



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

Minister for Forestry

Media Statement

22 July 2009

Stamp of approval for WA forestry

The Forest Products Commission (FPC) has acquired the coveted Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) certification.

The certification means consumers who buy wood products sourced from Western Australian native forests can be assured their merchandise originated in an internationally accredited forest.

Forestry Minister Terry Redman said the certification recognised the FPC and its practices in harvesting and regenerating native forests were environmentally sustainable and protected the biodiversity of the State's forests.

"Achieving certification is a significant marketing tool for timber as it assures customers the timber product they have just purchased - for example a dining room table, bookcase or floor boards - are from a well-managed Western Australian forest," Mr Redman said.

"Caring for the environment is a top priority for customers as well as for FPC. Without well-managed forests, they don't have a business."

The Minister said the rigorous process of certification had taken many years of assessment and auditing by an independent third-party.

"Before AFS certification is awarded, the FPC's forest management activities, from preparation through to harvesting, haulage and regeneration are closely monitored and reviewed to ensure they meet strict standards," he said.

"FPC has listened to the buyers of its logs, who in turn have listened to their customers and they want wood products which come from a sustainable source."

WA Plantation Resources General Manager of Woodchip Operations, Ian Telfer, said achievement of AFS certification was a positive step for both FPC and the WA timber industry.

"Consumers already appreciate that timber is a renewable resource and now they are seeking evidence that the resource is truly sustainable," Mr Telfer said.

"This independent recognition of the sustainability of harvesting carried out by FPC is an important step forward for our industry. Compliance with the AFS, verified by independent auditors, will help the WA timber industry to compete in domestic and international markets."

Media contact: Carissa Buckland - 9213 6700 or 0418 255 981

You can subscribe to have media releases emailed automatically from the Government's website: <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au>