

VALUE of PAPER & PRINT FAST FACTS

Sustainability

The Paper and Print industry's environmental credentials, through its myriad of uses from commercial applications to the basis for learning and creativity, offers Australian companies one of the most sustainable ways to communicate – it is reusable, recyclable (or upcyclable) and renewable.

- Australia's forestry plantations doubled in size from about one million hectares in 1994 to two million hectares in 2010 (The Changing Face of Australia's Forests- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2010).
- 90% of deforestation is caused by unsustainable agricultural practices (Underlying Causes of deforestation, World Rainforest Movement, UN FAO).
- Reading a newspaper can consume 20% less carbon than viewing news online (Swedish Royal Institute for Technology).
- 95% of Australian households recycle/reuse their paper products. Paper is recycled more than any other household item (ABS Waste Management and Transport Use, 2009).
- The single biggest direct cause of tropical deforestation is conversion to crop land and pasture, mainly for subsistence (www.replantingtherainforests.org-April 2009).
- The amount of carbon stored in forest products is about 540 million tons of CO² every year (NCASI Special Report 07-02).
- Planted forests in Australia cover 2 million hectares ~ 1% of Australia's total forest estate and a relatively small area compared to other crops like wheat and barley (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2013).
- Australia's forests absorb more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than they release and therefore help to offset Australia's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (Criterion 5, Australia's State of the Forests Report, 2008).
- A sustainably managed forest can be relatively carbon neutral if logging is balanced with regrowth (A Sustainable Procurement of Wood & Paper products: An Introduction) (www.sustainableforestprods.org)

