



Media Release

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NAFI CALLS FOR AN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW OF GREEN CARBON REPORT

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) appeared before the Australian Government's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties yesterday to assist with the inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol, where it called for a Senate or House of Representatives inquiry into the recently released Green Carbon report.

"The Green Carbon paper has been used as the basis to argue for the cessation of native forest logging in Australia. If this was to occur it would mean more than 30,000 families across Australia would be out of work. That's a dire prospect when, as a nation, we're facing such economic and financial uncertainty," said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

"An end to native forest logging, while at the same time limiting plantation forest expansion, as advocated in the report, would leave Australia reliant on imports to meet our timber needs - around 12.5 million cubic metres per annum of additional imports. Most of this timber will come from tropical forests in countries that do not have Australia's high standards of sustainable forest management. This is potentially an extra 100,000 hectares of illegally logged tropical forests every single year, if the Australian Government followed the recommendations in this report. That's a lot of trees coming from forests in countries such as Brazil, the Congo and Indonesia.

"It's important to note that the recommendations in the Green Carbon report run contrary to the Australian Government's stated intentions, such as maximising carbon benefits from sustainable forestry and including the carbon stored in wood products in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

"Additionally, contrary to the claims in the report, international scientists, industry and environmental groups as part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature-endorsed *Forest Dialogue* stated that the largest carbon mitigation benefit from forests is produced by the long term sustainable management of forests for timber, fibre and energy production.

"NAFI believes that the issues raised in the Green Carbon report are of such significance to Australia's future that we are calling for a Parliamentary review into the science underpinning it. As a first step, NAFI has conducted a comprehensive critique of the report, which is provided as an appendix to this document.

"As we move towards the next international climate change agreement (to supersede the Kyoto Protocol), which will be negotiated at upcoming international summits to be held in Poznan and Copenhagen, the Australian Government must take a strong position in relation to the coverage of forestry and forest industry activities in order to maximise the benefits of this industry to the Australian economy and the environment," Mr Hansard said.

NAFI is preparing a submission to the Australian Government on a forestry rule set in preparation for the UNFCCC COP14 meeting in December to be held in Poznan, which NAFI will be attending as part of an Australian forest industry delegation.

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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