



Media Release

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Forest industry urges holistic climate change policy

Appearing today before the Senate inquiry into climate policy, the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) urged the Australian Government to take a holistic approach to climate change policy.

“The Government’s proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) will go a long way towards transitioning Australia to a low carbon economy, but it’s vital that all climate change policies, for example renewable energy and building design policies, as well as the emission trading scheme are complementary across the range of measures,” said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

“Forestry is a renewable resource that provides significant carbon abatement potential through the growing trees, the carbon stored in wood products and the renewable, green energy produced from wood waste. With the right policy framework the forest industry can contribute as much as 20 percent of Australia’s carbon abatement target by 2020.

“The forest industry is concerned about a number of inconsistencies across the various climate change policies which will limit the capacity of the industry to provide the maximum environmental and economic benefits.

“In particular, the CPRS Fuel Tax Credit Scheme excludes forestry activities while the narrow rule set of the CPRS creates a number of issues for the forest industry around uncertainty over carbon estimation methods, trading restrictions on exports of units compared to unlimited imports of international units and an inflexible carbon crediting approach for forest projects.

“The National Renewable Energy Target Scheme also appears inconsistent with broader renewable energy policies by failing to recognise certain types of wood waste as a feedstock for renewable energy generation.

“A holistic and complementary approach to the treatment of forestry in all climate change policies is essential to realising the significant environmental and economic opportunities Australia’s renewable and sustainable forest industry can provide.

“NAFI is committed to working with Government to get these policies right so the forest industry can deliver the best possible outcomes for Australia’s economy and environment,” Mr Hansard said.

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