# WOOD products victoria Hardwood Products Environmental Benefits

There are many great benefits to sustainable, renewable, certified local Victorian hardwood timbers. Not only do hardwood timber products look stunning but they also provide environmental benefits that can help us tackle climate change.

### The Ultimate Renewable

Timber is one of the only truly renewable resources in the world, in fact, it is The Ultimate Renewable.



#### **Combatting Climate Change**

Globally it is well recognized and understood that a sustainable timber industry storing carbon in forests and products is one of the best ways to combat climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which advises the UNFCCC on climate matters has stated unequivocally:

"A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit."

## **Carbon Storage**

Hardwood forests are carbon stores. Young actively growing trees breakdown CO<sub>2</sub> using the solar energy of the sun and give us the oxygen we breathe. All whilst storing the carbon to form the timber products that we use in our homes and lives - half of the dry weight of the tree is carbon. Hardwood trees density 650-900kg/m<sup>3</sup>, store around 325 – 450 kg of carbon per cubic metre, or between 1,200 - 3,300 kg of CO<sup>2</sup> per cubic metre.

# STORE CARBON FOR LIFE

Hardwood timber products continue to store carbon for the life of the timber product.

#### **Fighting Bushfires**

The biggest threat to forests is bushfire. A strong timber industry assists in prevention and protection from fire through access, equipment and skilled operators to enable efficient well-located firefighting and fire management works.

# The Best Material

The production and processing of 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 in their production.

Alternative building products to timber, such as steel, aluminium and concrete, produce vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> in their manufacture - over 8% of the worlds greenhouse gas emissions come from the production of cement alone.



As a rule of thumb, if you convert one cubic metre of solid material, such as concrete or brick, for a cubic metre of timber, you will eliminate approximately one tonne (1,000kg) of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere.



Wood Products Victoria Ltd

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