

## **Sustainable Forestry – A new standard for Australia**

Mr Geoff Gorrie, Chair of Australian Forestry Standard Limited, today hailed the awarding of Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) full standard status by Standards Australia, as a watershed moment for sustainable forestry in this country.

“The recognition by Standards Australia means that the industry and consumers have a new national benchmark for sustainable timber from both plantations and native forests,” said Mr Gorrie.

“They also can have confidence that when they produce or buy AFS certified timber they are dealing with product that is recognized nationally and internationally as coming from sustainably managed forests.

“Standards Australia is renowned for their expertise and the rigour of their processes and this award follows an extensive three year review and has led to a raising of the bar from the interim 2003 standard. The improvements include:

- That broad-scale conversion of native forests to plantation or non-vegetation cover is now not allowed under the AFS;
- There are wider restrictions in the use of chemicals;
- The recognition of environmental, economic, social and Indigenous interests at the forest management plan level;
- The 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.

Professor Peter Fairweather, President, Ecological Society of Australia welcomed the standard.

“This Standard can only serve to allay fears amongst members of the Australian public over how forests will be managed in perpetuity. Balancing production with other values such as biodiversity conservation will be aided by the Standard,” said Professor Fairweather

**AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY  
STANDARD LIMITED**

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Mr Gorrie thanked and welcomed the tireless work of so many people in the past three years to get to this point.

“We have had excellent contributions from industry, environmental groups, our technical committee and all governments across Australia, and we would like to thank them all.

“Having focused on the standard we will now focus on working with industry to promote the benefits of using timber from sustainably managed forests,” said Mr Gorrie.

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