



Media Release

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Forest industry '*Playing a Greater Role in Australia's Future*'- answers PM's call

More than 16,000 new jobs, 81 million tonnes of CO2 abatement each year and more than \$19 billion in new investment by 2020 – that's the benefit Australia's forest sector can provide as outlined in *Playing a Greater Role in Australia's Future; a strategy for the development of Australia's sustainable forest industries* released today by the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI).

"The Prime Minister has called for strong strategies to see the economy through for the long term and NAFI's Strategy does this for Australia's sustainable forest industries. With this Strategy NAFI has identified real solutions to very real problems in a range of areas such as water, development of regional communities, trade and investment and, of course, climate change," NAFI CEO Allan Hansard said.

"What we now need is for the Prime Minister to place the forest industry's Strategy on to the agenda of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to ensure the right regulatory environment at the state and federal levels, in order to maximise the benefits for all Australians.

"On climate change, forestry can provide 81 million tonnes of CO2 abatement each year by 2020, which is around 20 percent of Australia's total carbon abatement targets. And it's important to note that's a conservative estimate. We're hopeful that, given the appropriate government support, the sector will see enhanced growth leading to a contribution of much more than 20 percent – providing more benefits to Australians and the environment.

"Forestry is the only industry that is truly carbon positive, meaning it sequesters more greenhouse gases than it emits. As we enter this new era of carbon consciousness it's getting more urgent that governments at all levels provide support to this industry that can actually help increase the ability of our landscape to reduce the amount of carbon emissions in the environment.

"*Playing a Greater Role in Australia's Future* provides a framework under which the forest sector and Government can work together to ensure the long term growth and expansion of this vital Australian industry, and maximise Australia's position globally as a world leader in sustainable forest management and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"The worrying global and national economic outlook adds to the significance of NAFI's Strategy. The need for responsible and sustainable economic, environmental and social policies such as those in the NAFI Strategy should be sufficient for both sides of politics to take the Strategy seriously and co-opt it onto the COAG agenda," said Mr Hansard.

Playing a Greater Role in Australia's Future is available on NAFI's website at www.nafi.com.au

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