



Success is all about the people

National launch celebration

The multi-year work of the Industry Reference Group (IRG) was recognised and celebrated during the national launch of ForestFit on 14 June 2022.

The concept brainstormed across the whiteboard had been attempted before. The difference this time around was everyone involved knew what was being proposed would need to be recognised by industry nationally to succeed.

Securing funding and bringing together the right people was the focus for Stacey Gardiner, Nick Roberts and Nick Milham in 2018 as they set about turning their brainstorming into a project that would deliver:

- A nationally endorsed pilot Training Program for owners, leaders and emerging leaders of forest contracting businesses.
- A set of national standards and a Certification pilot for forest contracting businesses.

The emphasis was around developing and formalising business management practices, which would contribute to further strengthening risk management and contribute to auditing consistency for businesses.

Industry led and developed

Representatives from forest growers, contracting businesses, processors, industry associations and existing industry certification bodies volunteered their time and expertise had their inaugural meeting 05 December 2019.

The IRG wanted to ensure the training provided practical guidance, both strategic and operational, to improve business, safety and environmental outcomes.

IRG members worked closely for months reviewing draft after draft of training materials to ensure they were contextualised to meet the needs of the industry and were applicable for small to medium sized businesses.

Expert regulatory input was provided by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, NSW Local Land Services and NSW DPI's Plantation Regulation Unit. Training Services NSW contributed their expertise in vocational training.



The project's core focus to deliver national outcomes was really important to us.

ForestFit IRG member

Thanks to our IRG

Anthony Bate	C3 Forestry
Campbell Sanderson	Forest Corp NSW
Chris Mangan	Mangan Haulage
Damian Paull	FSC ANZ
Ian Reid	Austimber
Malcolm Hatcher	Midway Limited
Melissa Hayward	HR Forestry
Michael Clancy	G and J Groves
Simon Dorries	Responsible Wood
Stefan Jensen	FSC ANZ
Steve Dobbys	Jamax
Tim Cleary	ForestWorks
Tracey Mills	FEDC

With the successful completion of a training pilot in June 2021, it was time for the IRG to turn their attention to developing the certification.

The ForestFit Certification Standards are aligned with the requirements of other certification schemes and auditing standards, including:

- Responsible Wood (PEFC) Sustainable Forest Management certification.
- Forest Stewardship Council Forest Management Certification.
- Green Triangle Work Health and Safety (WHS) audit standard.
- Australian/New Zealand Standard 45001 – Occupational health and safety management systems.
- Australian/New Zealand Standard 14001 – Environmental management system.

This alignment will streamline auditing processes and make it easier for ForestFit certified businesses to demonstrate compliance to these standards.

Deemed to Comply

ForestFit Certification has been further strengthened by achieving Deemed to Comply status with Responsible Wood. This process will be finalised with the JAS-ANZ endorsement of ForestFit.



Establishing a set of agreed national standards for the industry provides a clear path forward as we adapt to more complex and demanding business process changes, reporting and compliance requirements.

ForestFit IRG member

Transition to BAU

With the NSW Government showing their support for the future of their forest industry and the industry nationally by funding the ForestFit project, it is now time for industry to take the lead.

We are excited for the next phase of our journey to grow and stay on top of the latest industry trends, while continuing our commitment to safe, environmental and sustainable business practices.

Work is currently underway to transition to business as usual, including:

- Roundtable meetings with forest growers and industry representatives to explore potential funding models to support ForestFit and encourage uptake as it reaches maturity.
- Finalise the JAS-ANZ endorsement of ForestFit Certification.
- Better understand the benefits of Standards Australia accreditation.
- Further explore the benefits of ForestFit supporting landholders seeking Responsible Wood as part of farm forestry.

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