

Date: 15/05/2007 – For Immediate Release



A3P CALLS OFF SP GRADES PROPOSAL

A3P has announced today that it will not proceed with the introduction of Structural Pine (SP) grades as previously planned.

A3P CEO, Mr Neil Fisher said, "Continuing contact with A3P members, timber merchants, truss and frame fabricators, designers and specifiers has indicated the introduction cannot be achieved without major disruption and unacceptable burden to industry.

"As the peak body representing the plantation products and paper industry, A3P acts on behalf of our members, our stakeholders and our industry. The general consensus amongst our members is that the time is not right for the product range to deliver the expected 'bigger picture' benefits and therefore it is in the best interests of all parties concerned that we make our intentions clear.

"A3P will however, continue to encourage industry adoption of the many valuable outputs obtained from the two year MGP-SP grades R&D program supported by the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation.

"Many A3P member mills have already implemented upgraded quality assurance procedures as a result of this program," said Mr Fisher

A3P will now concentrate on enhancing the existing MGP system including two key initiatives to define generic structural property verification requirements and to investigate the merits of introducing another MGP grade under MGP10

"We are determined to ensure maximum benefit is derived from the valuable work completed to date and have a substantial task ahead to deliver the potential benefits in a way that will be acceptable to all parties," said Mr Fisher.

Further information

Neil Fisher, CEO A3P - 0412 637 550

Peter Juniper, Manager A3P - 0419 357 538

Jess Wurf, Communications Officer A3P – 0448 808 366

LEVEL 3
TOURISM HOUSE
40 BLACKALL STREET
BARTON ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

T +61 2 6273 8111
F +61 2 6273 8011
W www.a3p.asn.au