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New Plantation Code Released

The Forest Industries Federation of WA today released its Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in WA. The Code is a best-practice manual for the establishment and management of hardwood and softwood plantations in WA.

Forest Industries Federation Senior Policy Officer Melissa Loud said that the finalisation of the Code followed over a year of extensive consultation with the industry and government regulators. It was prepared in conjunction with Australian Forest Growers and the Forest Products Commission.

Ms Loud said that WA plantations already operated at a high Standard.

“This Code will ensure both that the standards are even higher in the future, meeting the needs of the environment, the community and consumers,” Ms Loud said.

“It will also ensure that these high standards are consistently applied across the industry.

“It is our hope that the Code will be adopted by government and local government regulatory bodies to give consistency in decision making throughout the state.”

Ms Loud said that particular attention had been paid in the new Code to water use in plantations.

“By requiring that trees not be planted across watercourses, we are ensuring that plantations only use the rain that falls on them, without significantly affecting the flow of water in watercourses for other water users.

“Plantation managers do not dam watercourses to provide a water supply, but we appreciate that other water users do. By not planting across watercourses we can ensure that the water use of plantations is equivalent to that of the native forest which originally stood there before the area was cleared for farmland.

“In many areas this will help to restore the natural environmental balance, preventing a rise in the water table and cutting back on salinity.

Ms Loud said that the Code replaces an earlier version produced in 1997.

To obtain copies of the Code please contact the FIFWA offices on (08) 9472 3055 or email info@fifwa.asn.au.

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