

	Wood Products Encouragement Policy <i>Policy No. ECDPOL 01</i>	Version No:	1
		Responsible Officer/s:	Economic Development Advisor
		Classification:	Council
		Issued:	2 November 2015
		Next Review:	June 2026

1. Purpose

The District Council of Grant recognises the importance of the forest and wood products industry to both the Council area and the Limestone Coast and Greater Green Triangle regions.

The key to Council's commitment to job retention and creation is supporting significant local industry in order to secure employment and leverage further investment.

2. Scope

This policy aims to:

- Facilitate and encourage the use of wood as a preferred, sustainable building material for projects in the district;
- Require wood to be used in Council building projects if appropriate;
- Actively support and advocate for timber and the wood industry – locally, regionally and at a national level; and
- Encourage the use of regionally produced timber products that come from sustainable plantation grown resources.

Further goals include:

- To stimulate sustainable economic development within the Council area's timber and wood products industry and encourage the development of value added products within the timber sector.
- To encourage the use of verified sustainable sourced timber and wood products in the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To recognise all of the benefits that make timber a smart choice for Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To share information and encourage education regarding the benefits of using timber in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure to the construction industry sector and general public.
- To demonstrate local and national leadership by enacting the Wood Products Encouragement Policy on Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To align with opportunities for state and federal funding.
- To reinforce Council's preference for quality timber buildings in the development of briefs for projects.
- To promote the industry as a renewable resource, identifying the environmental benefits of the resource.

3. Policy

3.1. Council will encourage the increased utilisation of timber in Council assets by:

- (a) Ensuring that all briefs for new council projects incorporate the requirement to use timber as the preferred material for both construction and fit out

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purposes, where wood is deemed a suitable material for the proposed application;

- (b) Identifying those who can find practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using timber when sourcing design and architectural expertise;
- (c) Ensuring that all comparisons to the cost of building with other materials will take into account all long-term and life cycle benefits of using wood products;
- (d) Where possible, sourcing locally produced wood products for construction and fit out purposes;
- (e) Being a champion of the forest and wood products industry, by establishing this policy and demonstrating commitment to the further development of the local forest and wood products industry.
- (f) Actively seeking demonstration projects that showcase the use of timber within the Council region.
- (g) Actively working to attract new, innovative wood products manufacturers to the Council district;
- (h) Supporting research opportunities to recognise and reward good building design and a more holistic approach to carbon reduction in the building and construction sector by the use of materials with low embodied energy and a light carbon footprint such as timber.

3.2. In using timber as a preferred construction material for Council infrastructure, Council will have regard to:

- (a) The utilisation of wood products that meet the Australian Forest Standard, Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and/or Forest Stewardship Council certifications;
- (b) Maintenance required throughout the life of the project;
- (c) Pest and fungus protection; and
- (d) Using timber only when it is the right material for the selected application.

4. Responsibilities

The Management Team and Staff who are involved in asset management/renewal are responsible for ensuring the requirements of this Policy are met.

5. Review

This Policy shall be reviewed by the District Council of Grant at a minimum, once within every four (4) year Council term (or on significant change to legislation or other matters which could affect this policy).

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Action	Date	Minute Reference
Adopted by Council	2 November 2015	15135.1.3
Reviewed	18 November 2019	19156.3
Minor formatting amendments	4 May 2020	Governance Officer