



VAFI

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Friday, 1 August 2008

EVERYONE A WINNER WITH ALTERNATIVE REDGUM REPORT

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) has welcomed the Rivers and Red Gum Alliance alternative report, released yesterday, as a common sense approach to multiple use management of the River Red Gum area.

The alternative Red Gum report recommends the creation of the world's largest RAMSAR reserve, an internationally recognised principle of conservation and wise use which the VAFI CEO, Philip Dalidakis, says would greatly benefit the region.

"I welcome the release of the alternative River Red Gum report as being a common sense approach; resulting in a win, win, win for the environment, community and local industry," Mr Dalidakis said.

Arbuthnot Sawmill Managing Director and long standing VAFI member, Mr Paul Madden, also welcomed yesterday's release of the report, saying it was a community-endorsed blueprint for responsible management of red gum forests, which also supports the livelihood of local communities and businesses.

"The timber industry in this region has created full time employment along the river's communities for the past 140 years so it goes without saying that the industry's continuation is extremely important," Mr Madden said.

"The report represents the knowledge and experience of alliance members who have lived and worked cohesively in the area for hundreds of years; the creation of a multiple use RAMSAR reserves will allow this to continue whilst also safeguarding the environment."

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MEDIA RELEASE

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