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AFS chain-of-custody certification: a Queensland perspective

Comments from NRW Forest Products General Manager, Stephen Walker

AFS certification is helping to raise the profile and credibility of Queensland's forest and timber industries by verifying the environmental integrity of our products and demonstrating our commitment to responsible forest management.

With demand for certified wood products increasing dramatically in both domestic and international markets, the state's timber industry is beginning to embrace chain-of-custody certification and the benefits it brings in terms of market access.

QBuild, the Queensland Government's construction and maintenance group, have announced a policy to only source timber from suppliers that can demonstrate that their products have been sourced from legal and sustainable sources.

The only credible way to prove the source of timber is through an independently audited and internationally recognised chain-of-custody tracking scheme such as that offered through the Australian Forestry Certification Scheme.

Our AFS certification is providing our timber processing and manufacturing customers with the opportunity to achieve chain-of-custody certification for wood products they produce using timber sourced from our forests.

They can then eco-label their products with the assurance to consumers that the forest products they are buying have been sourced from legal and responsibly managed forests.

To assist our timber customers achieve chain-of-custody certification, we are contributing funding towards a Chain of Custody Support Scheme that provides financial support for expenses incurred achieving certification."

The scheme is being administered by the peak industry representative body, Timber Queensland.

Queensland's forest and timber industries are working together through AFS certification to provide governments, business and consumers with what they are increasingly looking for - an independent assurance that their timber products have been sourced from legal and well-managed forests.

Background

NRW Forest Products is a commercial forestry business group of the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water. The business group manages native forest timber production and the sale of quarry materials from State forests, timber reserves and other State-controlled lands across Queensland. NRW Forest products have achieved independent certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708.

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