

Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub

Membership Criteria and Application Process

The Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub (**GTFIH**) is an association established for the purpose of developing and working toward a long term vision for the forest and wood products industry in the area of South Australia and Victoria commonly known as the 'Green Triangle.'

In accordance with GTFIH's Rules of Association, any person who wishes to be a member of the association may submit a written application to GTFIH's management committee (the **Committee**) for consideration.

This document sets out the membership criteria against which membership applications will be assessed.

1 Objectives of GTFIH

- 1.1 In accordance with GTFIH's Rules of Association, the objects for which GTFIH has been established are:
- (a) to develop and work toward a long term vision for the forest and wood products industry in the Green Triangle;
 - (b) in meeting the primary objective as set out in clause 1.1(a):
 - (i) to investigate, identify and create sustainable domestic processing opportunities for utilising all available volumes of softwood and hardwood fibre from forestry estates in the Green Triangle region;
 - (ii) to expand the regional forestry estate to enable growth of domestic processing;
 - (iii) to address constraints which may prevent the forest and wood products industry in the Green Triangle from reaching a long term sustainable position;
 - (iv) to conduct research, feasibility studies and related activities and to apply for funding (including State and Federal grants) from within Australia to support initiatives;
 - (v) to promote, protect and enhance the forest and wood products industry in the Green Triangle;
 - (vi) to promote economic, environmental and social responsibility in the Green Triangle; and
 - (vii) to promote and protect the reputation and success of the forest and wood products industry in the Green Triangle; and
 - (c) carry out all such activities as may be incidental to the attainment of the above-mentioned objects.

2 Membership criteria

2.1 A person seeking to become a member of GTFIH in accordance with section 6 of GTFIH's Rules of Association (**Applicant**) must meet the criteria of either membership class as set out below and provide supporting evidence.

2.2 General Member

Criterion 1: The Applicant is, in the Green Triangle region, an owner or manager of:

- (a) at least 10,000 hectares of land used for, or associated with, forest and/or wood products; and/or
- (b) processing infrastructure with an annual production of at least 200,000 gross metric tonnes of forest and/or wood products.

Criterion 2: The Applicant is willing and able to, as and when required, contribute on a proportionate financial basis with other GTFIH members to the costs associated with the administration and operation of GTFIH.

Criterion 3: The Applicant is willing and able to advance GTFIH's objectives, including by contributing the Applicant's own staff and capacity to the work of GTFIH (e.g. by conducting research and feasibility studies).

Criterion 4: The Applicant's business operations are conducted in accordance with recognised industry and environmental standards.

2.3 Associate Member

Criterion 1: The Applicant is, in the Green Triangle region:

- (a) a forest grower;
- (b) a manager of land used for, or associated with, forest and/or wood products;
- (c) a processor of forest and/or wood products;
- (d) a contractor in the forest and/or wood products industry;
- (e) a silviculturist; and/or
- (f) any other industry association or body whose primary objectives concern the forest and wood products industry in the Green Triangle or a representative of such association or body.

Criterion 2: The Applicant is a member of their relevant industry association or a provider of forestry services in the Green Triangle region.

Criterion 3: The Applicant is willing and able to, as and when required, contribute on a proportionate financial basis with other GTFIH members to the costs associated with the administration and operation of GTFIH.

Criterion 4: The Applicant is willing and able to advance GTFIH's objectives, including by contributing the Applicant's own staff and capacity to the work of GTFIH (e.g. by conducting research and feasibility studies).

Criterion 5: The Applicant's business operations are conducted in accordance with recognised industry and environmental standards.

3 Membership application process

- 3.1 Once the Committee has conducted a review of an Applicant, the Committee will vote on whether the Applicant is to be admitted to membership of the Association as either a General Member or an Associate Member.
- 3.2 If the Applicant is approved by a simple majority of the Committee, the Applicant will be granted member status.
- 3.3 If the Applicant is rejected by a simple majority of the Committee, the Applicant will not be granted member status. In such circumstances, the Committee will provide a written explanation to the Applicant outlining the reasons for the rejection.
- 3.4 A decision made under clause 3.3 may be appealed pursuant to section 5 of this document.
- 3.5 In the course of considering an Applicant's suitability for membership, the Committee may request reasonable evidence from Applicants to demonstrate how the Applicant meets the relevant membership criteria.

4 Obligations of members

- 4.1 The Applicant acknowledges and accepts that continued membership in GTFIH is contingent upon meeting and maintaining membership obligations and requirements. In particular, GTFIH members commit to continuing to advance GTFIH's objectives.
- 4.2 If a member fails to comply with the above obligations, the Committee may suspend the member's membership rights or expel the member from GTFIH.
- 4.3 At least 60 calendar days before the Committee suspends membership rights or expels a member in accordance with clause 4.2, the Committee must send a written notice to the member that states:
 - (a) that the Committee is considering suspending the member's membership rights or expelling the member from GTFIH;
 - (b) the grounds on which the Committee is considering suspending membership rights or expelling the member; and
 - (c) that the member has 60 calendar days within which to remedy its failure.
- 4.4 If, following the process set out in clause 4.3 above, the member continues to fail to meet its obligations, the Committee shall have the power to suspend the member's membership rights or expel the member from GTFIH in accordance with GTFIH's Rules of Association.
- 4.5 A decision made under clause 4.4 may be appealed pursuant to section 5 of this document.

5 Appeal rights

- 5.1 A person may give notice in writing to the Committee to the effect that they wish to appeal a decision made under clause 3.3 or clause 4.4 (a **Decision**) within 30 calendar days of the decision having been made.
- 5.2 If a person has given notice under clause 5.1, an appeal meeting must be convened by the Committee as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 30 calendar days, after the notice is received.
- 5.3 At an appeal meeting:
- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be considered;
 - (b) the Committee must state the grounds for its Decision and the reasons for taking that action; and
 - (c) the person subject to the Decision must be given an opportunity to be heard.
- 5.4 After complying with clause 5.3, the Committee must vote on the question of whether the Decision should be upheld or revoked.
- 5.5 The Decision is upheld if a simple majority of the Committee votes in favour of the Decision.