

3.1.7 Wood Encouragement - Council

Type:	Regulatory Services - Planning
Legislation:	Local Government Act, 1995
Delegation:	N/A
Other Related Document:	ToEF Residential Design Guidelines Policy

Objective

- a) To encourage the use of wood in the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure
- b) To recognise all of the benefits that make wood a smart choice for Council buildings and infrastructure
- c) To demonstrate local and national leadership by enacting the Wood Encouragement Policy on Council buildings and infrastructure

This Wood Encouragement Policy for the Council has been developed to clearly articulate how the Town of East Fremantle will encourage the use of wood in the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure.

The vision is to develop a policy that is an environmental policy that encourages the sustainable use of wood within East Fremantle and is responsive to environmental issues such as climate change and environmental protection.

Policy Scope

The Policy relates specifically to any Council owned building/ infrastructure.

Policy

Trees provide environmental, health and amenity benefits in relation to solar and privacy screening, microclimate, carbon absorption, bird and animal habitat, air quality and visual attractiveness within a Local Government area. The use of wood as a construction material is also considered to have mutual environmental, health, ecological and sustainable benefits which provide urban design benefits for the local community.

This Policy does not in any way mandate the use of wood, only that wood is at least considered as a suitable material for construction and fit out in any development or redevelopment of a Council building/ infrastructure.

Council recognises the importance of forestry and the timber industry to the broader Western Australian region. Central to Council's desire to be environmentally and ecologically sustainable is supporting the broader Australian timber industry, whilst also to give wood a preference where practical as it has a substantially lower carbon impact than other building materials.

Timber is the only major building material that helps tackle climate change. Wood uses much less energy - known as embodied energy - than most other building materials, giving wood products a significantly lower carbon footprint. As a result wood can be used as a low-emission substitute for materials that require larger amounts of fossil fuels to be produced.

Council will encourage the increased utilisation of wood in Council assets by:

- ensuring that all briefs for new Council projects consider the requirement to use wood as a material for both construction and fit out purposes, where wood is deemed a suitable material for the proposed application
- endeavouring to seek those who can find, practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using wood when sourcing design and architectural expertise
- where possible, sourcing locally (West Australian) produced wood products for construction and fit out purposes

Council will encourage the increased utilisation of wood in any development/ redevelopment within the Local Government area by:

- facilitating the promotion of using sustainable wood as a construction and fit out material in the Local Government area in any development/ redevelopment
- where possible/ practical, utilising locally (West Australian) produced and sourced wood products for construction and fit out purposes
- encouraging designers/ architects/ engineers or similar professions to use new, innovative wood products/ materials and manufacturers to work with the existing built environment to enhance the urban fabric of the Local Government Area
- ensuring that it represents value for money

In using wood as a construction material for Council infrastructure, Council will have regard to:

- the utilisation of wood products that meet the Australian Forest Standard, Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification and/or Forest Stewardship Council certifications
- maintenance required throughout the life of the project
- pest and fungus protection
- using wood only when it is the right material for the selected application (i.e. there are no technical reasons for it not to be used)
- ensuring that it represents value for money

Responsible Directorate:	Regulatory Services
Reviewing Officer:	Executive Manager Regulatory Services
Decision making Authority:	Council
Policy Adopted:	21/10/17
Policy Amended/Reviewed:	15/10/19
Former Policy No.	3.1.7

