



## Media Release

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Government should come clean on trade-offs with Greens on forests and the CPRS

If media claims are correct that the Greens are negotiating with the Australian Government to shut down the sustainable, renewable forest industry in return for votes for its CPRS will condemn thousands of hard working rural and regional Australians to the dole queue, while failing to provide a positive carbon outcome, according to the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI).

"The Australian Government needs to be upfront with the timber industry and the Australian public on whether it is willing to trade off the jobs of hardworking Australians for a handful of Green votes," said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

"The CPRS will have a profound effect on Australia's economy and environment so it's imperative the Australian Government listen to reasoned, scientifically sound arguments, and not the outdated claims by Senator Brown who is using the negotiations on the CPRS as just another attempt to close down Australia's sustainable forest industry.

"Contrary to claims by Senator Brown, 'locking up' Australia's sustainably managed production forests fails to provide a good carbon outcome, while sentencing rural communities to thousands of job losses and increased threat of uncontrollable bushfires.

"Australia's sustainably managed forest industry is a vital part of Australia's economy, supporting over 76,000 jobs and providing nearly \$19 billion in economic turnover each year. Forestry is vital to many rural and regional communities, providing much needed employment and economic diversity.

"To close this industry down would send Australia's sustainable forestry jobs overseas while dramatically increasing our reliance on imported timbers from tropical countries with far lower standards of forest management than Australia has.

"Australia's sustainably managed forest industry is the only industry that is carbon positive – meaning it sequesters more carbon than it emits. And through world class sustainable forest management practices we are increasing the amount of carbon stored in our forests.

"Less than 0.1% of Australia's native forests are harvested each year, and in keeping with sustainable forest management, all of these are regenerated meaning every tree that is harvested is replanted.

"Senator Brown's thinking on forestry and climate change is outdated. New science and thinking on this issue, such as that adopted by the international scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 and the IUCN endorsed Forests Dialogue 2008, states the largest carbon sequestration benefit from forests is produced by the long term sustainable management of forests for timber, fibre and energy production.

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“Sustainably managing Australia’s forests also reduces the dangerous fuel load build-up, substantially reducing the risk of bushfires for the tens of thousands of families who live in or close to our forests.

“The question has to be asked, do Senator Brown and the Australian Government want to throw thousands of Australians out of a job and decimate a renewable and sustainable carbon positive industry for a sub optimal carbon outcome and a hand full of Green votes?”

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