

Looking and planning ahead – a very long way ahead – is the key to the sustainable management of our forest resources.



This season's tree seedlings growing in production forests won't be ready to harvest for many years. But our society still requires the supply of forest products that we use every day.

It's one of the challenges of a forester's job – planning well into the future to ensure that sustainable yields of timber will always be available.

They do it by mapping, measuring and monitoring.

Sustainable Forestry Means Confidence for Consumers

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a not-for-profit company that manages the Australian Forest Certification Scheme.

Among its industry standards, it administers chain-of-custody certification for wood products. As the standard states, 'chain-of-custody tracks a wood or forest product from its origin in a certified forest through to its end use as a wood or forest product by the consumer. It covers all intermediate steps including harvesting, transportation, primary and secondary processing, manufacturing, re-manufacturing, distribution and sales.'

Tick of Approval

Timber processors and manufacturers who meet the requirements of the chain-of-custody standard are permitted to label their products so that consumers know that they are sourced from forests that are responsibly and sustainably managed.

Native forests being regenerated today won't come into production for about 60 years. Eucalypt plantations mature more quickly – tree farms established around the year 2000 will begin to mature after only 15 years or so.