



National Association of  
Forest Industries



## Media Release

10 February 2010

### NAFI welcomes new inquiry into Forestry Industry

Australia's peak forest industry body welcomes the announcement today of a new inquiry into the challenges and opportunities facing the Australian forestry industry.

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) said the House of Representatives Committee Inquiry is long-overdue and could provide the catalyst for a new forest policy platform at the national level.

"The inquiry provides the chance to identify barriers to industry growth so we can reduce Australia's reliance on imported products and shrink the \$2 billion trade deficit in forest and wood products," said NAFI Chief Executive Officer, Allan Hansard.

"Australia's forest policy framework is also nearing the end of its shelf life since the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) was developed and agreed by all State and Territory governments in 1992," he said.

"NAFI welcomes the terms of reference of the inquiry, including the analysis of the relationship between forestry and water resources and the industry's ability to integrate with traditional agriculture in the landscape," he said.

Key priorities for the inquiry should include:

- Addressing resource security for native forests and plantations to underpin investment;
- Establishing an effective investment environment for developing long rotation sawlog plantations to complement investment from Managed Investment Schemes (MIS); and
- Market access for carbon sequestration projects.

"Forests provide the essentials of life including renewable wood and paper products for shelter and other needs. On our current course, Australia will not have enough locally grown wood to meet our future needs. Australia's growing population will require 7.1 million new dwellings and at least 64 million cubic metres of construction timber by 2050<sup>i</sup>," Mr Hansard said.

NAFI's *Forest Industry Growth Plan*, released in 2010, outlining industry priorities is available at: <http://www.nafi.com.au/site/publications.php>

Info on the Inquiry and the Committee:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/arff/forestry/index.htm>

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<sup>i</sup> HIA Media Release, Feb 2010. Federal Gov't Intergenerational Report 2010. Forest and Wood Products Australia 2010