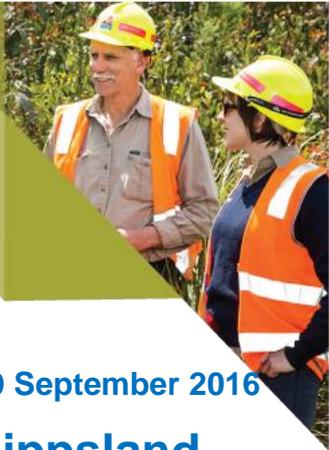


Media Release

A photograph of two people wearing high-visibility orange safety vests and yellow hard hats, standing outdoors in a wooded area. The image is partially obscured by a green geometric shape.

9 September 2016

Wood Encouragement Policy welcomed in East Gippsland

VicForests welcomes the news that East Gippsland Shire Council's Wood Encouragement Policy was unanimously adopted by councillors at a Council meeting in August.

East Gippsland Shire Council is the ninth Council to adopt this policy in Australia and the second regional Council in Victoria alongside Latrobe City Council.

VicForests CEO, Robert Green, said the Council's unanimous support of the Wood Encouragement Policy was a fantastic endorsement of the local timber industry.

"East Gippsland Shire Council are to be congratulated for embracing this initiative and actively promoting the use of wood and wood products in Council buildings and developments," Mr Green said.

"A big part of the think global, act local message is to use natural, recyclable and functional products where possible in our everyday lives.

"Encouraging the use of locally grown renewable wood products not only leads to better environmental outcomes, it also helps to support manufacturing and jobs which play an important role in the lives of local communities.

"The forest and wood products industry remains a key component of Victoria's economy and is crucial to many regional areas across the State particularly in East Gippsland," he said.

Mr Green said there is an opportunity for Government at all levels to show their support for the local wood products industry.

"The leadership displayed by East Gippsland Shire Council and Latrobe City Council promotes social, economic and environmental benefits for their local communities.

"I hope other Councils around the State and across Australia will follow East Gippsland and Latrobe City by adopting similar policies as part of their vision for the future," he said.

"By focusing on the use of certified wood products the Wood Encouragement Policy is helping to ensure that timber used in Council projects comes from sustainably managed forests which meet world's best standards.

"VicForests' operations are certified to the Australian Forestry Standard which is endorsed globally by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

"Only 10% of the world's forest are certified and VicForests remains committed to independent, third party certification to provide assurance over the sustainability of our operations," Mr Green said.

Media Release



Image: AFS certified construction grade Mountain Ash timber



Image: Timber house structure using F17 Mountain Ash and Pine timbers.

