

**AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY  
STANDARD LIMITED**

**MEDIA RELEASE  
5 APRIL 2006**



**Australian Forestry Standard rejects Wilderness Society claim**

The Wilderness Society has incorrectly claimed that Australian forest products will be facing a ban in the UK public market based on a UK Government assessment of the international forest certification scheme, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC).

The UK Government Minister Elliot Morley issued a 30 March press release confirming “the UK Government would continue to accept the PEFC scheme as a source of legal and sustainable timber, and that suppliers can continue to offer PEFC timber as legal and sustainable in response to central government demand”.

Mr Geoff Gorrie, Chair of Australian Forestry Standard Limited, said “Australian forests products were not mentioned in Minister Morley’s press release. We have been in consultation with the PEFC and they welcome the UK Minister’s decision that the UK Government will continue to accept PEFC as a source of legal and sustainable timber”.

“This clearly ensures that any Australian forest products imported into the UK under the Australian Forestry Standard and PEFC brands are in fact, legal and sustainable for the UK Government public timber procurement”.

Mr Gorrie also commented “The PEFC is very disappointed that The Wilderness Society has issued such a factually incorrect press release as the one yesterday”.

Mr Gorrie added “The UK Minister announced that a review of all the forest certification schemes would take place later in 2006. AFS Limited welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this review as one of 21 endorsed schemes under the PEFC in order to demonstrate compliance with the legal and sustainable requirements of the UK Government timber procurement policy”.

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