



# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

### VAFI welcomes Action Plan to support the future of forest and wood products industry

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) has welcomed the fulfilment of a key Coalition election promise, with the release of the Timber Industry Action Plan (TIAP) by the Victorian Government.

VAFI CEO Lisa Marty said the Plan would help ensure a sustainable future for productive forestry in Victoria by providing the Victorian forest and wood products industry with better regulation and greater levels of resource security.

“The Plan builds on the 2009 Timber Industry Strategy and provides a commitment for more ambitious actions to ensure the forest and wood products industry in Victoria has access to wood from well-managed State and privately-owned forests,” Ms Marty said.

“Longer-term wood supply contracts, more flexible sales arrangements and mechanisms to compensate VicForests' customers for impacts on their contracts from changes in State Government policy will provide a basis for improved business confidence, investment and innovation.”

Ms Marty said a clear and effective regulatory framework for responsible forest management and wood supply was essential to ensuring the industry could continue to provide economically and environmentally sustainable jobs in rural and regional Victoria.

“This Plan supports skills development, training and research which are crucial to the future competitiveness, productivity and development of the industry,” she said.

The Timber Industry Action Plan also recognises plantations as an as-of-right crop and supports farm forestry; helping to diversify Victoria’s timber and forest products supply.

Ms Marty said the TIAP actions were essential if Australia — the seventh most forested nation in the world — were to reduce its \$1.9 billion trade deficit in wood and paper products.

“We look forward to working with the Victorian Government to implement the Plan,” she said.

“We hope it will provide the right environment for the industry to invest in our businesses, markets and people; to develop market opportunities, improve productivity and sustainability, and innovate in ways that will benefit the industry and the communities it supports.



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The Victorian forest and wood products industry includes a vibrant manufacturing sector in the suburbs of Melbourne and many regional communities. It directly employs approximately 24,000 people and produces products made from wood — a natural, renewable material that stores carbon and uses less energy to produce than many alternatives — that serve an integral part of our built environment as furniture, flooring and structural building materials.

MEDIA RELEASE