

DERM Forest Products Forest management certification

DERM Forest Products is committed to maintaining a forest management system that is independently certified to internationally recognised standards



DERM Forest Products' operations

DERM Forest Products is a commercially focused business unit within the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Its business goal is to maximise financial returns to the State from the management of native forest products and quarry material within social, environmental and cultural expectations.

The business unit works in partnership with industry, landholders, the community and across government to ensure Queensland's State-owned native forest resources are managed responsibly and used efficiently now and for the future.

Each year, DERM Forest Products supplies the timber processing industry with around 260 000 cubic metres of native forest timber from State lands designated for timber production by the Queensland Government. Around 90 per cent of this quantity is sawlog product used in the domestic building industry with increasing volumes being targeted at value-added and export markets.

All DERM Forest Products' operations are undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements, including Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Forestry Act 1959*.

In addition to internal monitoring and auditing programs, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service monitors forest harvesting operations against the provisions of the State's *Code of practice for native forest timber production on State lands 2007*.

Harvesting operations are also periodically audited by the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General, Workplace Health and Safety against the provisions of the State's *Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2007*.



A stand of widely spaced, high-quality cypress

Resource officer Brent Baker (left), discusses cypress issues with Andrew Gersekowski from Gersekowski and Son's cypress mill at Cecil Plains - like all DERM Forest Products field staff, Brent contributes to the maintenance of the business unit's forest management system

Responsible forest management

DERM Forest Products' forest management system is independently certified to the *Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708-2007*.

Certification under the standard verifies that DERM Forest Products manage timber production in the State's native forests that have been approved for harvesting, in a professional and responsible manner that is environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable.

AFS certification covers the commercial harvest and removal of native forest products and related activities on Defined Forest Areas (DFAs) designated for this purpose.

The standard has international status via mutual recognition with similar national certification schemes granted by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC) - a worldwide umbrella forest certification body.

The AFS sets stringent criteria for forest management of timber production from environmental, social, cultural and economic perspectives.

These criteria require that forest management on land designated for commercial activity:

- is undertaken in a systematic manner that addresses a range of forest values
- provides for public participation and fosters productive community relationships, particularly with neighbours
- protects and maintains the biological diversity of forests, including their successional stages, across the regional landscape



Selecting and marking habitat trees in harvesting areas preserves them as homes for wildlife

- maintains the productive capacity of forests
- maintains forest ecosystem health and vitality
- protects soil and water resources
- maintains forests' contribution to carbon cycles
- protects and maintains the natural, cultural, social, religious and spiritual heritage values of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- maintains and enhances long-term social and economic benefits.

AFS certification of DERM Forest Products' forest management system is maintained through a rigorous independent audit process. This confirms that the organisation's native forest harvesting and related operations satisfy these criteria covering 40 specific forest management requirements.

The business unit's AFS certification provides its timber processing customers with a platform from which they can achieve chain-of-custody certification and demonstrate the environmental integrity of their timber products to a growing market of consumers demanding certified 'green' products.

The Australian Forestry Standard and the Chain of Custody Standard can be found at www.forestrystandard.org.au



DERM Forest Products forest ranger Scott Condon undertaking hardwood sawlog classification

Forest management policy statement

DERM Forest Products is a commercially focused business unit within the Department of Environment and Resource Management that is committed to:

- complying with applicable legislative requirements, codes and procedures, supporting government forest policies and strategies, and where possible, inputting into the development of such instruments towards the achievement of sound and balanced outcomes
- meeting forest management requirements covering environmental, economic, cultural and social aspects, including communicating with affected and interested parties and publicly reporting findings of independent audits
- adopting a risk management approach in all aspects, including adequately exercising existing powers to ensure relevant codes and procedures are met, environmental harm is prevented, loss, waste and pollution are avoided and that the risk of workplace injury is mitigated
- promoting continual improvement and enhancing public recognition as a responsible and accountable native forest management agency
- maintaining a forest management system, independently certified to an internationally recognised forestry standard, on State land allocated to native forest production
- supporting industry marketing initiatives by providing a platform for chain-of-custody certification.



Statement of forest management system certification

DERM Forest Products' forest management system is independently certified to comply with the *Australian Forestry Standard AS 4708-2007*. The standard is internationally recognised through the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), a worldwide umbrella forest certification body.



Further information

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Our commitment to responsible forest management

In keeping with the certification of our own forest management system, DERM Forest Products uses only paper products sourced from forests that have been certified as responsibly managed. This publication has been printed on ENVI, an Australian made, PEFC certified, carbon neutral paper made from pulp sourced from sustainably managed forests.

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