

**Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources**

Answers to questions on notice

**Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio**

**Committee:** Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources  
**Inquiry:** Inquiry into the timber supply chain constraints in the Australian plantation sector  
**Question No:** 2  
**Hearing Date:** 29 October 2020  
**Division/Agency:** ABARES  
**Topic:** Breakdown of wood fibre exports  
**Hansard Page:** 3  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2020  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Mr Pasin asked:**

Mr PASIN: Yes, thank you for that. You'll need, no doubt, to answer these next questions on notice, and I'd be pleased if you could. I'd really like to know, over the last five years, what the data tells us in relation to wood fibre being exported overseas. I'm hopeful that you can break that down as woodchip versus whole log exports over five years. I'd also like you to break it down, if you can, possibly, by port. There might be seven million cubes Australia-wide but four million of those cubes coming out of the Port of Portland, for example; I don't know if those numbers are anything near relevant. But are you able to provide the committee with that data? The government's initiative is all about getting more trees in the ground. That is about getting more trees through local mills. An active consideration here, in that context, is: how much of the wood fibre is leaving Australian shores for processing overseas? Without that data, we're a bit blind on that question.

Mr Galeano: What we can do is can break it up by type—so sawlogs versus woodchips or whatever, but we can't do it by port. I think the best we can do is by state.

Mr PASIN: By state will be an effective proxy, almost, for port. I appreciate that. I'm very concerned about how we describe sawlogs, because people get very tied up on what a sawlog is. Technology is moving so quickly that smaller and smaller diameter logs are able to, effectively, be processed in a sawmilling facility. Are there any kind of rules around how that's designed for ABARES or data collection purposes, or is a log what my 10 or 12 year old would regard it to be—namely, a tree that is effectively in log form?

Mr Galeano: We don't have a specific definition. We effectively report ABS data—so [inaudible] in the system. We can get you details of the definitions to the level that they go so that you understand what the—

Mr PASIN: I think that would be important. The data is critical, and we'd really appreciate receiving it. But also how that data is categorised, for example, is equally critical.

Mr BRIAN MITCHELL: The chair, Mr Wilson, has rejoined us. I'll throw it back to him in a sec. I want to follow on from Mr Pasin's contribution there. I think there were very good points from Mr Pasin. On the data that you can provide on what material is leaving the country, I think we also need to ensure what the total of that material that's being produced is, and then we want to know how much of it is leaving the country and in what form. We want to make sure that we're comparing apples with apples—logs with logs or pulp with pulp. What we're getting is quite right—there's different evidence about what constitutes a sawlog and what constitutes pulpwood, and it can be difficult to find out what's happening where.

## Answer:

Table 1 summarises the volume of Australia's exports in the financial years 2015–16 to 2019–20 of the following categories of wood fibre:

- Fuel wood
- Woodchips
- Sawdust, wood waste and scrap
- Logs (treated with paint, coniferous, tropical and other)
- Wood pulp.

Attachment A contains more detailed classifications of these categories, by export quantity by state, in the financial years 2015–16 to 2019–20.

**Table 1: Exports of wood fibre, Australia, quantity, 2015–16 to 2019–20**

AHECC	Description	Unit	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Chapter 44, Heading 4401							
HS Code 44011	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms	tonnes	26,664	220,943	473	39,814	61,044
HS Code 44012	Wood in chips or particles	bone dry tonnes	6,392,698	7,099,787	7,305,101	7,349,849	5,245,296
HS Codes 44013 & 44014	Sawdust and wood waste and scrap	tonnes	1,942	12,360	79,766	61,923	76,920
Chapter 44, Heading 4403							
HS Code 44031	Logs (treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives)	m <sup>3</sup>	4,826	16,733	7,599	6,116	23,544
HS Code 44032	Logs (coniferous)	m <sup>3</sup>	3,309,522	3,844,736	3,803,129	3,462,328	3,510,630
HS Code 44034	Logs (tropical)	m <sup>3</sup>	1,281	143	5,021	28,296	49,667
HS Code 44039	Logs (other)	m <sup>3</sup>	368,927	460,943	678,203	699,078	531,945
Chapter 47							
Headings 4701, 4702, 4703, 4704 & 4705	Wood pulp—mechanical, chemical, combination	tonnes	26	88	108	132	412

AHECC, Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

## Detailed classifications of export categories

National export statistics are published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and classify goods based on the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC). The classification is based on the six digit international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) for describing internationally traded goods. The ABS extends the six digit international HS by two digits to provide a finer level of detail. An AHECC code for exports therefore comprises eight digits.

Table 2 lists the detailed AHECC classifications for the wood fibre products shown in Table 1.

**Table 2: Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification, Chapter 44 and Chapter 47, extracts**

Chapter 44, WOOD AND ARTICLES OF WOOD; WOOD CHARCOAL			
Heading	HS Code	Export Statistical Item	Description
4401			FUEL WOOD, IN LOGS, IN BILLETS, IN TWIGS, IN FAGGOTS OR IN SIMILAR FORMS; WOOD IN CHIPS OR PARTICLES; SAWDUST AND WOOD WASTE AND SCRAP, WHETHER OR NOT AGGLOMERATED IN LOGS, BRIQUETTES, PELLETS OR SIMILAR FORMS:
	44011		- Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms :
	440111	44011100	-- Coniferous
	440112	44011200	-- Non-coniferous
	44012		- Wood in chips or particles:
	440121	44012120(a)	-- Coniferous
	440122		-- Non-coniferous
		4401223	--- Of Sandalwood (all species)
		44012231	---- Derived from native forests (forest that is dominated by the suite of native tree species naturally associated with forest in that location and located within their natural range, and that is not a plantation)
		44012232	---- Other
		44012299(a)	--- Other
	44013		- Sawdust and wood waste and scrap, agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms :
	440131	44013100	-- Wood pellets
	440139	44013901	-- Other
	44014(0)		- Sawdust and wood waste and scrap, not agglomerated
		4401401	-- Of Sandalwood (all species)
		44014011	--- Derived from native forests (forest that is dominated by the suite of native tree species naturally associated with forest in that location and located within their natural range, and that is not a plantation)
		44014012	--- Other
		44014090	-- Other
4403			WOOD IN THE ROUGH, WHETHER OR NOT STRIPPED OF BARK OR SAPWOOD, OR ROUGHLY SQUARED:
	44031		- Treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives :
	440311	44031100	-- Coniferous
	440312	44031200	-- Non-coniferous
	44032		- Other, coniferous :
	440321	44032100	-- Of pine ( <i>Pinus spp.</i> ), of which any cross-sectional dimension is 15 cm or more
	440322	44032200	-- Of pine ( <i>Pinus spp.</i> ), other
	440323	44032300	-- Of fir ( <i>Abies spp.</i> ) and spruce ( <i>Picea spp.</i> ), of which any cross-sectional dimension is 15 cm or more
	440324	44032400	-- Of fir ( <i>Abies spp.</i> ) and spruce ( <i>Picea spp.</i> ), other
	440325	44032500	-- Other, of which any cross-sectional dimension is 15 cm or more
	440326	44032600	-- Other
	44034		- Other, of tropical wood :
	440341	44034100	-- Dark Red Meranti, Light Red Meranti and Meranti Bakau
	440349	44034902	-- Other
	44039		- Other:
	440391	44039100	-- Of oak ( <i>Quercus spp.</i> )
	440393	44039300	-- Of beech ( <i>Fagus spp.</i> ), of which any cross-sectional dimension is 15 cm or more
	440394	44039400	-- Of beech ( <i>Fagus spp.</i> ), other
	440395	44039500	-- Of birch ( <i>Betula spp.</i> ), of which any cross-sectional dimension is 15 cm or more
	440396	44039600	-- Of birch ( <i>Betula spp.</i> ), other
	440397	44039700	-- Of poplar and aspen ( <i>Populus spp.</i> )
	440398	44039800	-- Of eucalyptus ( <i>eucalyptus spp.</i> )
	440399		-- Other
		4403996	--- Of Sandalwood (all species)

44039961	---- Derived from native forests (forest that is dominated by the suite of native tree species naturally associated with forest in that location and located within their natural range, and that is not a plantation)
44039962	---- Other
44039999	--- Other

**Chapter 47, PULP OF WOOD OR OF OTHER FIBROUS CELLULOSIC MATERIAL; RECOVERED (WASTE AND SCRAP) PAPER OR PAPERBOARD**

Heading	HS Code	Export Statistical Item	Description
4701	470100	47010000	MECHANICAL WOOD PULP
4702	470200	47020000	CHEMICAL WOOD PULP, DISSOLVING GRADES
4703			CHEMICAL WOOD PULP, SODA OR SULPHATE, OTHER THAN DISSOLVING GRADES:
	47031		- Unbleached:
	470311	47031100	-- Coniferous
	470319	47031900	-- Non-coniferous
	47032		- Semi-bleached or bleached:
	470321	47032100	-- Coniferous
	470329	47032900	-- Non-coniferous
4704			CHEMICAL WOOD PULP, SULPHITE, OTHER THAN DISSOLVING GRADES:
	47041		- Unbleached:
	470411	47041100	-- Coniferous
	470419	47041900	-- Non-coniferous
	47042		- Semi-bleached or bleached:
	470421	47042100	-- Coniferous
	470429	47042900	-- Non-coniferous
4705	470500	47050000	WOOD PULP OBTAINED BY A COMBINATION OF MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL PULPING PROCESSES

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) - Electronic Publication, Jan 2017*, Cat. No. 1233.0.

Exports of AHECC code		44011100				
Coniferous fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms a						
	Unit	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Quantity						
Northern Territory	tonnes	0	0	0	39,305	22,180
Queensland	tonnes	0	106	0	0	8
Victoria	tonnes	0	18	25	0	0
Western Australia	tonnes	0	26	0	9	38,555
<b>Total</b>	tonnes	0	150	25	39,314	60,747
a Export data are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions for November 2019 and December 2019 and are not included in these figures.						
Note: Some totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.						
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, <i>Information Consultancy Services, 2007</i> , cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.						

**a** Export data are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions between March 2016 and May 2017 and for January 2019 and are not included in these figures. Export data by state are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions between June 2017 and December 2018 but are included in the total.

**b** Bone dry tonnes.

**na** Not available due to ABS confidentiality requirements.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

**a** In January 2017, AHECC code 44011000 changed to AHECC codes 44012231, 44012232 and 44012299. Export data by state are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions between July 2015 and December 2016 but are included in the total.

**b** Bone dry tonnes.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

**a** Export data by state are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions between January 2017 and June 2020 but are included in the total.  
**b** Bone dry tonnes.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Note: Some totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

a In January 2017, AHECC code 44013900 changed to AHECC codes 44013901, 44014011, 44014012 and 44014090.  
Note: Totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

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Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

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Note: Some totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

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Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

a In January 2017, AHECC code 44031000 changed to AHECC codes 44031100 and 44031200.  
Note: Totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.



a In January 2017, AHECC code 44032000 changed to AHECC codes 44032100, 44032200, 44032300, 44032400, 44032500 and 44032600.  
Note: Totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

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Exports of AHECC code		44032500				
Coniferous of any other cross-sectional dimension 15cm or more (excluding those of 440321 and 440323), wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, roughly squared						
	Unit	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Quantity						
New South Wales	m³	0	0	7,338	84	929
Queensland	m³	0	87,006	251,429	276,102	269,815
South Australia	m³	0	152	0	0	0
Tasmania	m³	0	906	1,586	1,052	6,542
Victoria	m³	0	42,147	4,553	5,840	2,974
Western Australia	m³	0	0	334	0	0
Total	m³	0	130,211	265,240	283,078	280,260

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007* , cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Exports of AHECC code	44032600					
Coniferous (excluding of which any cross-sectional dimension is 15 cm or more, HS 440322 and 440324), wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared						
	Unit	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Quantity						
New South Wales	m³	0	31,782	1,508	5,619	2,145
Queensland	m³	0	16,807	39,788	49,289	49,867
Victoria	m³	0	2,154	2	1,647	1,837
Western Australia	m³	0	0	0	0	568
Total	m³	0	50,743	41,298	56,602	54,417

Note: Some totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007* , cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

a Export data for Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions between January 2017 and July 2017 but are included in the total.

a In January 2017, AHECC code 44039900 changed to AHECC codes 44039500, 44039600, 44039700, 44039800, 44039961, 44039962 and 44039999. Export data for Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria are subject to ABS confidentiality restrictions between October 2015 and December 2016 but are included in the total.

na Not available due to ABS confidentiality requirements.  
Note: Totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services*, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Information Consultancy Services, 2007*, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

Note: Some totals includes re-exports, which are not included in state and territory data.

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