



# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Wednesday, 21 May 2008

### FORESTRY REPORT LAUNCHED AT AUSWEST MILL

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) Executive Director, Philip Dalidakis has welcomed the *Australia's State of Forests Report 2008* released today by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke during a tour of Bairnsdale sawmill AusWest timbers.

The five-yearly report details the results of research conducted on the condition of Australia's forests and the effect of industry within these areas, results Mr Dalidakis says are positive signs for the sustainability of the native timber industry.

"We welcome the release of the latest *Australia's State of Forest Report* and we look forward to working constructively with both the Federal and Victorian Government to ensure the volume of sawlogs harvested remains at the prescribed sustainable level," Mr Dalidakis said.

"The report is important in measuring our development of a fully sustainable forest industry which we strive to achieve through continuous research, innovation and adherence to strict guidelines and regulation".

"The timber industry in Victoria is at a very important stage as the state undertakes its own Timber Industry Strategy, the first in 22 years."

The VAFI President Greg McCormack welcomed the Minister's visit to AusWest Timbers, and said the continued commitment of the Federal Government was crucial to the ongoing development of the Victorian timber industry.

"I am very pleased that Minister Burke had the opportunity to visit AusWest Timbers, and I am grateful he has witnessed first-hand the fantastic contribution that the Victorian forest industry makes to regional communities," Mr McCormack said.

AusWest Timbers Victorian State Manager, Nick Murray accompanied Minister Burke on his tour of the Bairnsdale processing centre, which Mr Murray says is a leading innovator of the timber industry and major employer in the Gippsland area.

"We are very proud of what we are achieving on this site, through both our contribution to the Bairnsdale community and our innovative value adding production of sustainably harvested Victorian timber," Mr Murray said.

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