

PaperlinX, through its Australian Paper manufacturing subsidiaries, uses fibre from a wide range of sources, which meet both the needs of the high quality copying and printing markets and packaging papers. They also provide a continuous source for the recycling process. Thus, new fibre-based paper and recycled products complement each other and are both good alternatives from an environmental point of view.

Using fibre from a range of sources

PaperlinX's four papermaking mills use fibre from many sources, including:

- Waste paper
- Plantations
- Imported fibre
- Sawmilling residues from managed forests

In total, around 44% of PaperlinX's fibre demands for paper making in Australia are met by waste paper (10%) and Australian plantations (34%). The remaining 56% comes from imported pulp (26%), sawmilling residues and reject logs from managed forests (30%).

Eucalypt fibre from native forests is necessary

The Australian plantations that PaperlinX sources fibre from are located in Gippsland in Eastern Victoria and Northern Tasmania. At the moment, most of them are pine plantations giving brown softwood pulp suitable for packaging papers but not for white communication paper. Hardwood plantations in this region generally are not yet mature enough to provide significant volumes.

As an example, the 2003/2004 wood input to the Maryvale Mill was as follows:

Source	% of eucalypt from source	% of pine from source
State forests	59%	0%
Private property and plantations	29%	77%
Swamills, chips	12%	23%
Total volume m ³	880,000	726,000

PaperlinX's objective is to phase out the use of wood from managed eucalypt forests in favour of plantation eucalypt used in its manufacture of white paper as soon as it is commercially feasible.

Currently however, there is a lack of appropriately located plantation pulp logs of the type required. It is expected that these plantations will reach supply and demand balance for white paper manufacture in 14-18 years (between 2018 and 2022).

Why use sawmilling residues?

Most of the hardwood harvesting in Australia's native forests is to supply the needs of the sawmilling industry. This creates a great deal of residue, including defective logs unsuitable for sawmilling, thinnings, and offcuts. PaperlinX uses this residue to make paper.

If this residue was not used within Australia, it would either be sold to overseas companies – who would then make paper out of it – or be burnt or left to rot. Using it to supply a valuable Australian industry is clearly a superior course of action.

All harvesting governed by strict rules and agreements

All of the harvesting carried out in State Forests is supervised by the State Department of Sustainability and Environment in Victoria and Forestry Tasmania, in accordance with the Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production, Forest Management Plan and Regional Forest Agreements.

Regional Forest Agreements were created jointly by Commonwealth and State governments, industry groups and community groups. They draw on the findings of more than 45 inquiries into Australian forestry over the past 20 years.

For example, PaperlinX's Maryvale Mill hardwood fibre resources are drawn largely from the Victorian Central Highlands. The Victorian Central Highlands RFA, signed in March 1998, will ensure that the mill has adequate fibre supply for 20 years, while also adding more than 100,000 hectares of forest to a world-class conservation reserve system.

In addition, the Australian Forestry Standard was released in October 2002. It will allow for formal certification of sustainable forest management. The Tasmanian forests were certified in December 2003 and the Victorian forests are expected to be certified by June 2006.



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For more information please visit
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A mix of new
and recycled
fibres complement
each other.

Some fibre sourced internationally from reputable companies

PaperlinX does its best to ensure that when it must purchase pulp internationally, it buys from reputable companies with sound environmental credentials. At present, our annual international purchases total around 200,000 tonnes per annum and are sourced from countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, Chile, and Thailand.

Other fibre sources are not practical

It is sometimes suggested that paper should be made from alternative fibres such as hemp, kanaf or bagasse. PaperlinX is continually evaluating these alternative fibres, but none have yet proved commercially suitable for making the competitive, high-quality paper required by today's world markets.

Some of the disadvantages of these fibres typically include:

- Short harvest periods, which means peak harvesting and expensive storage and fire protection costs
- High environmental demands – land preparation, heavy fertilising and insecticide use, high-energy harvesting, carting, and drying
- Complicated and intensive processing requirements
- Processed fibre of inferior quality

The overall picture is good

Before European settlement, Australia had around 250 million hectares of native forest and woodlands. 90 million hectares have been cleared since then for agriculture and urban development, mostly in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Today, however, the area of plantation and native forest in Victoria is actually increasing, thanks to regeneration and new plantings. What's more, an extensive 1992 inquiry by the Resource Assessment Commission found that there was no evidence that forestry operations had been responsible for the extinction of a single plant or animal species in Australia.

As Glen Kile, Chief of CSIRO Forestry and Forestry Products, puts it: 'The rational scientific answer is that overall, the picture is very good... Australia's native forests produce conservatively in the order of 60 to 80 million tonnes of new biomass each year. Currently, we harvest less than 10 million tonnes. Clearly, wood production is not a dominant use. In addition, native forest harvesting and management is scientifically based and highly regulated.'

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