

Monday, 15 November 2010

VAFI reaffirms support for Labor forestry policy

The peak representative body for the Victorian timber industry, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) has reaffirmed that it would participate in a discussion on the future of the entire forestry industry — including both plantation and native forestry — if Labor was re-elected.

VAFI CEO Philip Dalidakis said Association President, Bob Humphreys, was speaking as the Managing Director of Hallmark Oaks and had heavily qualified his statements on the ALP forestry policy during his pre-recorded interview with ABC radio, aired today.

“This interview was recorded on Friday 12 November, just after the policy had been announced and before Mr Humphreys had an opportunity to review the policy, and discuss it with the Association,” Mr Dalidakis said.

Mr Dalidakis said the majority of Mr Humphreys’ comments concerned the Greens forestry policy and how this would negatively impact the industry.

“At the time of the interview, Mr Humphreys had not seen a full copy of the policy and I had not been able to discuss it with him in detail,” he said.

“In the interview, he happily acknowledged that he had not seen the ALP’s release, but doubted that he would be able to sit in on the discussions.

“The position of the VAFI is that we have nothing to fear from the discussions proposed by the Labor Party policy and are prepared to talk with the appropriate stakeholders as stated previously.

“I have personally spoken with Mr Humphreys since the interview was recorded and his position is at one with the Association.”

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