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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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**BETWEEN**

**AUSTRALIAN PLANTATION PRODUCTS &  
PAPER INDUSTRY COUNCIL  
(A3P)**

**AND**

**AUSTRALIAN FOREST GROWERS  
(AFG)**

**REAFFIRMED JUNE 2008**



# Memorandum of Understanding

## 1. PARTNERS

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between
- Australian Plantation Products & Paper Industry Council (A3P)
  - Australian Forest Growers (AFG)
- referred to as the partners.

## 2. SCOPE OF PARTNERS

Both associations are national representative organisations within Australia's plantation industry.

**A3P** – representative body for:

- The pulp and paper industry
- The plantation sawmilling sector (mostly softwood)
- The plantation sector (mainly softwood)

**AFG** – representative body for:

- The farm forestry sector
- The private native forest sector
- Private forestry representation at local and regional level via branch network
- The plantation sector, predominately the managed investment schemes sector via these and other corporate members.

## 3. PURPOSE

- 3.1 This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) serves to formalise a strategic alliance between the partners. It is not intended to have any legal basis. It represents acknowledgement of a desire for a close working relationship between the partners and a commitment to capitalize on efficiencies to be gained by a cooperative and shared approach to policy advocacy. Through cooperative advocacy, sharing of resource capability and expertise, and mutual recognition it will serve to strengthen the role and recognition of both partners.
- 3.2 The partners agree that they have significant interests in common and undertake to work constructively together to further the collective interests of the memberships of both organisations.

#### **4. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This MoU will be reviewed after two years and renewed with the agreement of both partners.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Chief Executives of each organisation should consult on a regular basis, and especially when key issues are being developed and pursued.
- 5.2 Each organisation has a process of policy determination and/or discussion. Observers from the partner organisation may be invited to participate. AFG's Policy Forum and standing committees and A3P's policy committees are examples of where this could effectively operate.
- 5.3 The partners acknowledge that occasionally there may be some policy inconsistency on certain issues. When inconsistent views occur the appropriate response may be either silence (if appropriate) or acknowledgement of the inconsistencies between AFG and A3P.
- 5.4 The partners acknowledge that AFG has an existing regional branch network which may be an appropriate forum for the discussion and pursuit of regionally specific issues.

#### **6. MEMBERS IN COMMON**

Both partners acknowledge that they will have members in common. They acknowledge that, both in retaining their members and in expanding their membership, that they will not do so to the detriment of the partner organisation. Members and potential members should remain free to become members of one or both organisations, each partner may have an area of expertise that is attractive to members and it might be to their benefit to remain, or become, members of both organisations.

#### **7. PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA**

The partners agree that A3P will be the PHA member representing the plantation timber industry. AFG will contribute to A3P an amount, agreed annually, that will reflect AFG's representative base (principally plantation hardwood). A3P agrees to consult and include AFG in all PHA matters.

## 8. CORE ACTIVITIES

### 8.1 A3P:

- Sustainability action plan
- National marketing and promotion strategy (solid wood)
- Trade
- Processing industry issues – structural timber
- Energy market reform
- Forest management certification
- Education training (skills shortage)
- Climate change and emissions trading
- Greenhouse challenge
- Renewable energy
- Building guidelines
- National water management policy
- Resource expansion (Plantations for Australia 2020 Vision)
- Plantation health and protection
- Chemical pesticides
- Extended producer responsibility (paper)
- Extended producer responsibility (solid wood)
- Timber standards (Standards Australia)
- Transport
- Quality assurance
- Timber product survey
- ICFPA / FAO
- Research and development policy
- Indigenous employment opportunities
- Promotion of paper

### 8.2 AFG:

- Farm forestry expansion
- Market access for small growers/transparency of prices
- Private native forestry regulation and resource access
- Taxation issues on private land
- Forestry and water
- Certification – PSC, AFS (small growers), Disclosure Code for Afforestation Managed Investment Scheme companies
- Plantation insurance and other commercial services
- Sovereign Risk
- Research and Development
- Collective regional, State and National representation of small and medium growers
- Natural resource management & farm forestry
- Dissemination of research and industry news via Australian Forest Grower magazine and regional branch network
- Plantation resource development (*Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision*)
- Private plantation codes of practice .
- Pesticides
- National Action Statement for Farm Forestry
- International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)
- Forestry and climate change.
- Forestry as a legitimate land use

## **9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERS**

- 9.1 Each partner is responsible to its members and the industry.
- 9.2 This MoU acknowledges a further responsibility to share and understand various priorities and seek to efficiently gain outcomes for the benefit of our members, jointly and separately, and the industry.
- 9.3 Each partner will be responsible for their own resources and organisational arrangements. Beyond that the partners will make decisions on joint initiatives (both lobbying and financial) in consultation.

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**Mr John Hayden**  
**Deputy Chairman**  
**A3P**

5 June 2008

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**Mr Tony Cannon**  
**President**  
**AFG**

5 June 2008