

Wood Encouragement Policy

Background

At its May 2015 meeting, the MAV State Council resolved that the MAV endorse Latrobe City Council's Wood Encouragement Policy and accept it as a policy of the MAV.

Purpose

In line with the Latrobe City Council's Wood Encouragement Policy, this Wood Encouragement Policy seeks to:

- help stimulate sustainable economic development within the Victorian timber and wood products industry and encourage value adding products within the timber industry
- encourage councils to consider the use of wood in the construction and fit out of council buildings and infrastructure
- encourage councils to recognise the benefits that make wood a smart choice for council buildings and infrastructure
- encourage councils to share information and encourage education regarding the benefits of using wood in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure
- demonstrate local and national leadership by adopting this policy
- encourage councils to consider the use of wood in demonstration projects across the municipality

Implementation

The MAV recognises the importance of the Victorian forest and wood products industry to regional employment and economic development.

The Latrobe City Council Wood Encouragement Policy sets out a number of actions that councils can take to increase utilisation of wood in council assets, namely:

1. Ensuring that all briefs for new Council projects incorporate the requirement to use wood as the preferred material for both construction and fit out purposes, where wood is deemed a suitable material for the proposed application;
2. Seeking those who can find, practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using wood when sourcing design and architectural expertise;
3. 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;
4. Where possible, sourcing locally produced wood products for construction and fit out purposes;
5. Being a champion of the forest and wood products industry, by establishing a Wood Encouragement Policy and demonstrating commitment to the further development of the local forest and wood products industry.

6. Actively seeking demonstration projects that showcase the use of wood within the municipality.
7. Actively working to attract new, innovative wood products manufacturers to the municipality.

In using wood as a preferred construction material for council infrastructure, councils are encouraged to have regard to:

1. The utilisation of wood 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 wood only when it is the right material for the selected application

This policy will be circulated to all councils and will be made available on the MAV website.