

# Responsible Wood

Annual review of activities  
2022 - 2023



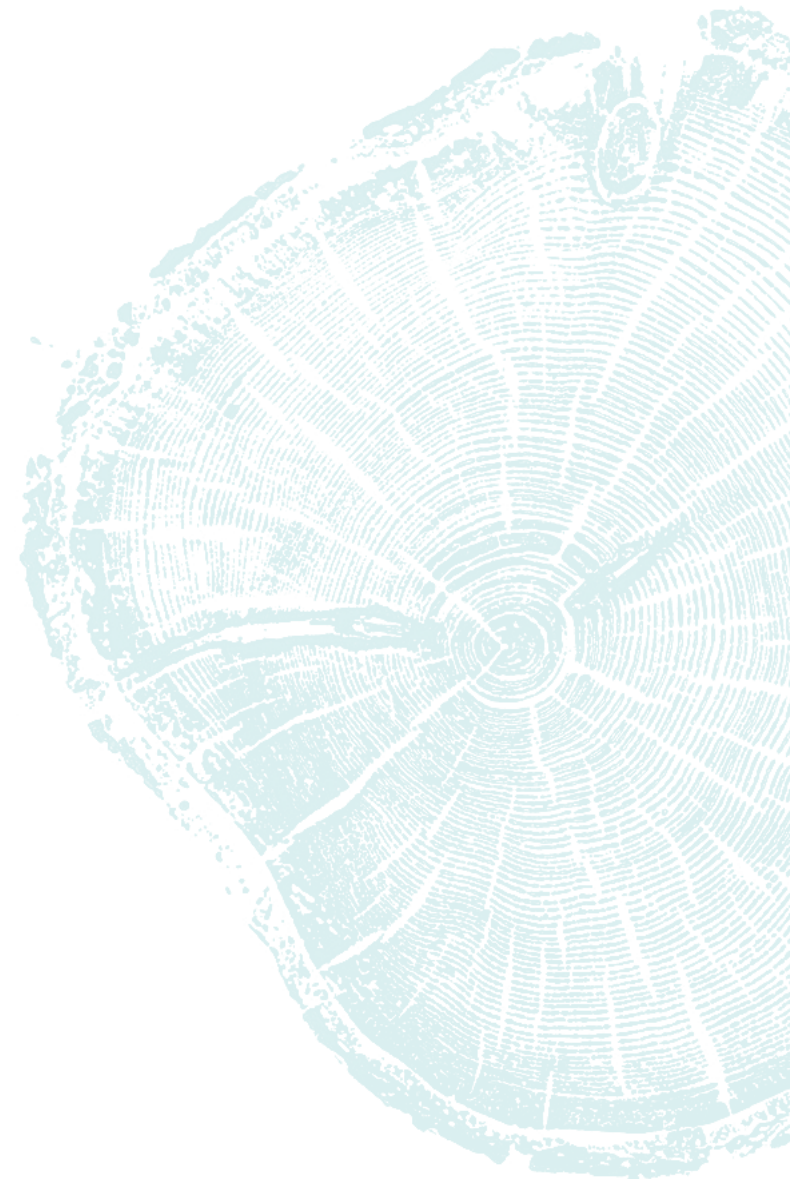
**FRONT COVER**

*Jindabyne Library and Community Centre - featuring Xlam and Scupltform certified timber.*

*This project is an Australian Timber Design Awards Entrant for the category Australian Certified Timber.*

*The award recognises excellence in the use of Australian Certified Timber and/or timber products which are sourced from Australian forests.*

**Photographer:** John Gollings.





# Chairperson's Report

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## **On behalf of the Directors, I am pleased to present the 2022-23 Responsible Wood Annual Report. This has been another successful year for Responsible Wood with significant work on maintaining our position as the largest forest certification scheme operating in Australia and New Zealand.**

In February 2023, the Responsible Wood board appointed me to the role of Chairperson, following the decision by Dr Hans Drielsma AM to retire. I look forward to working with the staff, board and members to ensure that our certification scheme remains fit for purpose and widely recognised as evidence that wood products are derived from sustainably managed forests.

The board has expressed its gratitude for the very substantial contributions that Dr Drielsma has made to forest certification both in Australia and globally. In the early 2000's Hans was instrumental in the development of Australia's national forest certification scheme, chairing the Australian Forestry Standard steering committee. He has made major contributions to the governance of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd [now Responsible Wood] becoming a director in 2004 and the Chair of the board in 2016. Hans has also made significant contributions at the international level by ensuring that the Australian Forestry Standard was recognised by PEFC and participating in PEFC's governance via the PEFC Council from 2006 to 2016 and on the PEFC international governance review panel.

In 2022, Michael O'Connor was elected to the board by members and Stuart West was re-elected by members. I was reappointed by the board as an independent director. I

acknowledge the valuable contributions of retiring directors Craig Smith and Hans Drielsma and sincerely thank Responsible Wood's CEO and staff for their dedication and professionalism in supporting all of Responsible Wood's activities.

Over the past year, the board has focussed on a review of Responsible Wood's Strategic Plan, which included an independent process to evaluate trends influencing the forest industries and to seek feedback from members about our strategic priorities and programs. This work highlighted the rising importance of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) for investors and forest sector stakeholders and indicated that members were highly satisfied with Responsible Wood's work. In the revised strategy we have retained our eight strategic goals but refined some of the measures and priorities for the next 5 years.

For the past couple of years, the board has consciously approved operating budgets with planned deficits that are funded currently from strategic reserves. In doing so we have been able to increase the programs and support that Responsible Wood delivers to members, particularly through the marketing and communications program and by establishing a new position of Sustainability Manager. The board has agreed to continue this approach in 2023-24, however, we can only continue to do this for a couple of years before we will need to review both our income and expenditure streams. The board is also monitoring how the income and expenditure have changed over the past 9 years and we intend to share this information with members in the future. The board agreed to increase Notification Fees by 5% for 2023-24,

in line with CPI increases to cover increased operating costs associated with salaries and travel.

Responsible Wood remains very focused on building relationships and engagement with its members, and certificate holders, about sustainable forest management as well as the two Standards that demonstrate sustainability to customers and the community. We have been active in responding when new threats, such as the Living Building Challenge and the Senate Committee examining Greenwashing, have arisen. New proactive outreach activities championed by the Sustainability Manager have included speaking at the Sydney Build Expo, developing webinars and podcasts and trialling field trips, run in conjunction with industry partners, for architects, designers, builders, wholesalers and retailers to gain a greater appreciation of sustainable forest management, forest certification and chain of custody processes.

We have remained strongly engaged with PEFC through a variety of mechanisms, including hosting a visit by the new PEFC CEO, Dr Michael Berger, to New Zealand and Australia in April, participating in the joint PEFC General Assembly-Sustainable Forestry Initiative conference in Vancouver in May and supporting the first face-to-face meeting of the PEFC Asia-Pacific Regional Hub that was held in Vietnam in October 2022. These engagements help us ensure that PEFC remains relevant



to the forest sector in Australia and New Zealand and to try to grow the PEFC family in our region.

– **DR TONY BARTLETT AFSM**, Chairperson, Responsible Wood



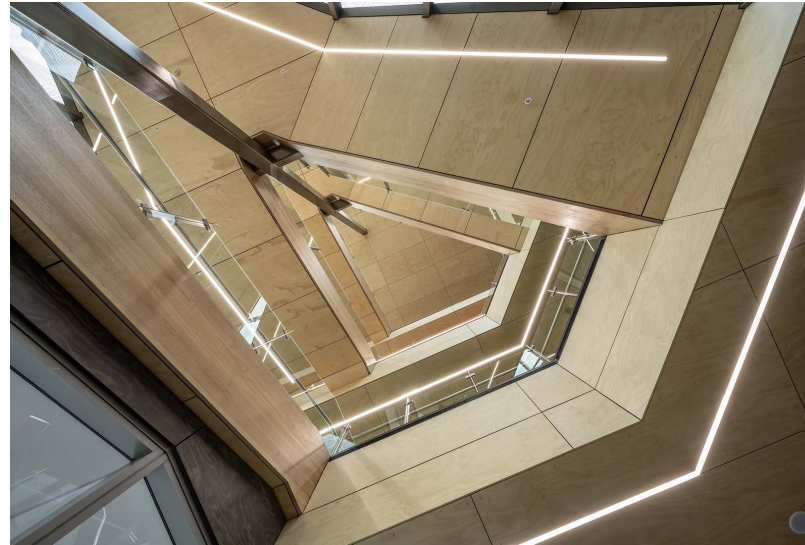
**Responsible Wood (The Australian Forestry Standard trading as Responsible Wood) is a not-for-profit public company that promotes the sustainable management of Australia's forests and traceability of wood products, through its management of the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme (RWCS).**

We are a Standards Development Organisation accredited by the Standards Development and Accreditation Committee of Standards Australia (SDAC) to develop and maintain Australian Standards® within its scope of accreditation.

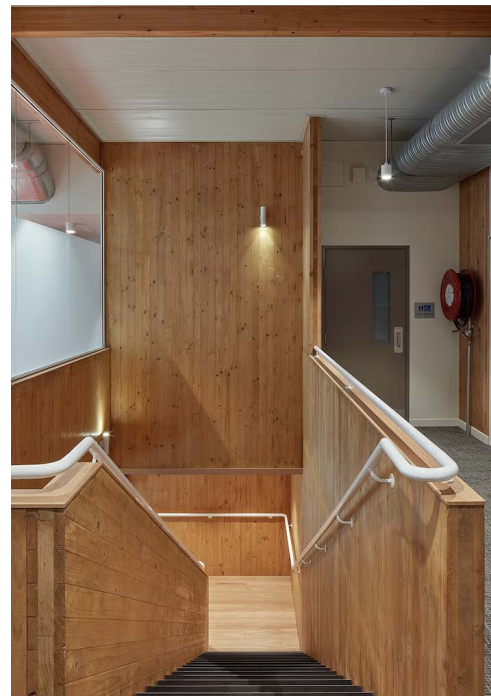
We are the Australian member of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The RWCS is one of 49 national forest certification schemes endorsed by the PEFC.

Each year, we publish our Annual Review of Activities to inform members, stakeholders and the public of its progress in administering the RWCS.

This review covers the period 2022–23 and was presented to members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Responsible Wood.



*Galkangu Bendigo GovHub - featuring certified timber from Australian Sustainable Hardwoods & Xlam.  
Photographer: Courtesy of Icon.*



*QFES North Coast Region Headquarters and Maryborough Fire and Rescue Station - featuring Hyne and Xlam certified timber.*

**Photographer:**  
Christopher Frederick Jones.



*These field trips represent an important milestone for Responsible Wood, taking new steps towards actively engaging architects, designers, builders, manufacturers, and wholesalers in the pursuit of sustainable and responsibly sourced timber.*





Jindabyne Library and Community  
Centre - featuring Xlam and Sculptform  
certified timber  
**Photographer:** Brett Boardman.



# Contents

Responsible Wood Certification Scheme	6
Review of Activities 2021-2022	7-15
Responsible Wood Community Grants Program	7-8
Reviewing our Standards	9
Certification	9-11
Forest management certification	9-10
Chain of custody certification	10
Accredited certification bodies	10-11
PEFC in New Zealand	11
Richard Stanton Award of Excellence	11-12
Standards and Accreditation	12-13
SDAC	12
PEFC	12-13
Standards Reviews	13
Recognised Training	13
Marketing and Communications	13-14
Finance and Administration	14-15
Membership	14-15
Governance	15
Finance	15
Management and Staff	15

## On the board

<b>Chairperson</b>	Katie Fowden	Mark Thomson	<b>Chief Executive</b>
Dr Tony Bartlett AFSM	David Little	Dr Kerrie Catchpoole	<b>Officer</b>
Stuart West	Michael O'Connor	Mark Gauthier	Simon Dorries



# Responsible Wood Certification Scheme

## **The Responsible Wood Certification Scheme sets out the specifications and procedures that ensure the highest standards of management, transparency and accountability in Australia's forest sector.**

Two Australian Standards sit at the heart of the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme — the Australia/New Zealand Standard® for Sustainable Forest Management (AS/NZS 4708:2021) and the Australian Standard® for Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products (AS 4707:2021).

Australia/New Zealand Standard® AS/NZS 4708:2021 provides reassurance to consumers of certified wood and paper products that the forests from which those products originated are independently audited and verified as well managed.

Obtaining certification demonstrates that management practices meet the requirements for best practice in sustainable forest management, including:

- biodiversity of forest ecosystems is maintained or enhanced
- the range of ecosystem services that forests provide is sustained because they:
  - provide food, fibre, biomass and wood
  - are a key part of the water cycle, act as sinks capturing and storing carbon, and prevent soil erosion
  - provide habitats and shelter for people and wildlife; and
  - offer spiritual and recreational benefits.
- chemicals are substituted by natural alternatives or their use is minimised
- workers' rights and welfare are protected
- local employment is encouraged
- Indigenous peoples' rights are respected
- communities have an opportunity to provide input into the process.

Chain of Custody Certification against Australian Standard® AS 4707:2021 ensures requirements for tracking certified material from the forest to the final product are met, and that the wood contained in the product or product line originates from certified forests and controlled sources.

The Responsible Wood Forest Certification Scheme is endorsed by PEFC, the world's largest sustainable forest certification scheme, which sets high standards for forest certification and sustainable forest management in line with society's ever evolving understanding and expectations.

The Standards are reviewed every five years to ensure they represent best management practices and reflect community expectations.



# Review of Activities 2022 - 2023

## During the period under review, Responsible Wood has continued to partner with PEFC International and Australian sponsors, providing a full-time marketing resource to support Australian Responsible Wood/PEFC-certified suppliers in the Japanese market.

Tokyo-based Japan Marketing Manager, Ms Makiko Horio, is reaching out to a wide range of forest and wood product businesses in Japan to promote PEFC-certified forest fibre and products. A special focus has been on the Japanese pulp and paper supply chains and procurement for the 2025 Osaka World Expo with commitments being made to build pavilions from PEFC certified products.

In collaboration with the University of Melbourne and the majority of the forest growers and processors, Responsible Wood has applied for a research and development project with FWPA. The project aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of where, and how, certification positively influences various aspects of forest management systems and the sourcing of forest products, develop a methodology for impact assessment, and present an independent report of these effects. The project will be inclusive of natural and plantation forests throughout Australia and focus on the Responsible Wood, PEFC and FSC, forest management, controlled wood and chain of custody schemes; assessing their impact on Australian forests in terms of impact delivery, neutrality, or non-delivery.

Responsible Wood also presented at several forums including the; International Union of Forest Research Organisations

(IUFRO), Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST), Impact X Climate Summit, Sydney Build Expo, University of Melbourne forestry students; and participated in podcasts about forest and chain of custody certification.

Since being updated in 2021, our webpage and search engine optimisation (SEO) are performing well and provide a user-friendly platform for members, certificate holders and consumers of Responsible Wood certified products.

Our scheme continues to grow from strength to strength with an increasing number of members and scheme holders using

the Responsible Wood brand in the marketplace.

We thank our members and stakeholders for their ongoing support, feedback and input in these processes.

## Community Grants Program

Our Community Grants Program continues to support local communities connecting to Responsible Wood certified forests throughout Australia. Funding can be used for many different types of forest based projects, and may include; the construction or upgrade of picnic facilities, tracks, interpretive signage, forest rehabilitation or habitat improvement, bushfire related commemorations or forest based art installations.

In 2022-23, the program continued to gain momentum fostering strong forest owner and community relationships through the creation and completion of local forest-based projects with positive outcomes for both the community and the forests. The program provides a great opportunity for a wide range of communities to submit grant applications for creative ideas about accessing and enjoying forests.

Community Grants were awarded for collaborative community-based projects, activities or events that connect local communities to Responsible Wood certified forests.

Responsible Wood received a fantastic response to this year's program, with 17 innovative and compelling applications received, with a combined project value of over \$165,000. A panel of judges awarded grants to six of the applicants, totalling \$40,000.

The funds awarded to this year's recipients were used towards a variety of forest-based projects, including the construction



2022-23 Community grants TAO Blue Tree Project recipient



# Review of Activities 2022 - 2023

and upgrades of innovative and interpretive forestry signage, timber furniture, picnic facilities, and a bike repair station.

## 2022/23 Successful Grant Recipients:

- Upper Murray Landcare, Victoria
- Bundaleer Forest Community Areas Association, South Australia
- Hunter Mountain Bike Association, New South Wales
- Old Beechy Rail Trail Friends, Victoria
- Tasmanian Arboriculture Organisation, Tasmania
- Traralgon Men's Shed, Victoria.



*Dr Hans Drielsma AM, outgoing chair, and Dr Tony Bartlett, new chair (centre) with board members Stuart West (WA) and David Little (NSW).*



*Responsible Wood board members in Brisbane. Katie Fowden (Qld), Mark Thomson (Qld), Kerri Catchpoole (Qld), and Michael O'Connor (Vic).*

Thanks to all applicants and congratulations to those who were successful in 2022/23.

We would like to also extend our gratitude to Ms Megan Graham, Project Manager for the Responsible Wood Community Grants Program.

## Reviewing our Standards and PEFC Endorsement

In late 2021 major reviews of AS 4707:2021 - Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree-Based Products and AS/NZS 4708:2021 - Sustainable Forest Management were completed.

Responsible Wood has continued to facilitate effective transition and is focusing on the rollout of the revised Standards. A comprehensive transition policy has been implemented and workshops in both Australia and New Zealand to ensure that all new requirements are fully understood and the transition is timely and effective. Significant support has been provided to certification bodies and the Australian accreditation body JAS-ANZ, to ensure the training and competence of auditors to enable effective audits to the updated Standards to be completed. Organisations holding chain of custody are required to transition to AS4707:2021 before November 2023 and those holding sustainable forest management to AS/NZS 4708:2021 must transition by March 2024.

The revised Standards were submitted to PEFC for their review and endorsement during the period. The Standards and the supporting Responsible Wood Certification Scheme underwent a comprehensive review against all PEFC



*Matt de Jongh with ForestrySA staff at the Tree Climb*

sustainability indicators and performance requirements to maintain PEFC endorsement. Responsible Wood was very pleased to have been informed by PEFC that the review was successful and AS/NZS 4708, AS 4707 and the Responsible Wood Certification scheme continue to be PEFC endorsed. The PEFC re-endorsement provides international recognition to the Australian Standards and the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme.

## Certification

### Forest management certification

The total area of certified forest in Australia, the sum of the individual Defined Forest Areas (DFA), has increased slightly to 20.4 million hectares. This represents an increase of 3.6% over the 2021–22 period. The total number of forest management certificates increased from 27 to 30.



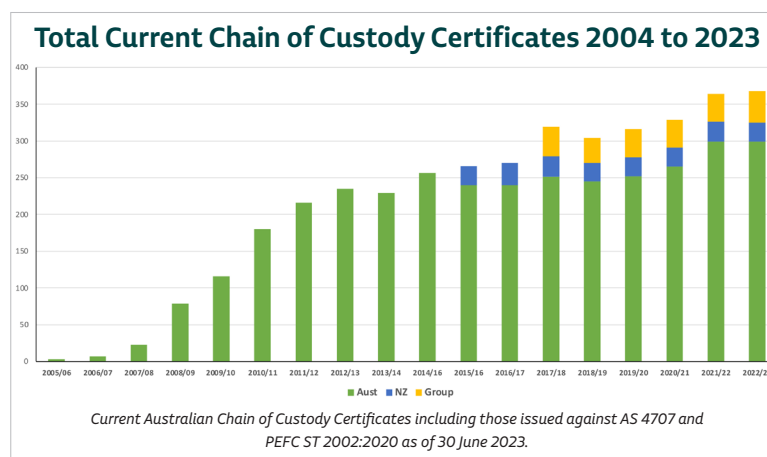
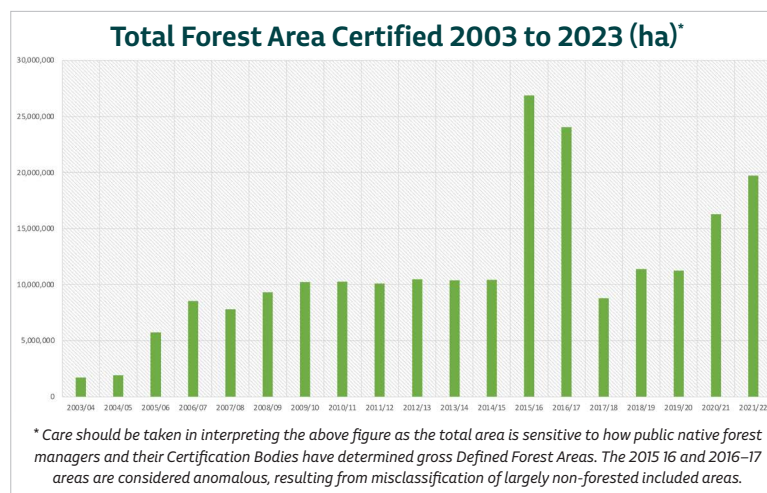
The majority of Australia's commercial production forests (i.e., plantations and native forests) continued to be certified against the Australia/New Zealand Forestry Standard (AS/NZS 4708-Sustainable Forest Management).

The Reliance Forest Fibre Group Scheme and the ForestSmart Group Certification Scheme administered by PF Olsen Australia Pty Ltd are currently registered for Group Certification under the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme. Group Certification is where small independent forest managers form a cooperative or group for the collective certification of the forests in which they manage. Group Certification defrays the certification and management costs over a larger number of participants, making forest certification more cost-effective and accessible to small forest growers.

## Chain of Custody certification

Responsible Wood recognises Chain of Custody certificates issued against the Australian Standard® (AS 4707 Chain of Custody of Forest Products) and the PEFC Standard (PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products — Requirements).

The total number of Chain of Custody certified sites has increased from 329 to 363 as of 30th June 2022. Eleven new CoC certificates were issued during the period with the remainder in the growth due to new sites added to existing CoC certificates. Chain of Custody Certification



has continued to grow at a higher rate than past years indicating an increased demand for CoC certification.

Group Chain of Custody Certification has remained strong with 28 individual companies participating in Group Chain of Custody, under two individual certificates.

## Accredited certification bodies

Four certification bodies are accredited to issue Forest Management certificates in Australia and/or New Zealand to AS/NZS 4708. In addition, thirteen certification bodies are accredited to provide a Chain of Custody in Australia and New Zealand against the PEFC Chain of Custody Standard or AS 4707. This is unchanged since the previous year.

We have continued engagement with certification bodies by facilitating workshops. The 2022–23 workshop was delivered remotely in July and was attended by 16 staff representing all certification bodies operating in Australia and New Zealand. The workshops provide a forum where certification and accreditation requirements (including new provisions) are discussed, changes and updates to Standards are reviewed, the activities of Responsible Wood and PEFC are communicated, and feedback on the operation of the certification scheme is provided. Attendance at these workshops is recognised as contributing to the mandatory training required by the relevant scheme rules.



# Review of Activities 2022 - 2023



*Matt de Jongh visiting members from the Hurford Group*

## PEFC in New Zealand

We have continued to administer the PEFC scheme in New Zealand on behalf of the New Zealand Forest Certification Association (NZFCA). NZFCA is the PEFC Governing Body for New Zealand. There are now five Forest Management certificates in New Zealand with 635,582 ha of PEFC-certified forests. The number of Chain of Custody certificates remains relatively unchanged. Under the agreement with NZFCA, we maintain all registrations and notifications, take enquiries and applications from New Zealand, liaise with certification bodies, and ensure that the scheme rules administered by JAS-ANZ are applied in New Zealand, as they are in Australia.

With International travel restrictions being lifted, Responsible Wood has recommenced visiting New Zealand to promote certification to the joint Australia/New Zealand Standard and chain of custody. Workshops to provide information on the new combined Australia/New Zealand AS/NZS 4708:2021 SFM standard were held in Rotorua and outreach visits were made to Gisborne, Auckland, Wellington, Nelson and Dunedin.

## Richard Stanton Award for Excellence

In 2015, AFS Ltd established the Richard Stanton Award for Excellence as an ongoing memorial to the late AFS National Secretary, Richard Stanton. The Richard Stanton Award is given to an individual demonstrating excellence and is open to individuals who have made a significant contribution to or can demonstrate:

1. Innovation, improvement or excellence in Forest Management or Chain of Custody Certification.

2. A strong commitment to the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme and sustainable forest Management.  
3. Innovation and improvement in the promotion and marketing of Responsible Wood Certified Products.

The recipient of the 2022 Award was architect Kim Baber, of Baber Studi, whose work on the QFES North Coast Region Headquarters and Maryborough Fire and Rescue Station was highly commended. The architectural statement of the project showcased the timber construction technology employed, which used Responsible Wood certified forest products, sourced through chain of custody certified suppliers. The incorporation of cross-laminated timber (CLT) construction throughout the building showcased both locally sourced timber and CLT construction. This work by Mr Baber was achievable through a collaboratively developed, market-led proposal by Hyne Timber and XLam.







Kim Baber, winner of the 2022 Richard Stanton Award, for his desire to showcase the benefits of using timber.

Mr Baber's desire to showcase the benefits of using timber, the innovation of building with CLT, as well as his commitment to using certified wood from the region for such an important building in the community is admirable.

Responsible Wood's CEO, Simon Dorries attended the Fire Station opening to personally present Mr Baber with his timber Richard Stanton award trophy and \$2,000 bursary prize.

## Standards & Accreditation

### SDAC

Responsible Wood is one of only five Australian entities accredited as a Standards Development Organisation (SDO) by the Standards Development and Accreditation Committee (SDAC). SDAC sits under the Board of Standards Australia. Accordingly, we were subject to our yearly surveillance audit by an SDAC appointed auditor in November 2022. The result was excellent with no non-conforming practices identified. As a result of the audit, SDAC accreditation of Responsible Wood as an SDO to develop Australian Standards® for forest management and Australian Standards® that support the Australian Forest Certification Scheme was maintained.

### PEFC

In addition to operating and maintaining the RWCS, we continue to operate as the PEFC National Governing Body

for Australia and provide administrative services for the New Zealand program on behalf of the New Zealand Forest Certification Association (NZFCA).

The Responsible Wood Certification Scheme (RWCS) is endorsed by the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through independent third-party certification. PEFC is recognised in 55 countries through National Governing Bodies and has 49 (this excludes Russia and Belarus who are currently suspended from PEFC) endorsed national certification systems and approximately 280 million hectares of certified forests. PEFC is the world's largest forest certification system covering approximately 20,000 individual sites and representing over 750,000 individual forest owners. PEFC certifies approximately three-quarters of all certified forests globally.

PEFC is an umbrella organisation. It works by endorsing national forest certification systems developed through multi-stakeholder processes and tailored to local priorities and conditions. To ensure consistency across all PEFC-endorsed standards, all national systems wishing to be PEFC recognised undergo a rigorous independent assessment to ensure their compliance with the PEFC Sustainability Benchmark.

PEFC criteria, regulations and guidelines also include provisions

for standards development and implementation, and define requirements for:

- stakeholder engagement in standard setting and scheme development
- regional and group certification
- certification and accreditation procedures
- Chain of Custody
- logo use
- the complaints and appeals mechanism.

We remain active within the PEFC organisation and are represented on the Standards Committee developing the accreditation requirements for certification bodies who perform forest management audits.

We are an active member of the Construction Products Task Force, the PEFC ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) working group and the Asia-Pacific Asia Promotions Initiative (APAC Hub) — an initiative that we chair. The Construction Products Task Force is responsible for advising PEFC on marketing and engagement strategies for construction products. Initiatives have included sponsorship of the World Architectural Forum (International award for excellent), new promotional materials for the construction sector and the development of an international database of procurement policies for major construction companies. The ESG working group is developing strategies to ensure that PEFC certification is recognised as meeting corporate ESG procurement and reporting obligations. The APAC Hub is undertaking priority work in the areas of "green" finance and public procurement. The Responsible Wood and PEFC systems must be recognised



# Review of Activities 2022 - 2023

as meeting and/or exceeding all sustainability requirements of the finance sector.

Responsible Wood Director, Ms Katie Fowden, is a member of the PEFC Marketing, Communications and Advocacy Working Group, representing Australia and New Zealand. This group is tasked to further develop consistent, global, strategic, and tactical approaches to deliver the overall PEFC strategy, vision, and mission.

## Visit to Australia and New Zealand by Dr Michael Berger-Secretary General and CEO of PEFC International

In March 2023 Responsible Wood hosted a visit by Dr Michael Berger-Secretary General and CEO of PEFC International. Workshops with certificate holders and organisations

interested in PEFC were held in Rotorua, Gisborne, Gympie and Hobart with Dr Berger taken on field visits in Southeast Queensland and Tasmania. Dr Berger also attended breakfast and dinner meetings with stakeholders.

A face-to-face meeting with the Commonwealth Forestry Minister, the Hon. Mr Murray Watt in Brisbane.

Additional meetings were held with the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries, the New Zealand Forest Services and major retailers supporting PEFC-certified products such as Woolworths.

## Standards and Guides Review — PEFC Standards

PEFC maintains a suite of Standards and Guides. Standards and guides currently under review include:

- New Guidance materials for chain of custody- published early 2023
- Accreditation requirements for certification bodies providing forest management audits- completion is expected in late 2023 or early 2024.

## Recognised Training

Responsible Wood is recognised by PEFC through the "pool of experts" program to provide mandatory training to certification bodies to ensure they meet the training provisions and competencies required by PEFC, JAS-ANZ and other accreditation bodies. During the period, several training packages were delivered with recognised training provided to auditors, certification body decision makers and system developers.

Responsible Wood has also provided general chain of custody training to the staff of several certificate holding organisations.

## Marketing & Communications

In the realm of marketing and communications, our efforts have undergone some key transformations in the past year, with an especially notable surge in the digital sphere. Concurrently, we've broadened our physical presence as Australia and New Zealand in the post-Covid-19 landscape.

In the twelve-month reporting period, we've been continuing to improve our marketing and communication efforts for the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme (RWCS) and PEFC brands across Australia and New Zealand. We're committed to these efforts and are pleased to report on our progress in this update.



Simon Dorries, fourth from left, with PEFC CEO Michael Berger, centre, and Queensland stakeholders.



PEFC CEO Michael Berger presenting at the Wood You Like to Know Conference.



A strong focus has been revamping key sections of the Responsible Wood website. We aim to make it easier for visitors to access important information, which is especially crucial as we strive to navigate challenges presented by stakeholder sentiment surrounding native forests and forestry misconceptions in general. This sentiment can pose challenges when presenting the value proposition of certification and addressing criticisms of our schemes.

## Overview of the Year

In a snapshot of our 2022-23, we've improved a structured digital marketing campaign that revolves around amplifying our messaging and content via our online channels. Our online media engagement, notably on LinkedIn, has seen strong growth, demonstrating the effectiveness of our digital outreach strategies. We've also published applicable case studies and communication pieces tailored to our industry, and further support our members' work, outreach efforts, events, and presentations. Our email marketing e-newsletter has generated impressive click-through and open rates, outperforming historical and year-to-date metrics.

Our website and SEO strategy continue to yield positive results, improving user journeys and time spent on the site. Our LinkedIn content strategy has significantly boosted engagement, opening doors to new networking opportunities beyond our industry. This initiative is supported through a digital agency that administers our SEO and the deployment of targeted Google Ads. As a result, our digital footprint has improved, along with increased website interactions, time-on-site, a surge in database subscriptions and other key metrics.

Our commitment to engaging with and endorsing mutually beneficial campaigns that bolster our brand identity and amplify our message continues. Notable instances include our collaboration with the Timber Framing Collective, Wood You Like to Know and continuing to support the Timber Design Awards in both Australia and New Zealand. We also remain a strong supporter of the World Architectural Festival (WAF), Best Use of Certified Timber category sponsored by PEFC International.

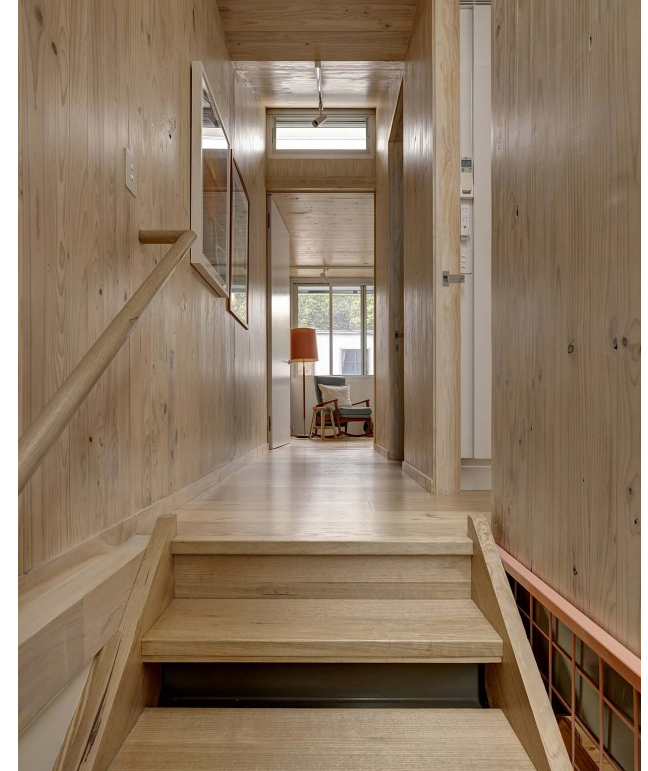
In parallel, we've been building strategic relationships with key certified members (CoC and SFM) and major retailers as well as the Green Building Council of Australia in an attempt to build upon these relationships to further improve brand use of the PEFC and Responsible Wood logos in Australia and New Zealand. Jonathan Tibbits has joined PEFC International's Thematic Taskforce (TT) on "Trademarks for Promotional Use" to leverage prominent brand use established in other markets globally in the PEFC network.

It's worth highlighting is our collaborative outreach is continuing to develop impactful partnerships with the BDAA, Planet Ark, Sustainable Choice, the Green Building Council and Impact X.

## Timber Design Awards

As with previous years, Responsible Wood continues to be a proud category sponsor of the Australian Certified Timber Award at the Australian Timber Design Awards. This award acknowledges projects where Australian timber has been sourced from sustainably managed Australian forests.

The 2022 winner of this category was Annandale CLT House by



2022 TDA Winner for Best Use of Certified Timber, Annandale CLT House by Still Space Architecture. Photo: Brett Boardman

Still Space Architecture. Using a prefabricated cross-laminated timber (CLT) shell ensured a fast turnaround to the lockup stage allowing the building to be efficiently fitted out during wet winter months. It also added strength, appearance, and versatility. Sourcing certified timber during construction for this project added to the sustainability of the final building.

### Best Use of Certified Timber – Project Details

Architects: Still Space Architecture

Structural Engineer: Sellick Consultants

Builder: ARC Projects

Timber Supplier & Fabricator: XLam Australia

Responsible Wood is continuing to support the Timber Design Awards in 2023.



# Review of Activities 2022 - 2023

## Sustainably Grown, Australian Made

We continue to see requests for the “Sustainably Grown, Australian Made” supporting statement by certificate holders. The dedicated page on our webpage continues to see new traffic. For consistency and to improve brand awareness and recognition we are now showing a “tri-logo” at public events and during presentations, wherever possible. An example of the tri-logo is below:



## Looking Ahead

We enter the next twelve months with a new and comprehensive 23/24 Marketing Plan, complete with updated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) serving as our roadmap, guiding our actions to help our members and stakeholders better understand our certification scheme, how standards are developed, and the significance of sustainable forest management when it comes to the climate change, the built environment, sustainable furniture, and responsible packaging.

## Activity Highlights

Two field trips were trialled in Victoria and Queensland in collaboration with forest managers and processors/



Queensland Field Trip.



Right: Victorian Field Trip.



Matt de Jongh with Director at Solaris Paper Steve Nicholson, showcasing certified products.



Matt de Jongh and Jonathan Tibbits with Wood Connect chain of custody group member Mark Gilbert.



2023 Sydney Build Expo, panel discussion.

Left: Forestry Australia, Dja Dja Wurrung Field Trip.

manufacturers and these were a resounding success, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Attendees were not only educated about certification and sustainable forestry practices but were also able to witness responsible wood sourcing and processing firsthand. The focus of the field trips was the end-users of forest and wood based products, therefore attendees included architects, designers, builders, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, reflecting the broad impact of Responsible Wood's mission. In light of the overwhelmingly positive response, Responsible Wood is excited to announce plans to continue these field trips as a permanent ongoing fixture.

## Finance & Administration

### Membership

We are a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee. Membership of Responsible Wood is open to all organisations and individuals who support the Objectives of the company as set out in the Constitution. As of 30 June 2022, we have 37 members, an increase of two from 2021–22.

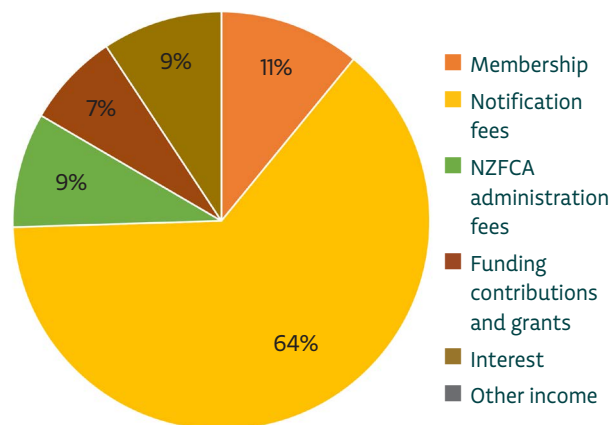
### Governance

The Directors Report and Audited Financial Reports for 2021–22 was prepared and provided to our Members prior to the 2023 AGM, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 requirements.

### Finance

The audited accounts show the financial outcome for Responsible Wood for 2022–23 was a deficit of \$163,773

## Responsible Wood Income by Source



(2021-22 — deficit \$46,729) decreasing Net Assets (Total Equity) to \$1,554,212 (2020-21 — \$1,717,985). Cash decreased from \$1,560,042 to \$1,526,065 over the year as at 30 June 2023.

During 2022-23, Responsible Wood experienced a 3% drop in revenue, which is the first time this has occurred since 2015. During the period, notification fee revenues from chain of custody certified organisation declined representing a reduction in volumes and/or pricing from the sale of certified products. This is consistent with a reduction in building activity with sales of certified construction products coming off historic highs. The board had projected that

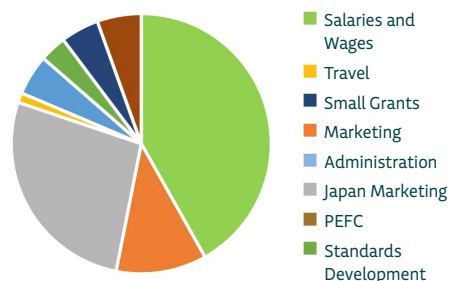
this situation was likely to occur when it approved the 2022-23 budget, so it is very pleasing to note that the total revenue received was almost 9% higher than the budgeted revenue.

We are a not-for-profit company. The Board has sought to reduce reserves to continue investing funds in the development and promotion of the Responsible Wood scheme, the Responsible Wood brand and market development in support of sustainable forest management. We will seek to increase the value added to our members and certificate holders whose support of sustainable forest management drives their engagement with the scheme.

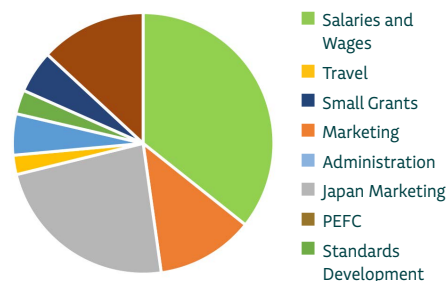
In addition, income was received from New Zealand for administering the PEFC Scheme on behalf of the NZFCA. Other income such as notification fees, subscription fees paid by members and interest increased proportionately.

## Responsible Wood Expenditure by Activity 2021 to 2023

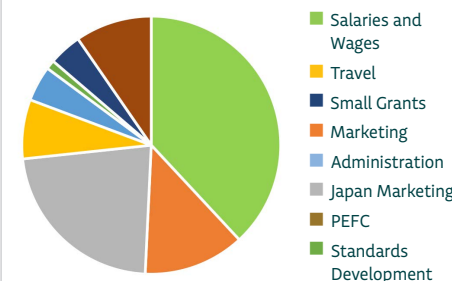
### Responsible Wood Expenditure by Activity 2021



### Responsible Wood Expenditure by Activity 2022



### Responsible Wood Expenditure by Activity 2023



## Management & Staff

- Simon Dorries, *Chief Executive Officer*
- Jonathan Tibbits, *Marketing & Communications Officer*
- Matt de Jongh, *Sustainability Manager*
- Tracey Schoemaker, *Administration*

On-going contract services were provided by:

- Alan Snow of Alan Snow Consulting *Standards development and SDO accreditation advice*
- Peter Zed, *Chair AS 4707 Standards Reference Committee*
- Dr Gordon Duff, *Chair AS 4708 Standards Reference Committee*
- Megan Graham, *Project Manager — Responsible Wood Community Grants Program*
- Meike Gates, *Accounts*
- Zonya Bird, *Graphic Designer*



# Enabling sustainability through independent certification.

*Photo: Courtesy Pat Whelen.*

