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Timber Products Get Boost

By Philip Hopkins

Australian timber products have received a boost, with British approval of the Australian Forestry Standard, a national forest certification system backed by the federal and state governments.

Forest Stewardship Council certification, which is backed by environmental groups and is also available in Australia, received British approval last year.

Britain's Biodiversity Minister Barry Gardiner, said the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) "will continue to be accepted as assurance of legally logged timber from sustainably managed forests" for Britain's timber procurement policy.

Forest certification assures purchasers the wood is sourced from forests that are legally and sustainably managed. PEFC has almost 200 million hectares of certified forest area.

More than 8 million hectares of Australian Forests are AFS certified, which includes government operations in NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.