



A weekly newsletter from A3P - Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council

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▶ Parliamentary Committee Recognises the Importance of Retail Forestry Investment

The vital and integral role of retail forestry investment within Australia's plantation products and paper industry has been recognised by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services, which last week released the report of its recent Inquiry into Aspects of Agribusiness Managed Investment Schemes. This finding is consistent with the views put to the Committee in a detailed submission and testimony by Australia's plantation products and paper industry. A3P welcomes the Committee's finding that the "inherent disincentives" to invest in long-term forestry warrant the retention of the existing tax deductibility arrangements for forestry managed investment schemes, as provided under Division 394 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. A3P agrees with the Committee's view that these arrangements are relatively new [legislated in 2007] and should be given the opportunity to work. A3P will continue to work closely with the Government to ensure that the regulatory framework provides an adequate level of protection for investors in retail forestry projects and helps restore confidence and investment in this vital sector of Australia's plantation products and paper industry.

Contact: [Alan Cummine](#) and [Richard Stanton](#)

▶ Retail Forestry Investment Discussed at Agforce QLD Conference

Alan Cummine, Manager – Plantation Investment spoke at the 2009 Agforce Queensland state conference on 12 September.

Alan's presentation emphasised two main messages:

- Forestry plantations funded through managed investment schemes, also known as 'retail forestry', are now an integral part of Australia's wood and paper industry, with domestic and export processing facilities becoming increasingly dependent on this expanding plantation estate

for their long-term wood supplies.

- Maintaining a stable tax and regulatory environment is essential for large-scale private investment to continue to be available for establishing and replanting these plantations for the value-adding wood and paper products industries in regional Australia.

Contact: Alan Cummine

Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Australia's Anti-dumping and Countervailing System

The Productivity Commission (PC) has released its Draft Inquiry Report on Australia's Anti-dumping and Countervailing System for further public consultation and input. This Report follows the initial PC Discussion Paper to which A3P made a detailed submission in June 2009. The next step in the process is a further round of submissions and public hearings. The hearings will be held in Canberra and Melbourne in October and submissions responding to the report are due on 6 Nov 2009. After consideration of the submissions and hearings, the PC will finalise its Inquiry Report by 24 December 2009. A3P has not as yet analysed the detail of the Draft Report and its recommendations but will do so as soon as possible and would welcome input from Members. A3P will provide comment on the Draft Anti-dumping Inquiry Report in consultation with A3P members. A3P's previous submission to the PC Issues Paper can be found on www.a3p.asn.au.

Contact: Gavin Matthew

The Procurement of Wood and Paper Products from Sustainable Sources

A3P is encouraged by advice from State Governments indicating their support for the procurement of wood and paper products from sustainable sources. In May 2009 the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) agreed that Victoria would provide a report to the Council on its proposal to require government endorsed procurement and sustainability guides for wood and paper products to recognise the Forest Stewardship Council and Australian Forestry Standard as international third-party forest certification systems. A3P has since written to PIMC Ministers urging them to adopt a similar position and A3P is encouraged by the positive replies received which detail current and planned policy initiatives and changes to existing procurement strategies including:

- being signatories to sustainable procurement frameworks that provide a national approach to integrating sustainability into public procurement;

- development of tools and guidelines that promote a consistent approach to sustainability criteria and standards, supporting procurement of third party certified sustainable goods and services;
- development of sustainable buying guides; and
- commitment to sustainable procurement practices and policies for wood and paper products.

A3P looks forward to working with the Australian and State Governments, including through the PIMC, to encourage recognition and procurement of wood and paper products certified as being sourced from sustainably managed forests.

Contact: [Gavin Matthew](#) or [Richard Stanton](#)

IFA Conference 2009

Several staff members of A3P attended the Institute of Foresters of Australia's 2009 conference held in Caloundra last week. The focus of the conference was Forestry: A Climate of Change. The main issue on the table was climate change and the impact it is and will have on the industry in the future, particularly with the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). Richard Stanton and Marion Niederkofler both spoke at the conference and outlined how reforestation and harvested wood products could play a key role in combating climate change.

Contact: [Richard Stanton](#) or [Marion Niederkofler](#)

Provision of Carbon Neutral Paper to Senators' and Members' Offices

A3P welcomes a decision by the Special Minister of State to add Reflex Carbon Neutral paper to the list of copy papers available to all Federal Member's electorate offices. The emissions from making this paper have been fully offset by investments in Australian projects that reduce greenhouse gases. Reflex Carbon Neutral is the first Australian made office paper to be certified as Greenhouse Friendly by the Department of Climate Change.

Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries Inquiry into Bushfires in Australia

As detailed in an earlier Canopy, A3P made a submission on the Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries Inquiry into Bushfires in Australia (Senate Bushfire Inquiry). The Senate Bushfire Inquiry has now released many submissions to their website, A3P's included:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/Committee/agric_ctte/bushfires/index.htm. Other submissions of interest include AFG, NAFI, VAFI,

Bushfire CRC, Institute of Architects, and Institute of Foresters of Australia to name a few. A3P's submission can also be found on www.a3p.asn.au.

Contact: [Gavin Matthew](#)

Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy Discussion Paper

A3P has made a brief submission to the Victorian Department Sustainability and Environment (DSE) on the Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS) Discussion Paper, released in July 2009. The stated purpose of the Discussion Paper is to provide a snapshot of the current water resources and how these resources are used and allocated now and into the future. The Discussion Paper detailed the following question: *"Given that changes in the plantation industry can reduce downstream water availability, should steps be taken to manage the impact on water resource availability?"* A3P's submission reiterates the policy principles contained in the Australian Plantation Industry National Water Policy released in July 2007 by A3P, AFG, NAFI and Timber Communities Australia. The submission urges the DSE and other relevant bodies while developing the Gippsland SWS to consider the elements of the Industry Policy, and the proposed principles for dealing with interception in regional water plans. The next steps of this process is that after consideration of submissions, the Government will develop a Draft Gippsland Region SWS to be released for comment in late 2009. The final strategy is expected to be released in the first half of 2010. A3P will continue to monitor and provide input to this process (and other regional water allocation processes around Australia) in consultation with A3P members. A3P's submission can be found on www.a3p.asn.au.
Contact: [Gavin Matthew](#)

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