

ForestFit

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

- 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.

Certification pilot successfully launched

Twenty forest businesses across Australia are piloting each step of ForestFit Certification.

National pilot

The ForestFit Certification pilot is underway with businesses across Australia who are testing all steps of the certification process.

Where possible, the criteria aligns with existing schemes, regulatory requirements, Australian Standards and industry codes of practice.

The national pilot includes 15 businesses who are being assessed against:

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

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

The feedback and input received throughout the pilot will influence the final certification framework, processes and criteria for national roll out.

QLD State native forest pilot

Leveraging the work being conducted at a national level through the ForestFit project, an additional five (5) forest businesses operating in Queensland (QLD) State native forest are participating in the QLD pilot of the WHS Standard, funded by the QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

Participants include a number of timber processors that undertake harvest and haul operations through a combination of their own staff and contractors.

The feedback and input of those participating in the pilot will influence the:

- WHS process to be implemented in State authorised forest harvesting operations
- Final certification framework, processes and criteria for national roll out of the WHS Standard.

Forest businesses participating in the pilot will be the first ForestFit certified businesses in the country, highlighting their commitment to work health and safety.

A leading practice Resource Centre

The ForestFit Resource Centre has been established to support forest businesses.

The Resource Centre is currently being used and evaluated by pilot participants. Where practicable, guidance, templates and documents have been developed to support documentation and evidence requirements of the standards.

These have been categorised by standard:

- Business sustainability, which also includes documents for General requirements
- Work health and safety
- Environmental practices.

Contact us

If you have any questions please contact us:

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Participants

Pilot participants represent diverse business sizes and operations across all land tenures.

| Location | Total |
|-----------------|-------|
| New South Wales | 4 |
| Victoria | 5 |
| Queensland | 7 |
| South Australia | 3 |
| Tasmania | 1 |

| Size | Total |
|------------------|-------|
| 1-10 employees | 5 |
| 11-30 employees | 5 |
| 31-50 employees | 3 |
| 51-100 employees | 3 |
| 101+ employees | 4 |

| Land tenure | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Native (private and state) | 7 |
| Plantation | 12 |
| Native and plantation | 1 |

| Scope | Total |
|--|-------|
| Harvest | 6 |
| Haulage | 1 |
| Harvest and haulage | 10 |
| Silviculture | 1 |
| All (harvest, haulage, silviculture, civil and minor forest products). | 2 |

Evaluation

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 is also testing the processes and the digital technology developed to support the certification.

Feedback and input received throughout the pilot will influence the final certification framework, processes and criteria for national roll out.

Feedback will be collected through:

- Readiness assessment
- Debrief sessions
 - Pilot participants
 - Ernst and Young assessors
- Surveys
 - Baseline – completed prior to pilot commencement
 - Completion – completed after pilot concluded.



Setting the standard for the forest industry in Australia