

Policy Title:	WOOD ENCOURAGEMENT POLICY
Policy Subject:	Procurement
Policy No:	#3236304v4 – CP053
Directorate:	Director Development & Community
Department:	Community & Economy
Section:	Economic Development
Responsible Officer:	Manager Strategic Economic Initiatives
Authorised by:	Director Development & Community
Adopted Date:	18/01/2017
Review Date:	18/01/2019
Amended Date:	
Risk Assessment:	Medium

Objective

The Fraser Coast Regional Council (Council) recognises the importance of the forest and wood products industry to regional employment and economic development and is committed to growing the forestry industry on a sustainable basis.

To achieve this objective, the Wood Encouragement Policy has been developed to maximise the use of forest and wood products (wood) within Council procurement activities, particularly in construction, fit out, and the heating and energy requirements of buildings and infrastructure.

Purpose

The Policy will:

- Help Council to demonstrate local and national leadership;
- Facilitate a culture of wood;
- Help stimulate sustainable economic development within the Australian forest and wood products industry and encourage value adding products within the timber industry;
- Encourage Council to consider the use of wood, particularly in construction, fit out, and the heating and energy requirements of building and construction projects;
- Encourage Council to recognise the benefits that make wood a smart choice;
- Encourage Council to share information and encourage education regarding the benefits of using wood in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure;
- Encourage Council to consider the use of wood in exemplar (demonstration) projects.

Wood is sustainable, low carbon, low energy, attractive, high performance and economical. In addition to its environmental benefits, the increased use of wood will make a significant social difference to the local community, supporting manufacturing and jobs and recognising the historical importance of the industry to regional areas.

Responsibly sourced wood is unique in that it stores carbon and has low embodied energy and low carbon emissions associated with its production when compared to carbon intensive materials like brick, concrete and steel.

As trees grow they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When the tree is responsibly harvested the carbon is locked in the wood and remains there for the life of any products made with that timber.

A global study into the use of more wood and timber in building and construction has found that using wood substitutes could save between 14 to 31 per cent of global carbon emissions by using 34 or 100% of the world's sustainable wood growth¹.

A recent study in New South Wales also found that by maximising the use of timber in two popular housing designs in Sydney, approximately 30 tonnes of carbon emissions could be avoided (or saved) per house design². This represented a reduction in emissions of almost 50% compared to the use of traditional building materials.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 4th Assessment Report) stated that:

'A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit'.

Wood also brings many other benefits like reduced cost, increased speed of construction, improved health impacts and exceptional thermal insulation properties allowing buildings consume less energy.

Suppliers/Contractors requirements

Council will ensure that it's planning process, specification and assessment for procurement, particularly in the area of building and construction, provides for the greatest possible use of wood, so long as it:

- Represents value for money;
- Provides appropriate quality and functionality, and
- There are no technical reasons for not doing so.

Maximising wood use solutions provides an opportunity to simultaneously contribute to multiple policy objectives such as buying locally, employment creation, industry development, climate change and environmental policies.

¹ Oliver, C.D., Nassar, N.T., Lippke, B.R. and McCarter, J.B. 2014. Carbon, Fossil Fuel and Biodiversity Mitigation with Wood and Forests. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 33: 248-275.

² Ximenes, F.A. and Grant, T. 2013. Quantifying the greenhouse benefits of the use of wood products in two popular house designs in Sydney, Australia. *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* 18: 891-908.

Although the Wood Encouragement Policy does not mandate local wood, local supply should be considered, wherever possible. In addition, it is important to consider, where practicable, other sustainability benefits such as carbon sequestration and low embodied energy and maintenance energy.

Tier 1: General Procurement – Up to and including \$250,000 excluding GST

Council will actively encourage ensuring wood use is taken into account in the planning, design and specification of Council building and fit out projects and roads and bridges projects. The use of wood products may be incorporated into the weighted evaluation criteria if appropriate.

A Wood Use Declaration is not required for general procurement but may be requested from the supplier if considered appropriate.

Tier 2: Building and Construction Projects Over \$250,000 excluding GST

Where design consultants are engaged by Council for building and construction projects, they must be made aware of the Council's commitment to maximising wood use. All design briefs and design contracts should consider to incorporate project specific wood use requirements if known, along with the following standard clause:

“The **Fraser Coast Regional Council** has a policy of maximising wood use in procurement solutions. You should familiarise yourself with the Wood Encouragement Policy and ensure that the design submitted maximises the use of wood and/or provides wood alternatives and takes advantage of the opportunity provided by the modern forest and wood products industry, including engineered wood products, building systems and biomass/energy solutions.”

Any proposal must highlight the quantity and/or use of wood within design and construction. Tender documents will include a Wood Use Declaration.

Supporting and Promoting the Policy

Council should, wherever possible, undertake the following activities to actively support and promote the Policy:

- Seek those who can develop and produce practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building design solutions using wood when sourcing design and architectural expertise;
- Encourage sourcing locally produced wood products;
- Be a champion of the forest and wood products industry;
- Actively seek exemplar (demonstration) projects that showcase the use of wood within the Fraser Coast Council region;
- Actively work to attract new, innovative wood products manufacturers to the region.

Attachment: Wood Use Declaration

Wood Use Declaration

Building and Construction

Valued at Over \$250,000 excluding GST

The **Fraser Coast Regional Council** is committed to maximising opportunities for the use of wood in procurement. As part of this commitment, a Wood Use Declaration is required as part of all building and construction design submissions for projects valued at over **\$250,000 excluding GST**.

The Declaration will be used by the Council to evaluate your submission and inform ongoing analysis of wood use in building and construction projects.

Procurement Reference No.	
Procurement title	
Name of Responsible Entity	
Name of Supplier	

1. Is Wood Use Applicable Yes/No (please Circle)

[If no please detail the reason (e.g. fitness for purpose, quality, functionality or other technical reasons).
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2. Please confirm your consideration of wood use in the following key areas

	Yes	No
• Wood has been included in structural elements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Wood has been included in fitout/architectural applications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Wood has been included for biomass energy/heating options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Other sustainability benefits (e.g. carbon sequestration and lower embodied energy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please provide:
- a) a summary of proposed wood use and/or
 - b) reasons for not including or considering wood

*Your response should be proportionate to project cost and will be used to analyse the effectiveness of this policy and identify future strategies to encourage the use of wood.

Completed and endorsed

.....
(Name and position – print)

.....
(Signature)

...../...../.....

(Date)