



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

SOLOMON ISLANDS TIMBER PROCESSORS ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION TO BOOST EXPORTS AND JOBS

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The Solomon Islands Timber Processors and Exporters Association (SITPEA) and its members—Hatanga Timber Ltd, Value-Added Timber Association Timber Company Ltd, and Top Timber Ltd—have secured internationally recognised Chain of Custody Certification, enabling them to demonstrate sustainable sourcing of forest products to global customers.

As international regulations tighten, the certification is expected to help these organisations access high-value export markets, create jobs, and strengthen buyer confidence in Solomon Islands timber products.

Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, His Excellency Jeff Roach, praised SITPEA and its members, highlighting the importance of sustainable forestry for the nations future prosperity.

“Sawn timber offers a more sustainable pathway for Solomon Islands’ forestry sector. This certification is significant as the industry supports around 9,000 rural households,” High Commissioner Roach said.

“Congratulations to SITPEA and your members on this achievement.”

The certification was achieved with support from Australia and New Zealand, which assisted SITPEA and its members strengthen systems and skills to meet international standards for legally traceable, responsibly sourced sawn timber.

SITPEA representative Raphael Aramaea, expressed gratitude for the long-standing support from both governments.

“Your commitment and ongoing support to SITPEA have been instrumental in helping us achieve this milestone”, Mr Aramaea said. “SITPEA is now working with its members to expand the certification scheme to more businesses this year.”

This milestone builds on Australia’s long-standing partnership with Solomon Islands’ sustainable forestry sector, including initiatives with Kolombangara Forest Products Ltd and the Value-Added Timber Association to increase value-added timber production and support rural livelihoods.

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PHOTOS:



Caption 1: Logs at Vura Forest in Guadalcanal ready to be transported to timber mills in Honiara. The Sawn Timber industry supports around 9,000 rural households in Solomon Islands.



Caption 2: Millers operating a Lucas mill in the forests of Vura in Guadalcanal. With support from Australia and New Zealand, SITPEA and its members have strengthened their systems and skills to meet international requirements for legally traceable, responsibly sourced sawn timber.



Caption 3: Certification helps secure access to high-value export markets, supports jobs and incomes, and strengthens buyer confidence as global regulations become more stringent.



Caption 4: Australia is supporting the Solomon Islands Government to move to sustainable forestry.