



National Association of
Forest Industries

Media Release

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GARNAUT AGREES PRODUCTION FORESTS TO THE RESCUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) welcomes the findings of the Garnaut Climate Change Review Final Report which shows that Australia's forests will provide as much as one quarter of our total carbon emission reduction targets.

"Professor Garnaut's report shows that which ever way we look at the complex problem of climate change, Australia's sustainably managed native and plantation forests are the solution," said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

"With the right regulatory framework, sustainably managed forests will deliver 81 million tonnes of CO2 sequestration by 2020 – that's 20 percent of Australia's current 2050 emission reduction target."

Forestry's potential contribution increases to 25 percent of Australia's total carbon emission reduction targets, if Professor Garnaut's plan is adopted in the event of a failure to reach a global agreement at the Copenhagen talks in 2009.

"Professor Garnaut has recommended that if a global agreement isn't reached in Copenhagen next year, Australia should commit to reducing emissions by 5 percent by 2020. That will then mean forestry could provide 25 percent – or one quarter – of Australia's total emission reduction targets.

"NAFI also welcomes Professor Garnaut's findings that bioenergy and biofuels produced from forestry are part of the effective mitigation strategies Australian Governments should pursue.

"NAFI has been advocating these policies, which are detailed in our recently released forest industry development strategy, to the Australian Government.

"The Prime Minister and the Federal Opposition understand these issues. NAFI calls on the Prime Minister, with the support of the Federal Opposition, to finally take the decision to co-opt the strategy to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in order to ensure the appropriate regulatory framework.

"The policy recommendations in NAFI's forest industry development strategy will also provide Australia with an additional \$19 billion of new investment by the year 2020 and with that, 16,000 new jobs in regional Australia.

"In a time of unprecedented turmoil on the world's financial markets, the Prime Minister should be pleased that the nation's forest industries have positioned themselves to play an even greater part in Australia's future," Mr Hansard said.

NAFI's forest industry development strategy titled *Playing a Greater Role in Australia's Future* can be found at www.nafi.com.au

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