

## COUNCIL POLICY



<b>TITLE:</b>	Wood Encouragement Policy
<b>ID NUMBER:</b>	CPO-CEO-CED-001 (DocSetID: 2634235)
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	CEO
<b>UNIT:</b>	Economic Development and Communication
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Liz McKinnon, Communications and Economic Development Manager

<b>ADOPTED DATE AND BY WHOM:</b>	TBC
<b>EXPIRY DATE:</b>	30 January 2024
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	30 October 2023

<b>AVAILABILITY:</b>	Organisation wide	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Public	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Internet	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ADVISE AVAILABILITY:</b>	Media Release	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Sou Wester (Responsible Officer to prepare article)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

## 1. References

- Glenelg Shire Council Plan 2017-2021 (DocSetID: 2921903)
- The Sustainable Forests (Timber) Amendment Bill 2013 (<http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/bill/sfab2013379/>)

## 2. Purpose

Glenelg Shire Council recognises the valuable contribution and importance of the forest and wood products industry to the shire and the broader Green Triangle region.

As identified in the Council Plan 2017-2021, council is focused on growing and diversifying the economy, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the community into the future by supporting local jobs and leveraging further investment.

Policies that encourage the use of sustainable timber are being introduced globally, including Canada, Japan, France, Finland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, New Zealand and across Australia encouraging utilization of natural timber-based building products in construction.

This policy aims to:

- Actively support and advocate for timber and the wood industry;
- Facilitate and encourage the use of wood as a preferred, sustainable building material for local projects;
- Making it mandatory, where appropriate, to use wood in all council building projects;
- Encourage the use of regionally sourced and produced timber products that come from sustainably grown plantations.

Following the State Government's announcement in November 2019 to ban logging in native forests by 2030, Council acknowledged it had a valuable role to play in supporting the sector. Council recognises the importance of the active forestry sector, which makes a value contribution to the local and i national economies, noting value in publicly committing support to sustainable investment in the sector.

## 3. Scope

Council staff involved in asset management and renewal projects are responsible for ensuring the requirements of this policy are met.

## 4. Council Policy

### 4.1. Principles

- Stimulate sustainable economic development in the Green Triangle timber and wood products industry, encouraging the development of value-added products within the timber sector.
- Encourage the use of verified sustainable sourced timber and wood products in council building and infrastructure projects.
- Recognise the benefits of timber as a renewable and sustainable product which is strong, stores carbon, provides health and well-being benefits and aesthetically pleasing.
- Educate the broader community on the benefits of timber use to encourage shire-wide adoption in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure.
- To support state and federal government policy and align with funding opportunities.

### 4.2. Use of timber in council assets

Council will encourage the increased use of timber in council assets by:

- a) 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 wood is deemed suitable material for the application.
- b) Procurement officers are encouraged to undertake a comparative assessment of resources to find practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using timber. This is important when sourcing design and architectural expertise who should be well rehearsed with the policy.
- c) Ensuring that all comparisons to the cost of building with other materials will consider all long-term and life cycle benefits of using wood products.
- d) Where possible, sourcing locally produced wood products for construction and fit-out purposes.

When using timber as a preferred construction or fit-out material, council will consider:

- a) The use of wood products that meet the Australian Forest Standard, Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and / or Forest Stewardship Council certifications.
- b) Maintenance requirements throughout the life of the project
- c) Pest and fungus protection
- d) Using timber only when it is the right material for the selected application.

#### 4.3. Council advocacy and support for timber industry

Council commits to:

- a) Being a champion of the forest and wood products industry, enforcing the policy and facilitating the promotion of wood-use and further development of the local forest and wood products industry.
- b) Actively seeking demonstration projects that showcase the use of timber within the council area.
- c) Actively working to attract new, innovative wood products manufacturers to the shire.
- d) Support research opportunities to recognise and reward good building design and a more holistic approach to carbon reduction in the building and construction sector by the use of materials with low embodied energy and reduced carbon footprint, such as timber.

### 5. Records Management

All Council records created and managed as a result of implementing this policy will be managed in accordance with the Council's Records Management Policy.

The Records Management Policy assigns responsibilities for records management to employees, supervisors, volunteers and other specific positions.

No Council records are to be destroyed without consideration of the requirements of the Act(s) that govern the functions relevant to this policy. Prior to destruction, advice must be sought from the Records Management Unit, with consideration to the requirements of the appropriate Retention and Disposal Authority (RDA).

### 6. Victorian State Legislation Copyright Acknowledgement

*Extracts from legislation of the Parliament of the State of Victoria, Australia, are reproduced with the permission of the Crown in right of the State of Victoria, Australia. The State of Victoria accepts no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of any legislation contained in this publication.*

*© State of Victoria, Australia. Copyright of legislation referenced in this publication is owned by the Crown in right of the State of Victoria, Australia.*