

**AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY
STANDARD LIMITED**

**MEDIA RELEASE
24 AUGUST 2007**



AFS/01-10-01

Performance based forest management for Australia

The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) has been fully recognised as an Australian Standard® after a comprehensive three year review process.

“As a full Australian Standard®, achieving AFS Certification is by far and away the best way to demonstrate that Australian forests are sustainably managed to the highest environmental criteria,” said the Chair of Australian Forestry Standard Limited, Mr Geoff Gorrie.

“Recognition as a full Australian Standard® has been achieved based on the review of the AFS which relied on the practical implementation of the 2003 version, comments from various stakeholders and the discussions within the standard setting body, the Australian Forestry Standard Technical Reference Committee,” said Mr Gorrie.

“The scientific rigour and performance orientation in the Australian Forestry Standard builds on the input of stakeholders from the forest management, wood processing and manufacturing, unions, contractors, forest users, forest professionals, environmental and Indigenous interests,” he said.

“There have been major changes in the Australian Forestry Standard from its initial 2003 version.

“For instance, the issue of broad-scale conversion of native forests to plantation or non-vegetation cover has been removed for certification,” Mr Gorrie said.

Major changes to the Standard include:

- The issue of broad-scale conversion of native forests to plantation or non-vegetation cover has been removed for certification;
- Usage of chemicals being more restricted;
- The availability of summary reports on certification audits;
- Recognition of environmental, economic, social and Indigenous interests at the forest management plan level;
- Recognition that forests are part of a wider array of land users in catchments, and,
- A more comprehensive listing of definitions to support the nine criteria and forty requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard.

“Forest managers and owners can now look forward to certifying or re-certifying their forest estate to the criteria and requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard in the

**AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY
STANDARD LIMITED**

**MEDIA RELEASE
24 AUGUST 2007**



AFS/01-10-01

knowledge of its status as a full Australian Standard® brings a high level of confidence and credibility to the certification process,” said Mr Gorrie.

“As with all Australian Standards®, the Australian Forestry Standard will be revised on a regular basis – at least every five years – and will benefit from the continual improvement objective built into the Australian Forestry Standard which will be evident in the sustainable forest management practices of certified forest managers and owners in Australia.

“This achievement is truly a watershed in the management of Australia’s forests and I urge all forest managers and owners to voluntarily seek certification to the Australian Forestry Standard,” concluded Mr Gorrie.

ENDS

Media enquiries: Geoff Gorrie 0419 628 873