



# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Friday, 14 March 2008

### NEW REPORT CATCHES TIMBER'S WATER POSITIVES

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) today released a new independent report into the effects of timber production on Melbourne's water catchment yield.

The VAFI Executive Director, Philip Dalidakis, launched the report at the Timber Towns Victoria AGM, revealing the impact of timber production on Melbourne's water yield to be negligible and in some cases could actually increase Melbourne's water supply.

"Current research shows that timber production not only has a minimal effect on water yield, it also has the potential to greatly increase Melbourne's water supply in an environmentally sustainable way," Mr Dalidakis said.

"The report reveals that in the previous ten years the annual harvested area equates to less than 0.19% of the total catchment area, or only 306 hectares out of 157,000 hectares."

"Contrary to some misinformed claims, no 'old growth' forest is harvested within Melbourne's catchments and Melbourne's water quality remains very high as we continue to enjoy some of the cleanest water in the world."

"The results of this report really fly in the face of deliberate misinformation campaigns by some groups to unfairly tarnish the timber industry, and questions must be asked of their true motives."

The report identified the real threat to Melbourne's water supply as being the unavoidable incidence of a severe catchment wildfire occurring at least once in a one hundred year period; a risk that can be greatly reduced through the presence of a sustainable timber industry.

"When you compare the 1 million hectares of forest that was burnt in just 59 days during the 2003 Alpine bushfire, to the 306 hectares that is sustainably harvested annually, there can be no doubt as to where the real threat to Melbourne's water yield actually lies", Mr Dalidakis said.

A full copy of the report can be downloaded from [www.vafi.org.au](http://www.vafi.org.au)

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