



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

27 October 2014

### **Karri forest certification recognises high standard of forest management in Western Australia**

The Institute of Foresters has welcomed the news that timber harvesting operations by the Forest Products Commission have met the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) International Controlled Wood standard. This decision applies to an area of 244, 612 ha of State forest containing pure and mixed stands of karri.

Recognition through the Controlled Wood standard provides assurance to customers that wood is sourced from legal harvesting operations that do not threaten recognised High Conservation Values. Certification to the standard was undertaken by independent forest management auditor The Soil Association following a detailed process involving review of management practices, field inspections and consultation with stakeholders.

“Controlled wood certification for the karri forest represents an important development for forestry in Western Australia,” said Institute of Forest WA Division Chairman Lachlan McCaw.

“This decision will support good forest management by providing ongoing market access for wood sourced from thinning operations in young regrowth karri forests. Timely thinning of regrowth forest is important to maintain forest health, minimise the impact of a drying climate and provide a sustained yield of wood over the long term.”

“It is disappointing that several conservation groups who previously held FSC to be the gold standard of forest certification have chosen to try and discredit the FSC process and the independent auditors. FSC certification along with PEFC Australian Forestry Standard certification is further support for sustainable forest management in Australia.”

The Institute of Foresters is a national organisation that represents the views of forest management professionals and has more than 120 members in Western Australia who work in native forests, plantations and environmental services.

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