



Wood Encouragement Policy

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Classification:	Policy – Public
Subject:	Development
Department:	Development Services
Responsible Officer:	Director Development Services
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Review Frequency:	Every 4 years after each general election.
Last Reviewed:	
Next Review Date:	August 2018
Council File Reference:	GF/3.63.1
Applicable Legislation:	There is no legislation relevant to this policy.
Relevant Council Policies / Procedures / Guidelines	There are no known relevant documents related to this Policy.
Consultation:	ELT/Council/Public

1. STATEMENT

Wattle Range Council recognises the importance of the forest and wood products industry to both the Council region and the Limestone Coast and Greater green Triangle regions.

The key to Council's commitment to job retention and creation is supporting significant local industry in order to secure jobs and leverage further investment.

The policy has four objectives:

- Facilitating and encouraging the use of wood as a preferred, sustainable building material for projects in the district;
- Requiring wood to be used in council building projects if appropriate; and
- Actively supporting and advocating for timber and the wood industry - locally, regionally and at a national level.
- Encouraging the use of regionally produced timber products that come from sustainable plantation grown resources.

Further goals include:

- To stimulate sustainable economic development within the Wattle Range Council area's timber and wood products industry and encourage the development of value added products within the timber sector.
- To encourage the use of verified sustainable sourced timber and wood products in the construction and fit out of Council buildings and Infrastructure.
- To recognise all of the benefits that make timber a smart choice for Council buildings and infrastructure.

- To share information and encourage education regarding the benefits of using timber in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure to the construction industry sector and general public.
- To demonstrate local and national leadership by enacting the Wood Encouragement Policy on Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To align with opportunities for state and federal funding.
- To reinforce Council's preference for quality timber buildings in the development of briefs for projects.
- To promote the industry as a renewable resource, identifying the environmental benefits of the resource.

2. DEFINITIONS

There are no known definitions related to this policy.

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1 Council will encourage the increased utilisation 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 a suitable material for the proposed application;
- b) Identifying those who can find practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using timber when sourcing design and architectural expertise;
- c) Ensuring that all comparisons to the cost of building with other materials will take into account 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;
- e) Being a champion of the forest and wood products industry, by establishing this policy and demonstrating commitment to the further development of the local forest and wood products industry.
- f) Actively seeking demonstration projects that showcase the use of timber within the Council region.
- g) Actively working to attract new, innovative wood products manufacturers to the Council District
- h) 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 a light carbon footprint such as timber.

3.2 In using timber as a preferred construction material for Council infrastructure, Council will have regard to:

- a) The utilisation of wood products that meet the Australian Forest Standard, Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and / or Forest Stewardship Council certifications.
- b) Maintenance required throughout the life of the project;
- c) Pest and fungus protection; and

3.3 Using timber only when it is the right material for the selected application.

4. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every 4 years after each general election.

5. AVAILABILITY

This policy is available for inspection without charge at the following location during ordinary business hours:

- Principal Office, "Civic Centre", George Street, Millicent
- Council Website: www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au

A copy of the policy may be purchased from the Principal Council Office upon payment of a prescribed fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

6. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT HISTORY

The table below sets out the adoption, review and amendment history of the policy.

Date	Authorised by	Minutes Reference
11th August 2015 (adopted)	Council	Folio 6124; Item 11.3.1