

Background and Issues

Wood is now recognised as a renewable resource with the capability of storing carbon. The Shire of Manjimup supports the use of timber/wood for construction material and fit out of Council assets.

However as a local authority there is an obligation on the Shire to ensure that due diligence is followed and public assets are established in a prudent and financially sustainable manner. The benefits of using timber/wood as a material for construction or fit out of these assets therefore needs to be balance against ongoing maintenance obligations and associated costs.

Objectives

The objective of this policy is to:

- a) Recognise the importance of the timber industry to both the Shire of Manjimup and the South West of Western Australia;
- b) Stimulate sustainable economic development with the Shire of Manjimup timber and wood products industry and encourage value adding products within that industry;
- c) Encourage the use of wood in the construction and fit out of Shire of Manjimup Buildings and Infrastructure, where wood is considered 'fit for purpose' and will not result in excessive ongoing maintenance costs.
- d) Recognise the benefits that make wood a smart choice for Shire Buildings and infrastructure;
- e) Share information and encourage education regarding the potential benefits of using wood in construction and fit out of buildings and infrastructure;
- f) Promote the industry as a renewable resource, capturing the environmental benefits of using wood as a construction material; and
- g) Encourage the use of responsibly sourced timber and other wood products.

Implementation

The Shire of Manjimup recognises the importance of using responsibly sourced timber and wood products and the need to support the local forest and wood products industry. Central to the Shire's commitment to job retention and creation is supporting local industry.

The provisions of this policy shall apply to all new Shire Buildings and infrastructure assets.

Policy Measures

The increased utilisation of wood in Shire of Manjimup Assets shall be encouraged as follows:

1. Ensuring that all briefs for new Council projects identify wood as a preferred material for both construction and fit out purposes, where wood is deemed a suitable material for the proposed application and its use will not result in substantial increases to maintenance costs;



2. CORPORATE POLICIES
2.3 OTHER CORPORATE
2.3.15 Wood Encouragement

2. Encouraging the employment of those who can find practical, efficient, versatile and cost effective building and design solutions using wood when sourcing design and architectural expertise;
3. Ensuring that all comparisons to the cost of building with other materials will take into account all long-term and life cycle benefits of using wood;
4. Where possible and suitable, sourcing locally produced wood products for construction and fit out purposes, subject to the products being fit for purpose and no substantial increase in maintenance costs will result.
5. Actively working to attract new innovative wood products manufacturers to the Shire of Manjimup.
6. In using wood as a construction material for Shire assets, the following matters shall be taken into account to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a) The utilisation of wood products that meet the Australian Forest Standard Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and/or Forest Stewardship Council certifications;
 - b) Costs associated with the maintenance of the product throughout the life of the project;
 - c) The need for Pest and Fungicide protection; and
 - d) Using wood only when it is deemed fit for purpose and it's the right material for the selected application.

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The Administration of this Policy is by the Office of CEO in consultation with all other Directorates.