

**FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION—FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL AUSTRALIA —  
CONTROLLED WOOD STANDARD**

*Statement by Minister for Forestry*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Forestry)** [12.05 pm]: I rise today to inform the house that after a long and rigorous audit process, the Forest Products Commission has now met the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council Australia's controlled wood standard for its karri harvest operations. I am proud to say that we are the first government agency in Australia to meet the FSC controlled wood standard for timber sourced from its native forests. The internationally respected FSC controlled wood standard helps provide assurance that wood sourced from the karri forests is legally harvested; is not harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; does not threaten high conservation values; and is not from forests being converted to plantations, non-forest use, or in which genetically modified trees are planted. Achieving this standard provides independent recognition that native forest timber harvesting does not threaten a range of values, including old-growth forests, culture and heritage, and endangered species. Assessment of our forest practices was undertaken independently by the Soil Association's Woodmark over a period of 20 months, and involved four separate field audits. The Forest Products Commission was able to demonstrate that it meets the controlled wood standard by preparing a detailed management plan for the karri forest. This plan was improved by the input of numerous stakeholders, including community, conservation, and industry groups. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the staff of the Department of Parks and Wildlife, and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

What does this mean for the industry? The FSC controlled wood standard enables timber to be mixed with fully FSC-certified or recycled wood, providing assurance that wood has not come from unacceptable sources. This helps the industry sell its products into markets requiring this assurance. The timber industry provides a renewable resource for flooring, furniture making and joinery, as well as a range of other uses including firewood. It is also an important regional employer, particularly in the south west.

In order to maintain this certification, FPC will need to be audited periodically. This means that FPC will need to continue to work with stakeholders to ensure high-conservation values are protected. I would like to thank everybody who has been involved in helping FPC achieve this standard.