



## Media Release

Date 27 February 2009

### Forest Industries Community Relief Fund launched to assist bushfire affected communities

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) along with the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI), Timber Communities Australia (TCA) and the Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA) have established the Forest Industries Community Relief Fund to assist timber communities devastated by Victoria's bushfires to rebuild.

"The timber industry is the backbone of many of these decimated rural areas and it's vital that these communities receive support to rebuild their homes and livelihoods," said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

"The Forest Industries Community Relief Fund will provide much needed funds and assistance to residents of affected timber communities, including short term relief such as emergency shelter and food supplies, but also the long term assistance with rebuilding homes and infrastructure," said VAFI CEO Philip Dalidakis.

"Unfortunately for many timber workers affected by these devastating bushfires, it's not just property they've lost, but also their livelihoods. At a time when many residents are feeling uncertain about their future, this fund will provide much needed support and assistance with the rebuilding effort," said TCA CEO Jim Adams

"The generosity of the wider timber industry has been outstanding with companies and individuals pledging assistance. It's really heart-warming to see this kind of mateship; to know that when the going gets tough Australians will band together to get through the crisis," said AFCA Chairperson Col McCulloch.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Forest Industries Community Relief Fund should call **1300 134 494**.

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