



Media Release

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“It’s time” – NAFI agrees with the CFMEU

The National Association of Forest Industries joins the CFMEU in calling for the Prime Minister to act on securing investment and jobs in Australia’s forest industry.

NAFI CEO Allan Hansard said, “Wednesday’s Community Cabinet meeting in Launceston is a perfect opportunity for the Prime Minister and Cabinet to announce its support for NAFI’s Strategy by co-opting it to the COAG agenda. This would modernise the outdated National Forest Policy Statement that Prime Minister Keating took through COAG in 1992. The strategy will deliver: \$19 billion of additional investment, 16,000 new jobs and over 20 percent of Australia’s greenhouse gas abatement by 2020.”

“Australia’s, and particularly Tasmania’s, sustainable forest industries will benefit from the 22 policies contained in the NAFI Strategy. It’s time for the Prime Minister to show leadership and support the policy framework that will allow the forest industries to get on with the job of investing and generating employment.

“Forest workers, timber communities, forest industries and the people of Australia will benefit from the NAFI Strategy. Given the enormous significance of the forest industries to the Tasmanian economy, Tasmanians in particular deserve this certainty as do the timber communities throughout Australia.

“Australia now, more than ever, needs sustainable and environmentally friendly investment. The Gunns pulp mill, and the mill’s associated renewable energy generation and plantation investment, is a classic example of the type of sustainable investments Australia needs.

“In these times of unprecedented financial market turmoil, slowing economic growth and rising unemployment, coupled with Australia’s insatiable consumption of forest products, Australians need the NAFI Strategy now more than ever.

“The CFMEU has called for a similar approach to protect timber worker jobs. The best protection of jobs is sustainable investment. The NAFI Strategy will deliver this outcome,” said Mr Hansard.

NAFI’s Strategy, titled *Playing a Greater Role in Australia’s Future*, can be found at www.nafi.com.au

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