



# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

November 12 2009

### National Recycling Week

Victoria's peak independent forestry body, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI), has joined together with the Australian Timber Product Stewardship group to celebrate Australian National Recycling Week.

The VAFI Chief Executive, Philip Dalidakis has called for greater recognition of the role that the timber industry plays in developing and promoting the use of recycled timber products.

"The timber community is committed to promoting the benefits of all wood products to the wider community." Mr Dalidakis said.

National Recycling Week is a great opportunity to reflect upon the work done by the timber community in increasing the uptake of recycled timber products and the great environmental benefits that come with it," Mr Dalidakis said.

The chair of the Timber Product Stewardship group Mr Peter Juniper said "recycling is an important aspect of the overall timber supply chain. Timber residue recovered from sawn timber is used to make particleboard, MDF and other paper products."

The timber industry is extending this experience into the reuse and recycling of post-consumer timber residues, which provide a range of environmental benefits. These environmentally minded activities have the ability to extend the overall life of timber products to a second, and sometimes even a third or fourth life.

"Our stewardship program is aimed at reducing the existing barriers in place, so more reuse and recycled of timber can be used after its intended first life." Mr Juniper said.

"Over the last three years we've developed new standards for recycling timber in structural applications, protocols for recycling redundant hardwood power poles and undertaken a comprehensive sampling and testing program to ensure products made from recycled timber packaging are safe." Mr Juniper said.

The Timber Product Stewardship Group is comprised of a wide variety of business from across the supply chain. These businesses include growers, manufacturers, timber preservers and also timber merchants.

The use of recycled timber can reduce the overall demand for timber and wood fibre from forests. When a recycling facility is close to different urban sources, using recycled timber and wood fibre can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by transport, an important aspect in tackling climate change.

The Timber Product Stewardship website includes a comprehensive reuse and recycling directory which lists over 120 businesses in Australia that reuse and recycle post-consumer timber and wood-products.

All these resources and more are available through the VAFI ([www.vafi.org.au](http://www.vafi.org.au)) and the timber stewardship websites (<http://www.timberstewardship.org.au>).

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