



VAFI

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Friday, July 10, 2009

VICTORIA'S SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL AN INDUSTRY FIRST

Victoria's forest industry will further improve its environmental sustainability, social licence and economic responsibility with the launch of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) new Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC), an independent body of community representatives set up to guide the future of forestry.

The VAFI today launched the Victorian Sustainable Forestry Council (SFC), a first of its kind for Australia's forest industry. The SFC has been established to seek advice from independent experts and community representatives with an interest in contributing to policy formation for the future of Victoria's forests.

The Council is to be independently chaired by Geoff Mabbett, former CEO of Sustainability Victoria, and will include representatives from Australia's academic, indigenous, environmental and commercial sectors.

"The launch of the Sustainable Forestry Council marks an important step for Australia's forest industry as we establish a leading framework for independent review and oversight," said the VAFI CEO, Philip Dalidakis.

The SFC has been established to provide independent expert and community advice to assist in the formulation of the VAFI's policies and activities at both operational and Board level.

"We are proud to break new ground for the industry across Australia," Mr Dalidakis said.

"The SFC is independent of the Association, independently chaired and has its own Charter. In effect, the Association will provide a Secretariat function as well as act as a conduit between the Council and our own Board in respect of advice.

"The Council will provide a new industry leading method of engaging with all sections of the community and will provide input into the development of the VAFI's policy positions and activities.

"Victoria's forest industry is already regarded as having world's best practice in the management of our forests, and we see this as an important part of maintaining the rigorous checks and balances that guide Victoria's sustainable forest industry."

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The primary focus of the SFC, will be on issues that touch social license, environmental sustainability and economically responsible policies across the industry.

Inaugural Sustainable Forestry Council members include:

- Geoff Mabbett (Chair), former CEO of Sustainability Victoria;
- Trevor Brown, Regional Manager Timber Communities Australia;
- Dr Lyndall Bull, Lecturer at the Australian National University;
- Jane Calvert, Victorian State Secretary of the Forestry Division of the CFMEU
- Robert Friedman, Corporate Responsibility Commercialisation Manager at BP Australia;
- Ian Hamm, a Yorta Yorta man and Executive Director of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria;
- Wayne Harvey, CEO of Victorian Farmers Federation;
- Pf Rod Keenan, Head of the Department of Forest and Ecosystem Science at the University of Melbourne;
- Greg McCormack, Director of McCormack Demby Timbers;
- Darrin McKenzie, Resource Manager ITC Timber;
- Andrew Rouse, Program Manager, Resource Conservation, WWF Australia; and
- Pf Peter Woodgate, CEO of Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI).

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