



## AFS certification for Green Star.

This announcement has been a long time coming. The Green Building Council of Australia is the organization which sets the rules for obtaining a Green Star rating on buildings. The Green Star rating system assesses a building on a broad range of criteria to determine its overall environmental impact on the environment. The assessment looks at design, location, public transport, car park spaces, the origin and types of materials used and a range of other items. There is a points system and the number of points obtained will determine how many stars are awarded. Six stars is the top rating.

That's a quick overview for the un-initiated. So where does timber fit in? Up until now the only timber accepted under this system was material with a Forest Stewardship Certification ( FSC ) or recycled material. Fact is that FSC applies to very little timber available in Australia and it does not apply to any of the major timber producers. As a result the Australian industry has been essentially shut out of Green Star projects. Enter Australian Forestry Standard. ( AFS ) This is a world class certification system that ensures chain of custody from the forests to the end user. It is the largest certification system in Australia and covers 8.5 million hectares of forest. It's not an easy certification to obtain as all applicants have to pass a very rigorous process. You can be assured that any material produced under the AFS system is coming from a well monitored sustainable operation. Why has it taken so long to be adopted? POLITICS!!

So, if you are a building designer or project manager seeking a Green Star rating what can we offer you? Currently the bulk of the material produced under the AFS is turned into flooring and decking. This includes pretty much all the north coast species, Tas Oak / Ash, Jarrah, Blackwood and Tas Blue Gum. We also have available Silver Top Ash, Yellow Stringy Bark and Messmate from the southern region. If you want structural hardwood such as KD F27 we have some excellent options too. On the cabinet timber front, there are less options currently available but as more mills go through the process of certification there will be more products offered. Finally, if you want those green stars, please talk to us at the design stage and we will gladly help you come up with a workable specification. Better to sort it early than waste time on something unavailable.

## Big River Engineered Flooring.

There are many engineered floors on the market. They are often called floating floors as to lay them over a foam type underlay is a common installation method. They consist of a substrate of either plywood or MDF and a top layer of "show" timber. The quality varies with the price. Many of the imported budget options are pretty ordinary. One of the best on the market is the Big River Timber product. Produced in Grafton using aussie species, it is the strongest engineered floor on the market. You can actually lay it the traditional way on bearers and joists. I don't know any other engineered floor that can do this. Monaro Timber have just been appointed the Canberra distributor for this product. Next week we under go full training then the product will be added to our range. Big River also produce plywood and offer full 2400 x 1200 sheets of this flooring. It can then be cut up to produce a patterned floor. Also available are plywood type laminated step treads to finish the job. If you wish to find out more please contact our office.

## Organoil Update.

Much has been said lately about Organoil. Many of you may be aware the product disappeared just prior to Christmas but it is now back. The company had a bit of trouble and was sold to new Sydney based owners. All the plant was relocated to Sydney and production commenced a few months back. The new company has a strong background in the industry and Ernie Williams, former National Sales Manager and all round "Mr Organoil" is still on board. We have pledged continued support for the product range and also the new owners. When we thought Organoil might disappear we were quite concerned as there is nothing else on the market quite like it. We are happy they are still with us.

That's it for another month..Cheers

*Shaun*

Questions or comments? E-mail us at  
[shaun@monarotimber.com.au](mailto:shaun@monarotimber.com.au)  
or call 02 6280 6467

Drop in at 46-52 Townsville St Fyshwick.  
8.00—4.30 weekdays.  
8.00—12 noon Saturdays