

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.

Certification objectives

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

Setting the standard for forest contracting in Australia

Broader industry engagement supports the design of certification framework and standards development.

Certification framework

The draft certification framework has been finalised for pilot following extensive consultation with the IRG and broader industry.

The framework details the principles of ForestFit certification, including:

- Objectives
- Business scopes
- Standards and criteria
- Certification process.

Recent industry sessions have focused on testing and validating the latest framework developments, including:

- Identified scopes - harvest, haulage, civil, silviculture and minor forest products.
- Whether businesses should be able to self select the standards in which they are certified or if all should be mandatory
- Frequency of surveillance and renewal assessments.
- Additional efficiencies that ForestFit can create for the industry.

Certification standards

The certification standards and criteria have been developed through extensive research and facilitated design workshops with the IRG and broader industry.

Where possible, the criteria aligns with existing schemes, regulatory requirements, Australian Standards and industry codes of practice. This creates efficiencies and supports ForestFit certified businesses to achieve 'deemed to comply' status with other schemes and audit programs.

The certification standards are:

- Standard 1: General requirements (mandatory)
- Standard 2: Business sustainability
- Standard 3: Work, health and safety
- Standard 4: Environmental practices.

Guidance documents to support forest contracting businesses in meeting the standards' criteria is now underway.

Certification pilot

The ForestFit Certification pilot will be used to test the standards and criteria with a diversity of forest contracting businesses prior to the national roll out.

The pilot will also test the processes and the digital technology developed to support the certification.

By participating in the pilot your feedback and input will influence the final certification framework, processes and criteria for national roll out.

Forest contracting businesses participating in the pilot will have the opportunity to be one of the first ForestFit certified businesses in the country, highlighting their commitment to work health and safety, environmental practices and business sustainability.

Pilot timeline



EOI open
26 Jul



Industry briefing
05 Aug



EOI close
16 Aug



EOI application outcome
23 Aug



Inception briefing
30 Aug



Pre-pilot assessment briefing
17 Sep



Pilot assessments
Sep - Oct



Post-pilot feedback sessions
06 - 17 Dec

Industry briefing

Our next industry briefing session has been scheduled for 05 August (Thu).

The development of the ForestFit is being driven by industry and we would like to invite you and any others in your teams who may be interested in attending a session with the ForestFit project team where we will:

- Provide a project status update
- Discuss the standard and criteria development process
- Discuss the certification pilot and EOI process
- Provide a forum for attendees to ask questions
- Discuss future consultation opportunities.

Contact us

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Submit an EOI to participate in the pilot or contact us to attend the industry briefing