



Media Release

Date 7 Oct 2008

Our growing forest industry supports the Building Australia Fund

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) today praised the Australian Government for recognising the importance of social and environmental, as well as economic, benefits when determining which infrastructure projects will receive support from the Building Australia Fund.

“NAFI has been advocating for a triple bottom line – social, economic, environmental – approach to infrastructure investment for some time, and we strongly support this approach announced by the Australian Government,” said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

“We’re pleased the Government has acknowledged that good, long term infrastructure projects are about the benefits they provide to society as a whole, not just the bricks and mortar.

“As outlined in NAFI’s forest industry development strategy, Australia’s forest industries, made up of plantations and sustainably managed production native forests, offer significant triple bottom line – social, economic and environmental – benefits, much of which will be in regional areas. By the year 2020 forest industries are projected to contribute:

- 16,000 new jobs
- 81 million tonnes of carbon abatement each year
- \$19 billion in new investment.

“NAFI will make a submission to Government next week which outlines these triple bottom line benefits of a robust forest industry and recommends a number of infrastructure projects to ensure the industries’ viability, particularly in regional areas.

“Australia’s forest industry is generally confined to rural and regional Australia. Activity and employment within forestry regions often forms a major component of these local economies. The ongoing social and economic wellbeing of these regions is often dependent on the state of the local forest industry and its ability to be competitive and expand.

“There are significant regional development opportunities in both native and plantation forestry regions through value adding, resource expansion and infrastructure development. NAFI looks forward to working with the Australian Government to determine appropriate infrastructure spending to ensure Australia’s forest industries remain robust and competitive,” said Mr Hansard.

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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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