



# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Monday, 7 April 2008

### VAFI PLEASED WITH CLIMATE SUMMIT OUTCOMES

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) has praised the positive outcome of the State Government's Climate Change Summit for embracing the forestry sector and acknowledging the industry's significant contribution in combating climate change.

The VAFI Executive Director, Philip Dalidakis, who had been selected as one of the 100 delegates to represent the Victorian community, said it was encouraging to see the timber industry included in the development of Victoria's climate policy.

"The climate change summit provided a great opportunity for the timber industry to showcase the positive benefits of sustainable timber production and to identify where opportunities exist going forward", Mr Dalidakis said.

"The science is in, and it shows wood is our greatest asset in fighting climate change as it continues to store carbon long after it is harvested, providing enormous benefits to the Victorian community."

"The practice of sustainable harvesting and regeneration not only benefits the environment through carbon absorption, but through active forest management the industry can restrict huge amounts of carbon from being released through bushfire."

Mr Dalidakis also commended the summit for recognising the potential for wood waste to be used as an alternative source of bio-energy.

"Several VAFI members are already leading the way in using wood waste as an alternative energy source within their sawmills; it is very heartening to see the wider community now beginning to acknowledge and embrace this practice."

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