



Media Release

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Stronger Voice through Forest Product Industry Unity

The Australian forest, wood, pulp and paper products industry now has a stronger voice in dealings with government and in key negotiations on the industry's future as two peak associations merged to form a single national association.

The 'Australian Forest Products Association' (AFPA) has been formed through the merger of the Australian Plantations Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P) and the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI), after each organisation's members voted unanimously in favour of a merger at Extraordinary General Meetings in Melbourne yesterday.

Ms Linda Sewell, who has been named transitional Chairperson of the new organisation, pointed to the strength the merger adds to the industry's voice in key negotiations.

"AFPA now covers all aspects of the forest industry from the forest growers, harvest and haulage operators to processors and exporters," said Ms Sewell.

Mr Allan Hansard, who has been appointed transitional Chief Executive Officer of the new organisation, said AFPA will also play a key role in representing the industry as critical climate change and water policies are developed.

"These include the carbon tax and the Murray Darling Basin Plan. A Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into the forest industry is also about to commence," he said.

"I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Boards of NAFI and A3P and in particular the respective chairs – Linda Sewell and Greg McCormack.

"Their willingness to merge shows that the industry is able to unite and present a single voice to government.

"The new organisation will be based in Canberra and a new website and rebranding will be released in coming weeks," Mr Hansard said.

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