiblewood.org.au/members](https://responsiblewood.org.au/members)

## **Participate in standard development**

Contribute to Standards review and development.

More information  
[responsiblewood.org.au/standards/review](https://responsiblewood.org.au/standards/review)

## **Produce, sell and buy Responsible Wood-certified products**

### **Certify your forest**

More information  
[responsiblewood.org.au/get-certified/forest-growers](https://responsiblewood.org.au/get-certified/forest-growers)

### **Certify your company**

More information  
[responsiblewood.org.au/get-certified/chain-of-custody](https://responsiblewood.org.au/get-certified/chain-of-custody)

### **Label your products**

More information  
[responsiblewood.org.au/logo-use](https://responsiblewood.org.au/logo-use)

### **Procure and buy responsibly**

More information  
[responsiblewood.org.au/choose-responsibly](https://responsiblewood.org.au/choose-responsibly)



Front cover image top left:

Law Architects for Woodleigh School Homestead Redevelopment

Winner, *Excellence in the use of timber products – Australian certified timber*, Australian Timber Design Awards 2016

Photographer: Dan Echberg

Front cover image top right:

Charlotte Chapel, Chris Graves Building Pty Ltd. Design Practice:

SJH Planning & Design

Winner, *Excellence in the use of timber products – Australian certified timber*, Australian Timber Design Awards 2017

Photography: David Bensen

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