

## Summary

In December 2014, Latrobe City Council adopted a Wood Encouragement Policy to encourage the use of wood as the preferred material for construction purposes in both the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure. The focus of the policy is ensuring that wood is considered at the initial stages of a project, specifically when the brief for a project is developed.

The Latrobe City Council Wood Encouragement Policy is the first of its type in Australia.

## Policy Goals

- To stimulate sustainable economic development within the Gippsland timber and wood products industry and encourage value adding products within the timber industry.
- To encourage the use of wood in the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To recognise all of the benefits that make wood a smart choice for Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To share information and encourage education regarding the benefits of using wood in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure.
- To demonstrate local and national leadership by enacting the Wood Encouragement Policy on Council buildings and infrastructure.
- To encourage the use of wood in demonstration projects across the municipality.
- To align with opportunities for state and federal funding.
- To reinforce Council's preference for quality wood buildings in the development of briefs for projects.
- To promote the industry as a renewable resource, capturing the environmental benefits of the resource.



## Next Steps

There are three next steps identified in the project as follows.

### Step 1- Integrate into Council Operations:

Work is continuing to engage with the range of Council activities that relate to the Wood Encouragement Policy. The operational service areas involved have been identified to include, such as Procurement, Recreation Planning, Infrastructure Operations & Major Projects;

### Step 2- Promote the Existence of the Policy

Latrobe City Council is undertaking promotional activities to raise the profile of the Policy within the local and broader community. Examples of this work include promoting the Policy at the Forest Works Conference in Canberra, the Local Government Forest and Timber Conference in Melbourne and the ALGA National Assembly in Canberra.

### Step 3- Support the Development of Other Wood Encouragement Policies:

As required by the Latrobe City Council, Wood Encouragement Policy, support is being offered upon request to assist other organisations to develop policies with the same intent.

