



INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEME

The Registered Professional Forester[®] scheme is a formal registration system that offers quality assurance on forestry expertise. The scheme is administered by the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

About The Institute of Foresters of Australia

The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) provides professional leadership to the forestry profession, and information and assistance to government, industry and the community on issues affecting forests.

The IFA, which has a 1300-strong membership, promotes informed debate on forestry issues and advocates sustainable management of forests for all their values.

Why Register in the Registered Professional Forester Scheme?

The purpose of the Registered Professional Forester scheme is to promote high standards in the professional practice of forestry.

Registration in the RPF scheme is a logical step in professional development. It provides further opportunities for foresters who generally have had at least five years' professional or technical experience as a practitioner in a forestry area, including at least two years' relevant experience in Australia.

What does RPF mean?

The designation 'RPF' certifies that the RPF Registration Committee has admitted the holder to the Register of Professional Foresters. This means that the forester:

1. is eligible to be a Voting Member (ie, Professional level) of the IFA,
2. commits to the IFA Code of Ethics,
3. possesses the experience, skills and knowledge that the community expects of a Registered Professional Forester,

4. commits to annually undertaking at least 30 hours of continuing professional development, and
5. if engaged in providing external consultancy services, is covered by Professional Indemnity insurance or has a statement of self-insurance, in the case of public sector foresters.

What confidence can Employers and Foresters have in the Registration Scheme?

The RPF scheme is subject to an annual audit by an independent external auditor who reviews and assesses the scheme. The auditor reports to the IFA Board through the Chair of the RPF Registration Committee, which has overall responsibility for the scheme.

What does the RPF Scheme mean to Employers and Clients?

For employers and clients of forestry professionals, the RPF scheme guarantees that the Registered Professional Forester they are engaging has been assessed by expert practitioners and deemed to possess the experience, skills and knowledge identified by the RPF Registration Committee for that forester's area/s of skills or expertise.

How will employers and clients know whether the Registered Professional Forester has the expertise they need?

Each Registered Professional Forester is issued with a Certificate when the RPF Registration Committee has approved the application. The Certificate identifies the general area/s of skills for General Practicing Foresters and specific expertise for those who have focused on specialised areas. Employers and clients should ask to see the Certificate to confirm that the forester's recognition is current and has received endorsement by his/her peers.