



National Association of
Forest Industries



5 August 2010

Media Release

Moving ‘For-wood’: Essential to a sustainable future

In the lead-up to the Federal Election, Australia’s peak forest industry body announced its new *Forest Industry Growth Plan* in Hobart today, with the key message that a growing forest industry is essential in building a sustainable and low emissions future for Australia.

“Australia’s growing population will require 7.1 million new dwellings and at least 64 million cubic metres of construction timber by 2050ⁱ,” said Allan Hansard, NAFI’s Chief Executive Officer.

“On our current course, Australia will not have enough locally grown wood to meet our future needs.

“Australia has a choice – we act now to secure and grow our own sustainably managed forests and industry for the future or we can become further reliant on imported forest products. Higher imports would result in adverse environmental, employment and climate outcomes.

“We already have a trade deficit in forest and wood products of over \$2 billion and this could easily double or triple if we don’t act now.

“The plan focuses on immediately renewing the Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) to provide evergreen 20 year resource security, focusing initially on Tasmania. It also calls for an effective investment mechanism for developing long rotation sawlog plantations to meet our future timber needs and boost our future carbon stores.

“Our plan recognises the immediate and urgent plight of the Tasmanian forest contractors hit hard by the market downturn caused by the GFC. Tasmanian contractors must be assisted now and irrespective of what comes out of current talks between industry and conservationists on future forest policy in Tasmania.

“The plan calls for government to support private investment in downstream processing of Australia’s hardwood pulpwood resources and high value sawlog processing.

“Other areas requiring urgent attention include R&D, skills development, market access and essential infrastructure, to allow the industry to boost national prosperity and regional jobs.

“NAFI’s plan provides a roadmap to generate an extra \$19 billion in industry investment by 2020, while reducing carbon emissions by 80 million tonnes per year.

“NAFI asks all parties to endorse the Forest Industry Growth plan.”

The full *Forest Industry Growth Plan* and executive summary are available at:

<http://www.nafi.com.au/site/publications.php>

[ENDS]

Media contact:

Greg Haraldson, NAFI Communications Manager

0419 428 646

(02) 6285 3833

greg.haraldson@nafi.com.au

ⁱ HIA Media Release, Feb 2010. Federal Gov’t Intergenerational Report 2010. Forest and Wood Products Australia 2010