

## ForestFit

As an industry led project with a highly engaged Industry Reference Group (IRG), ForestFit is building upon and expanding existing initiatives to develop and establish:

- A nationally recognised and endorsed pilot Training Program for forest contractors
- A pilot Certification for forest contracting businesses to deliver quality services in accordance with industry standards and regulatory requirements.

## Participate now

Industry and stakeholder briefings are now underway and will include validation of the certification framework and certification criteria.

If you would like to participate in future opportunities or have any questions please contact us:  
forestfit@afca.asn.au  
0417 786 179

# Setting the standard for forest contracting in Australia

Broader engagement with industry is underway as part of the development of the certification framework, ensuring that certification of forest contracting businesses can create benefits and efficiencies across industry.

## Certification objectives

The objectives of ForestFit certification are:

1. Promote continuous improvement and sustainable business, safety and environmental practices.
2. Create efficiencies in compliance and auditing of business, safety and environmental performance.
3. Provide assurance to the forest industry and regulators of best practice implementation and risk management.

Feedback from industry to date highlighted the importance to consider:

- Scalability for diverse business sizes
- Recognition as a preferred contractor for certified businesses during tendering and procurement.
- Costs for certification.

## Certification framework

The draft certification framework is being designed in preparation for the pilot later this year.

Designing the framework has considered:

- What are the benefits for forest contracting businesses and other stakeholders?
- What certification categories, scope and modules will comprise the certification?
- What criteria will businesses be certified against and how do these align with other auditing activities to streamline processes?

Work is underway to investigate how ForestFit can align with existing auditing activities and other certifications.

Streamlining these processes will provide the benefit for ForestFit certified businesses to be deemed as compliant with other schemes and will create efficiencies.

# ForestFit building blocks

Certification schemes generally have design structures, 'building blocks', that define how the scheme will operate, its scope and the stages that businesses will go through to become certified.

Throughout stage one, design sessions and research identified eight building blocks that will inform the certification framework design:

1. Certification categories and levels
2. Certification assessments
3. JAS-ANZ accreditation alignment
4. Scheme management
5. Assessor selection
6. Certification status
7. Surveillance and renewals
8. Certification criteria.

# Certification process

Through facilitated design workshops, the IRG developed a process map (illustrated right) to outline how a forest contracting business obtains certification.

The certification process includes three assessments:

- Readiness
- Desktop
- Site.

The readiness assessment is self-administered and will assist businesses in making an informed decision regarding readiness to undertake certification.

If additional support is required or areas of improvement have been identified, businesses can access the resources centre that is being developed across four key areas:

- Business management
- People practices and leadership
- Safety leadership
- Environmental sustainability.

The desktop and site assessment combined will form the formal process to gain certification and will be informed by ForestFit certification criteria to be developed.

Technology solutions to support the certification framework are being designed to ensure usability and functionality for all stakeholders.

