



TIMBER ENCOURAGEMENT POLICY

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1	Approved	02/08/16	Council	6820892
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1. PURPOSE

This policy aims to encourage the use of timber as Council's preferred material for the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure, wherever possible and appropriate. Its purpose is to ensure that the use of timber is considered at the initial stages of a project, specifically when the brief for a project is being developed.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Certified timber from responsibly managed plantations helps to address climate change as it stores carbon and replaces more carbon intensive materials such as steel and concrete.

East Gippsland Shire Council recognises the importance of the timber manufacturing and forestry products industries to our local community and the wider Gippsland region. Central to Council's commitment to job retention and creation, is supporting significant local industry in order to secure jobs and leverage further investment within the municipality. Council will work in partnership with business, industry and government to create sustainable economic development within the East Gippsland municipality.

Policy Goals

The goals of this policy are to:

- stimulate sustainable economic development within the Gippsland timber and timber products industry and encourage value adding products within the timber industry;
- encourage the use of timber in the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure;
- recognise the benefits of timber that make it a sound choice for Council buildings and infrastructure;
- share information and encourage education regarding the benefits of using timber in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure;
- demonstrate local and national leadership by enacting this Timber Encouragement Policy in respect of Council buildings and infrastructure;
- encourage the use of timber in demonstration projects across the municipality;
- align with opportunities for Victorian and Australian Government funding;
- reinforce Council's preference for quality timber buildings in the development of briefs for projects; and
- promote the industry as a renewable resource, capturing the environmental benefits of the resource.

Policy Implementation

Council will encourage the increased utilisation of timber in Council assets and projects by:

1. Ensuring that all briefs for new Council projects incorporate the requirement to use timber as the preferred material for both construction and fit out purposes, where timber is deemed a suitable material for the proposed application.
 2. When sourcing design and architectural expertise, seeking out practitioners who can identify practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using timber.
- Ensuring that all comparisons to the cost of building with other materials will take into account

the long-term and life cycle benefits of using timber.

4. Where possible, sourcing locally produced timber products for construction and fit out purposes.
5. Being a champion of the forest and timber products industry, by establishing this policy and demonstrating commitment to the further development of the local forest and timber products industry.
6. Actively seeking demonstration projects that showcase the use of timber within the municipality.
7. Actively working to attract new, innovative timber products manufacturers to East Gippsland Shire.

In using timber as a preferred construction material for Council infrastructure wherever possible and appropriate, Council will have regard to:

1. the utilisation of timber products that meet the Australian Forest Standard, Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and/or Forest Stewardship Council certifications;
2. maintenance required throughout the life of the project;
3. pest and fungus protection; and
4. using timber only when it is the right material for the selected application.

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

These management positions are responsible for implementation and compliance monitoring of the policy in their work areas:

Party / Parties:	Roles and responsibilities:
Council	To support and encourage investment in the sustainable timber products industry within the Gippsland region.
Executive Group members Managers responsible for capital works construction and/or maintenance Manager Capital Projects Executive Manager Finance	To review all construction opportunities for the potential incorporation of sustainable timber products and ensure planning, procurement, operations and maintenance activities reflect this Policy's principles.
Manager Economic Development	Policy owner - to ensure implementation of and compliance with this policy.
Senior Industry Liaison Officer	Primary action officer ¹ - responsible for actively promoting this policy and encouraging support within the East Gippsland community.

¹ The 'action officer' is a Council staff member who is responsible for answering or responding to a request for information regarding this policy or initiative.

All staff have an obligation to report occurrences of non-compliance with Council policy. Incidents of non-compliance should be reported immediately to the Director responsible for this policy, the Policy Owner or the Governance Unit.

4. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to Councillors, employees, contractors, service providers and/or service partners and volunteers of the East Gippsland Shire Council.

5. REFERENCES / ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Internal references:

- East Gippsland Shire Council Procurement Policy.
- East Gippsland Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2014 - 2018 “Growing East Gippsland”.
- The East Gippsland community identified a number of long-term issues and opportunities in the *Long Term Community Vision 2030* which are addressed through six major themes:
 - Natural environment;
 - Local economy;
 - Community;
 - Land use and built environment;
 - Infrastructure; and
 - Governance.
- The four-year *Council Plan 2017 – 2021* was developed to support this Community Vision and its goals include that:
 - “East Gippsland is a region of economic opportunity with strong industry sectors, a skilled workforce and local jobs”.

External references:

- Planet Ark – Make it Timber campaign.
- Australian Standard - AS4708/2013 Sustainable Forest Management Economic, Social, environmental and cultural criteria and requirements.

6. PRIVACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATION

This policy has been reviewed after giving proper consideration to all the rights contained within the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, and any reasonable limitation to human rights can be demonstrably justified.

7. SUPPORTING PROCEDURES / GUIDELINES

Nil