

TIMBER QUEENSLAND POLICY STATEMENT

Forest Certification

December 2005

Timber Queensland is committed to the sustainable management of forest resources used for the production of timber - the most environmentally friendly and only truly renewable building material readily available. In line with worldwide demand for standards guaranteeing sustainability, Timber Queensland supports the certification of forestry practices and subsequent chain of production via credible and broadly recognised third party accreditation schemes.

There are a number of environmental certification schemes available to Australian producers. One of the first schemes is the AS/NZS ISO 14001 Environmental Management System. Two other more recent schemes that specifically address forest management practices are the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification scheme. Both are accepted in various international markets, with the AFS formally recognised under the world's largest certification scheme, the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC).

In Queensland, DPI Forestry's management practices on State land were originally certified in 1996 under the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System. As of mid 2005, all native forests and plantations in Queensland managed by DPI Forestry have been certified by independent certification organisation Det Norske Veritas to the more rigorous and forestry-specific AS 4708 - Australian Forestry Standard.

Timber Queensland strongly supports the application of these internationally recognised schemes by DPI Forestry. It ensures that the public can have confidence that all forests on State land in Queensland are managed according to a framework that will:

- Protect and maintain biodiversity, soil and water resources;
- Maintain the health and long term productivity of the forests and their associated contribution to carbon cycles; and
- Continue to deliver the social and economic benefits to the community.

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Forest Certification cont.

Timber Queensland also supports the application of environmental codes of practice to private land for both native forests and plantations. To that end we have been working with government, the environment movement, and other stakeholders towards the development of rigorous codes of practice that will underpin forestry practices on private land. Timber Queensland supports the progressive improvement of forest management systems on private land to a point where they too can achieve certification under either the Australian Forestry Standard or Forest Stewardship Council.

Finally, Timber Queensland supports both the AFS and FSC schemes but recognise the impracticalities associated with non-recognition between them. Reconciliation and/or mutual recognition between these standards would represent a significant step towards more effective forest certification in Australia, and an important element of a successful response to imports of timber of suspicious origin.

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