



Australian
Forest
Products
Association

AUSTRALIA'S SUSTAINABLE NATIVE TIMBER INDUSTRIES A SNAPSHOT

MAKING THE PRODUCTS YOU LOVE

SUSTAINABLE, ACCOUNTABLE



Australia's native forestry operations are strictly regulated to the highest international environmental standards



Timber production occurs almost exclusively in 'regrowth' forests that have previously been harvested



Timber harvesting occurs on only a small fraction of Australia's 132-million-hectare native forest estate, using the equivalent of just 6 trees out of every 10,000 annually



Every tree used is replaced as the areas are regenerated and regrown by law

GROWING REGIONAL JOBS TO CREATE THE PRODUCTS YOU LOVE



More than 20,000 Australians are employed in our native hardwood timber industries, most of them in regional communities



Our hardwood timber industry is the most environmentally sustainable way to produce the appearance-grade hardwood timber products Australians love

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS

DID YOU KNOW?

- Australia's hardwood timber-producing forests in state multi-use forests are strictly regulated under a national framework called Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) that has evolved over more than 20 years
- As part of the RFA process, between 1997 and 2001 around 3.3 million hectares of native forest previously available for timber production was transferred into conservation reserves
- RFAs are required by law to be independently reviewed every five years, and all reviews conducted have found that they are meeting or exceeding all environmental objectives
- Under each of the 10 RFAs nationally, the Australian Government has accredited the states' forest management systems to deliver ecologically sustainable forest management

WHAT IS A REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT?

- An RFA is a bilateral agreement signed by the Prime Minister and State Premier which commits the two levels of Government to measure, monitor and report on forests in RFA regions using international best-practice standards to ensure the sustainability of forest management
- RFAs were created to strike the right balance between the environmental, economic and social values of our public forests, for the benefit of all Australians



'TRANSITIONING TO PLANTATIONS' IS A MYTH

- Plantations play an important role in Australia's timber industry. However, the current plantation estate is not suitable for appearance-grade hardwood timber products like polished floors, stairs and furniture
- Hardwood timber products need trees to grow for more than 50 years to develop the right strength and appearance properties

ON THE FRONTLINE OF OUR BUSHFIRE RESPONSE



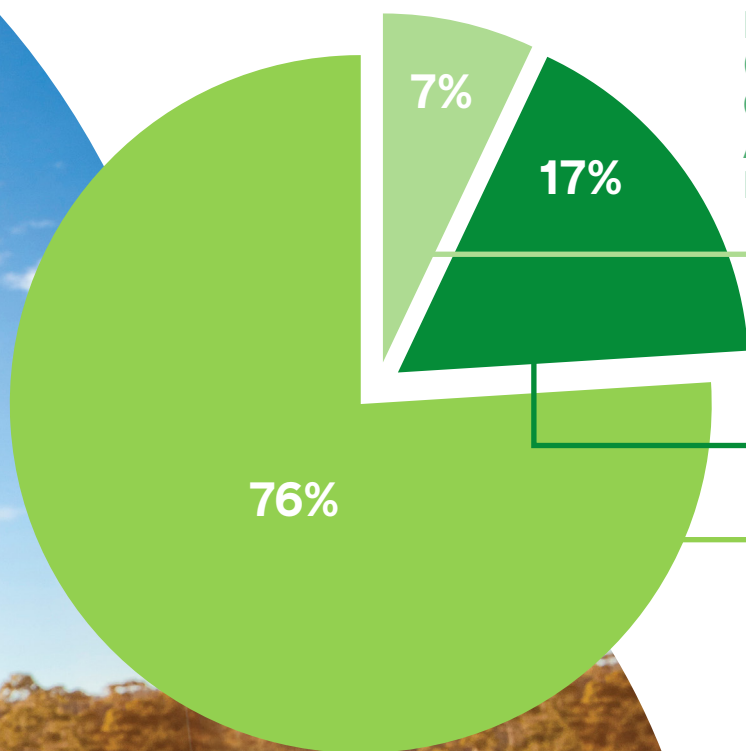
Australia's forestry and timber industry crews play a vital role in managing bushfire risk and fighting bushfires



Forestry workers use their specialised machinery such as bulldozers, excavators, and harvesters to create fire breaks and remove dangerous trees



MULTI-USE PUBLIC FORESTS (WHERE TIMBER GETTING OCCURS) COMPRISE JUST 7 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIA'S 132-MILLION-HECTARE NATIVE FOREST ESTATE



10m ha multiple-use public forests

Just 0.06 per cent of Australia's native forest estate is used annually for timber production, then the area is regenerated by law, meaning forestry can continue forever

22m ha National Parks and conservation reserves

99 million hectares of other land tenures
Leasehold (47m ha), Crown land (11m ha), private land (41m ha)

IMPORTING MORE TIMBER WILL ADD TO GLOBAL DEFORESTATION



Without a domestic hardwood timber industry Australia would have to import more wood from countries whose forests are at high risk of illegal logging and deforestation



Australia already imports more than \$5 billion of wood products from overseas every year

THE INTERNATIONAL SEAL OF APPROVAL FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

- All Australian native forestry industries are certified under the PEFC international forest certification standard, operating as Responsible Wood in Australia
- PEFC is the world's largest independent forest certification scheme, covering about two-thirds of the globally-certified forest area
- More than 80 per cent of the world's timber-producing forests are not certified



SUSTAINABLE TIMBER-PRODUCING FORESTS ARE THE BEST WAY TO STORE CARBON

A forest managed sustainably for timber production is the best way to store carbon in our forests in the long-term.

The 4th assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the advisory body to the United Nations), states:

“A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit”

DID YOU KNOW?

- Half the weight of wood products is stored carbon
- Wood products store carbon for their service life

WOOD REALLY IS THE ULTIMATE RENEWABLE