



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sustainable Wood Encouragement Policy Good for Construction Industry

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects welcomes the Tasmanian Government's Wood Encouragement Policy for its commitment to sustainable forestry management, actions to mitigate climate change, and contribution to regional employment and economic development.

The Tasmanian Wood Encouragement Policy encourages the use of sustainably sourced timber by the Tasmanian construction industry in Government procurement activities, where timber is a proven value-for-money option that meets the appropriate quality, functional, technical, performance and Australian Standards requirements.

Members of the Australian Institute of Architects adhere to a professional code of conduct which expects us, among other things, to "encourage and maintain responsible ecologically sustainable and energy efficient design and development".

Working together, the sector can achieve deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The *Low Carbon, High Performance* report, authored for ASBEC by ClimateWorks Australia, shows that, in addition to AUD 20 billion in energy savings, buildings can deliver one quarter of the national emissions target and over half of the national energy productivity target by 2030, and buildings can achieve zero carbon by 2050, using existing technologies.

The Institute recognises the importance of carbon storage through the use of wood in building and construction and is broadly supportive of the wood encouragement policy. We support the stated intention of the policy to encourage the use of wood in building and construction in Tasmania, using sustainable, renewable timber.

The Institute notes that climate change mitigation through the use of wood in building and construction can only be achieved through sustainable timber sourcing and harvesting.

The intention to review the policy after one year of operation is also a positive aspect, and will allow the effectiveness of the sustainable practices to be examined and the latest technology to be incorporated.

The Wood Encouragement Policy has great potential to create an economic climate that encourages diverse, value adding, sustainable timber product innovation. As demand for specified timber systems and products increases, it would support local manufacture, export and investment development in the industry.

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