



## Media Release

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### Commercial forestry key to low carbon future

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) says the Government must provide the appropriate framework in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) if it wants forest growers to opt in to the Scheme, as outlined in NAFI's submission to the CPRS Stakeholder Consultation – Reforestation Discussion Paper.

“Without the appropriate framework there is the very real possibility that forest growers will choose not to take part in to the CPRS, meaning a large and valuable source of carbon sequestration will not be secured. This will make it considerably more difficult for Australia to meet its carbon abatement targets,” NAFI CEO Allan Hansard said.

“Already, reforestation through plantation forestry is providing a significant contribution to Australia's carbon abatement efforts and has put Australia ‘on track’ to meet its Kyoto emissions reduction targets.

“Australia's plantation forests currently sequester around 20 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, and this could increase to around 50 million tonnes each year by 2020 if appropriate certainty for forestry investment is provided in the CPRS. Without this significant carbon abatement being delivered by forestry, Australia runs the very real risk of not meeting its emissions reduction targets.

“NAFI is concerned that many of the proposals outlined in the CPRS Discussion Paper will not provide the appropriate signals for forest growers to opt in to the Scheme, putting in jeopardy as much as 50 million tonnes of carbon abatement each year.

“In order for the maximum number of forest growers to take part in the Scheme there must be:

- recognition of the carbon abatement contribution from eligible forests (old and new)
- low compliance costs and flexible and streamlined carbon accounting and reporting obligations
- certainty that the carbon credits will be assigned to the forest grower.

“Plantation forestry is a long term endeavor requiring long term policy certainty and stability for investment. It is imperative that these features are built in to the commercial operating environment for plantation forestry under the CPRS, in order for forest owners to participate in the Scheme.

“NAFI looks forward to working with the Australian Government to develop a framework for the CPRS that encourages the maximum number of plantation forest owners to participate in the Scheme and delivers valuable carbon abatement,” said Mr Hansard.

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NAFI's full submission to the CPRS Stakeholder Consultation – Reforestation Discussion Paper can be found at <http://www.nafi.com.au/site/briefings.php>

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