



FSC® Australia

Forest Stewardship Council Australia

Providing sub-regional services to New Zealand

MEDIA RELEASE

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Forest Stewardship Council launches groundbreaking Australian version of world's strongest forestry standard

- **Forest Stewardship Council world's most trusted forest certification standard**
- **Australian FSC standard uniquely developed by industry, conservation, and social stakeholders over 5 years.**

12 November 2018: Today, Australia's Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) achieved a groundbreaking first in the protection and management of the nation's forests. FSC Australia today launched an Australian certification standard for responsible forestry that is jointly agreed by industry, environment and community interests.

"The Forest Stewardship Council label is the global gold standard. FSC is recognised by consumers world-wide as guaranteeing that timber and paper products – from furniture, to flooring, to books and printing paper – are produced sustainably, in a way that protects forests and supports workers and communities" Sara Gipton said.

"The new FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard gives consumers confidence the Australian wood products they buy are from forests managed to the world's highest standard." said FSC Australia CEO, Sara Gipton.

"Everyday Australians love the forests and the wildlife that live in these forests. Australian's want to know that the products sourced from production forests have the highest possible standards of environmental management. The creation of this national standard, after many years of negotiations between conservationists and industry, provides the highest standard of environmental management of production forests on offer in Australia" said The Wilderness Society National Director Lyndon Schneiders.

"New Forests welcomes the new Australian Standard, which will support the Australian forest sector in demonstrating responsible forest management. As investment managers, our responsible investment policy includes the adoption of the FSC Principles & Criteria and has led to the certification of over 450,000 hectares in Australia since 2010. The new standard provides greater clarity and reflects the characteristics of the Australian forest sector, including our unique environments, biodiversity, and the ways in which we our forest sector works together with local communities and traditional owners of the land" said New Forests CEO, David Brand.

Currently, FSC certifies 1.22 million hectares of Australian forests to full FSC Forest Management standards, an increase of 37% since 2012.

"Over the last two decades, increasing numbers of Australian forest managers have been certified to international FSC standards. Now, they can be certified using an FSC standard tailored to Australian conditions." Said Gipton.



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“The FSC standard has been developed over 5 years, by representatives of economic, environmental, and social interests. The development process has included extensive consultation, expert input, and testing in the field” said Gipton.

The FSC Standard sets out rigorous requirements, including strong protections for (i) Indigenous rights and sacred sites; (ii) old growth forests, threatened species, and waterways; and (iii) workers’ health and safety. The standard also includes strong provisions for stakeholder consultation and local jobs. Some components of the Australian FSC Standard will undergo review and further strengthening in the near future, as FSC globally invests in further developing standards to ensure worker’s rights, health and safety.

Quotes attributable to key organisations:

PF Olsen, Managing Director, Pat Groenhout

“As Managing Director of PF Olsen, and a former board member of the Forest Stewardship Council Australia, I welcome the launch of the FSC National Standard. PF Olsen Australia is responsible for a number of FSC certified forests across the country. The National Standard will provide a clear, stable, and reasonable framework for sustainable forestry in Australia.”

GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia), CEO, Kate Harris

“Credible and quality ethical labels are vital when it comes to supporting positive change in procurement and building progressive thinking across many sectors.

We are proud to work with FSC!

At GECA, we also know how much work goes into developing a robust standard and the amount of effort bringing along multiple stakeholders can take.

Well done on 5 years of hard work! We look forward to seeing the wonderful outcomes for our unique flora and fauna, and for our communities across Australia.”

WWF, Senior Manager, Species Conservation, Tim Cronin

“It’s great to see the FSC National Standard finalised, and credit to the Standard Development Group for sticking at it over a long period of time.

With FSC a global system, a strong National Standard is critical for ensuring consistency and local relevance, and ultimately ensuring that threatened species, forest biodiversity and ecosystem services are sustainably managed and conserved.

As important as it is, we also have to remember that the Standard is just a document. What’s more important is that the Standard results in actual, measurable, positive outcomes on the ground.

So now it’s up to forest managers to drive these outcomes, for the broader membership to hold them to account, and for FSC to provide the transparency and dialogue that can enable this to happen.”

Landroc and member of FSC Standard Development Group, Mark Annandale

“I work with Indigenous peoples in many communities in northern Australia and overseas in support of developing sustainable livelihoods from their forests, working collaboratively to address complex problems associated with reforestation and forest management in the tropics.

It is great to see the release of the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard. The standard provides recognition of Indigenous peoples and a mechanism for ongoing Indigenous engagement. The real test is implementation, to ensure the benchmarks established by the Standard are delivered on the ground.”



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Planet Ark, 'make it wood', David Rowlinson

"Planet Ark's Make It Wood campaign aims to increase the use of responsibly sourced wood as a building material.

A central component of the campaign is the need for the wood to be certified, which demonstrates that the wood comes from legally harvested and well-managed forests and plantations, and ensures that when a tree is harvested another is planted in its place.

Planet Ark is delighted to see the introduction of FSC's National Forest Stewardship Standard, which has been developed specifically for Australian conditions, and will have a continuing positive impact on Australia's built environment."

For further information:

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Please see **backgrounder** for more detailed information about FSC Australia and **fact sheet** for more detail about benefits delivered in the National Forest Stewardship Standard.