

Tuesday December 16, 2014

## Wood Encouragement Policy welcomed

VicForests has welcomed the news that Latrobe City Council's Wood Adoption Policy has been unanimously adopted by councillors at a Council meeting last night.

VicForests CEO, Robert Green, said the unanimous support of the Policy by the Council was a fantastic endorsement of the local timber industry.

"The Latrobe City Council are to be congratulated for embracing this initiative and actively promoting the use of wood and wood products in Council buildings and developments," Mr Green said.

"The environmental benefits of using a renewable, locally grown wood are quite obvious as we all continue to look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

"A big part of the think global, act local message is the use natural, recyclable and functional products where possible in our everyday lives.

"Encouraging the use of locally timber products not only leads up better environmental outcomes, it also helps to support manufacturing and jobs which play an important role in the lives of local communities.

"The timber and wood products industry remains a key component of Victoria's economy and is crucial to many regional areas across the State including Gippsland," he said.

Mr Green said there is an opportunity for Government at all levels to show their support for the local wood products industry.

"I would hope other Councils around the State and around Australia to follow the lead of the Latrobe City Council and introduce similar policies as part of their vision for the future," he said.

"The leadership displayed by Latrobe will have social, economic and environmental benefits for their local communities.

"By focusing on the use of certified wood products the Wood Encouragement Policy is helping to ensure timber used in Council projects comes from sustainably managed forests which meet world's best standards.

"Only 10% of the world's forest are certified and VicForests remains committed to independent, third party certification to provide assurance regarding the sustainability of our operations.

"We are currently certified to the Australian Forestry Standard which is endorsed by PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) and we have announced plans to seek FSC Controlled Wood certification during 2015," Mr Green said.