

Where does the region's wood go?

The resource

There are more than 110 000 hectares of publically-owned and private pine plantation in the south west slopes and almost 70 000 hectares of native forest.

Pine plantations produce 'softwood' while native or eucalypt forests produce 'hardwood'.

Most of the plantations are harvested and replanted to ensure an ongoing supply of timber products that are used throughout Australia.

Of the areas of native forest available for harvesting, just over two per cent is sustainably harvested each year.

In the region, close to 1.4 million cubic metres of sawlogs and pulpwood are harvested from plantations and native forests each year.

What is it worth?

The pines alone generate \$700 million a year for the region, while the native forests generate almost \$1.5 million.

Despite this significant contribution to the country's economy, Australia still imports around \$2 billion of forest products each year.

What is produced?

Plantation-grown pine logs



Landscape timbers



About 70 per cent of plantation pine goes into housing frames.

delivered to a whole range of processing plants.

Higher quality logs are processed into plywood and board for furniture making.

Most of the remaining sawlogs are processed into sawn timber for house and building construction.

In fact, about 70 per cent goes into housing frames.

Approximately 12 cubic metres of pine logs, or around four trees, are used in an average house frame.

Every log is replaced with at least one new tree to grow to supply timber for future generations.

Even the sawdust and bark is used in potting mixes and garden mulches, or as biofuels to generate energy.

Around one third of all logs



Cardboard boxes

processed in sawmills finish up as residues, called woodchips.

A common misconception is that woodchips are a waste product, but that's not the case. They are used to make value added products like printing and writing paper, particleboard and Medium Density Fibre-board (MDF), which is used for kitchen cupboards, flooring and so on.

Around half of the wood produced from native forests goes into high-value products such as structural beams, floorboards, furniture, plywood and hardwood appearance boards.

There is also an emerging hardwood veneer market, that will utilise some of the region's valuable Alpine ash.

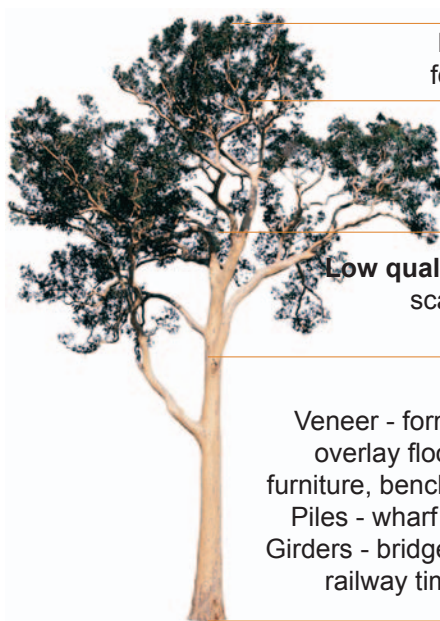
Lower quality hardwoods are used for pallets.

The wood residues that aren't used for sawlogs can be utilised as export pulpwood (chips) and converted into high-quality printing products.

As with softwood, there's no wastage - every bit of the hardwood log sent to the mill is used.

NATIVE FOREST

Common Australian hardwood products



Residue - woodchips, sawdust for wood fuel power generation

Pulpwood - paper products, hardwood/masonite

Low quality sawlog - fencing and landscaping, pallets, railway sleepers

Veneer - form ply, overlay flooring, furniture, benchtops
Piles - wharf piers
Girders - bridge and railway timbers

High quality sawlog

Large sawlogs - structural beams, lintels, flooring, joinery and furniture, decking and panning

Pulpwood - paper products, hardwood/masonite

PLANTED SOFTWOOD FOREST

Common Australian softwood products



Residue

Pulpwood - reconstituted timbers (medium density fibreboard, particleboard, oriented strand board), paper products, other preservative timbers

Unpruned sawlog - house framing, decking, panelling, flooring, joinery and furniture

Pruned sawlog

Large sawlog - feature grade joinery and furniture, bearers and joists, select flooring
Veneer - furniture, benchtops

Graphics courtesy of State Forests of NSW

The region's major hardwood customers

Sawmillers - Neville Smith Timber Industries (Laurel Hill), Hardwood Resources (Tumut), Adjungbilly Timbers (Adjungbilly), Ryan and McNulty (Benalla) and Midway (Geelong).



Quality hardwood furniture



Paper roll



The region's major softwood customers

Pulp and Paper: Norske Skog (Albury), Visy Pulp and Paper (Tumut).

Sawmillers: Weyerhaeuser (Tumut), Hyne and Son (Tumbarumba), Carter Holt Harvey (Mytleford), ITI Sawmilling (Holbrook), D and R Henderson (Benalla), Integrated Forest Products (Canberra), Auswest Timbers (Canberra).

Plywood: Ausply (Wagga Wagga).

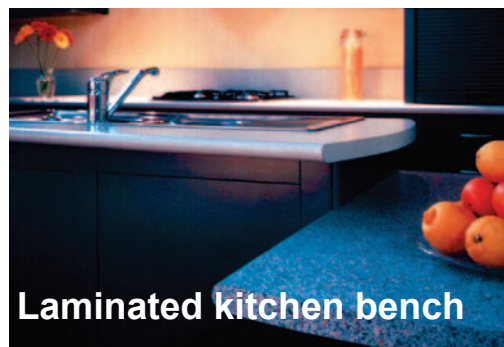
Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL): Ausply (Wagga Wagga).

Wood panels: Carter Holt Harvey (Tumut).

Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF): Alpine (Wangaratta), Monsbent (Benalla).

Others: Smaller pine and hardwood sawmills, post and poles, bio-fuel.

Construction



Laminated kitchen bench

For further information contact FIC's Executive Officer on (02) 6947 0111.

FIC's website is:
www.forestindustrycouncil.com.au