



Media Release

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New report highlights massive carbon benefit of Australia's sustainably managed forest industry

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) welcomes a new report which revises the amount of carbon stored in Australia's forests, endorsing what the forest industry has been saying for years that forests have a key role to play in Australia meeting its greenhouse emission reduction targets.

"Accurate measurement of the carbon stored in forests is crucial to meeting Australia's carbon reduction targets, and to assessing the best means of sustainably managing these forests in order to achieve optimal economic, social and environmental outcomes," said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

"Based on the current carbon accounting practices, Australia's sustainable forest industry is estimated to contribute around 20 percent of Australia's carbon reduction targets by 2020. Obviously, if this new report is accurate, that figure could be significantly higher.

"Brendon Mackay, one of the lead authors of this new report, holds a key position in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which, along with other leading international scientific bodies endorses sustainable logging as part of an overall active forest management strategy, stating the largest carbon sequestration benefit is produced by the long term sustainable management of forests for timber, fibre and energy production.

"Importantly, Australia's sustainably managed forest industry is a significant part of Australia's economy, supporting over 76,000 jobs and providing nearly \$19 billion in economic turnover each year while maintaining the forests' environmental and carbon values, producing wood products which continue to store carbon and reducing the risk of bushfires.

"One of the key dangers facing forests that are 'locked up' is the increased risk of bushfire which releases massive amount of carbon into the atmosphere. The recent tragic events in Victoria have highlighted the need for sustainable management of all forests types.

"Clearly the Australian Government is on the right track with its climate change policies and the forest industry, recognised as Australia's only carbon-positive industry is poised to make a significant contribution to Australia's carbon reduction targets," Mr Hansard said.

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