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1 Formal CPD point

Please be aware you are required to manage your own CPD records. We will provide you with your participation certificate and answer sheet once you have attended the full seminar.

The below answer sheet is for your own self-assessment.
Please keep your completed questionnaires and answers on file for your record.
These do not need to be sent to CPD Live. CPD-Live will send you certificate.

Rethinking wood: How new timber technologies are redefining sustainability

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1. What are the challenges to timber's sustainability as a building material?

Supply cannot meet demand. Native forest logging is declining, and plantations mostly produce low-grade timber. Inefficient processing methods can waste more than half the log, reducing yield and increasing environmental impact. Global supply chains mean timber may travel long distances or come from regions affected by conflict, illegal harvesting, or deforestation.

2. How do the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) influence building material specification?

They promote sustainability by encouraging the use of materials that are sustainably sourced, recyclable, and low in carbon emissions. Relevant SDGs include Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Life on Land (SDG 15).

3. What is the key difference between sustainability and circularity in the context of material use?

Sustainability focuses on preserving resources for the future, while circularity is about extending the life cycle of products by rethinking how materials are used and reused..

4. What distinguishes upcycling from recycling?

Recycling involves breaking down materials into their base components to create new products. Upcycling, on the other hand, transforms materials into products of equal or higher value, retaining or enhancing the original properties and resulting in longer-lasting, higher-quality outcomes.

5. What material choices help ensure a timber product supports circular architecture?

Timber products that support circular architecture are designed with resource efficiency in mind—for example, by upcycling low-grade material, minimising waste during manufacturing, and ensuring durability for multiple lifecycles. Using VOC-free adhesives also supports a cleaner product lifecycle and allows the material to remain safe for reuse or recycling.

6. What counts as low-grade timber—and how is it typically used in Australia?

Low-grade timber typically includes logs with defects, juvenile or pulp logs, and leftover material from sawmills such as offcuts or short lengths. In Australia, most low-grade timber is either chipped, pulped, burned for energy, or exported at low value. While some of it is used in products like MDF or particleboard, a large portion currently remains underutilised.

Competency Codes: P10, PC24, PC35, PC39.