

31 October 2011

VAFI welcomes new VicForests board

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) — the peak representative body of the Victorian forest and wood products industry — has welcomed the appointment of four new members, including a new Chair, to the board of VicForests.

VAFI CEO Lisa Marty said these appointments showed the Victorian Government was committed to appointing people with relevant skills and experience to guide the future direction of VicForests.

“All four appointments are highly qualified and bring a diverse range of skills from business, primary industries and government to their roles,” Ms Marty said.

“It is encouraging to see that all appointees have business experience, three have backgrounds in the forest and wood products industry, and two expertise with government or government owned enterprises.

“The appointment of the new VicForests board fulfils one of the Coalition’s election policy commitments to provide long-term security for Victorian forestry.

Delivering on these election commitments is crucial to underpinning the future of our industry and we welcome this positive step forward.”

The new VicForests Chair, Gordon Davis, has held senior positions in the private sector, as managing director of AWB Limited and roles at Orica Mining Services. He also has 10 years experience as a forester with the Forestry Commission in Tasmania, and has received the Commonwealth Forestry Prize and the Victorian Sawmillers Association Award.

The other appointments to the board are:

- Catherine Walter: a board member of the Australian Foundation Investment Company; a former member of the audit committees of the boards of National Australia Bank, Orica, James Hardie and WorkCover; and with 20 years of experience in the legal profession, including as managing partner of Clayton Utz Melbourne.
- Alison Posa: finance director of Kraft Foods from 2002 to 2010; and prior to this the holder of a number of finance and risk management roles for Fletcher Challenge Paper, the owner of pulp and paper operations in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and South America.

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VAFI

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

- Graeme Stoney: currently the honorary secretary of Farm Forest Growers Victoria, Mountain Cattlemen's Association executive officer and Mansfield Cultural and Arts Centre chair; he served as the State Member of Parliament for Central Highlands, from 1992 to 2006, including four years as the shadow spokesperson for forestry; he has also held the position of general manager of FFORNE Hardwood Co-operative, made up of 70 landowners growing native trees in north-east and central Victoria for high quality sawlog production.

Ms Marty said the industry looked forward to working with the new members of the board to ensure a sustainable future for forestry in Victoria.

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