



**Media Release**

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## **Forest products sector input on Carbon policies**

The Australian forest, wood, pulp and paper products industry welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the Government's climate policies as part of the Land Sector Working Group.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) was yesterday named a member of the group by the Hon Greg Combet, Climate Change Minister, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig, Forestry Minister, and the Hon Mark Dreyfus, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change.

AFPA will work with the group on key climate policies such as the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) and the proposed carbon price mechanism.

Mr Allan Hansard, transitional Chief Executive Officer of the new organisation AFPA, said it was important that the forest industry was part of the group as the only carbon positive sector of the economy.

"Given the right policy environment the forest industry has the potential to make a significant contribution to Australia's carbon balance sheet," he said.

"AFPA has been established to represent a variety of businesses – such as tree growers, harvest and haulage contractors, sawmillers, exporters and pulp and paper processors. It is critical that we are involved in this debate."

Today, AFPA representatives appeared before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on the Carbon Farming Initiative Bill.

Mr Hansard told the committee that "given the proposed design of the Carbon Farming Initiative scheme, there remain significant impediments for the realistic uptake of the wider forest industry for carbon sequestration – particularly for commercial timber plantations."

"Without substantial amendment, the current Bill is a missed opportunity for recognising the full potential of the forest industry to provide cost-effective emissions abatement," Mr Hansard said.

Mr Hansard said the forest industry can make a major contribution to removing carbon from the atmosphere in ways such as:

- Storing carbon in actively growing forests;
- Storing carbon in wood products;
- Substituting emissions intensive building products with wood; and
- Creating renewable bioenergy by utilising forestry and processing wood-waste.

"We look forward to working constructively with the Government on these issues," he said.

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