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Consumers of plantation timber & paper benefit from Australian Standard

A3P welcomes today's recognition of the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) as a full Australian Standard that provides reassurance to the purchasers of Australian plantation timber and paper products.

The AFS is an independent forest management certification scheme that assesses some 40 different areas of sustainable forest management covering environmental, social and economic impacts.

"Consumers of Australian plantation timber and paper products can be assured that products certified under the AFS have been produced under world class environmental standards" said A3P CEO Neil Fisher.

"More than 85% of the plantation area managed by A3P member companies is certified to the AFS. A3P has achieved a key target set for certification in our Sustainability Action Plan.

"The Australian Forest Certification System, of which the AFS is the key part, also provides chain of custody certification as a means of tracing the wood from the certified forest to the consumer.

"I encourage all Australian consumers to purchase certified Australian plantation timber and paper products. In doing so, they will support Australian companies and their employees and encourage plantation growers to maintain their high level of sustainable management practices.

"A number of Australian plantation growers are also certified against the Principles and Criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). A3P also supports FSC certification and is seeking to assist the harmonisation of forest certification schemes to help consumers make more informed decisions", said Mr Fisher.

The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) is based on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests. AFS certification is awarded following independent third party auditing and assessment by a certification body accredited by JAS-ANZ (Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand).

Attachment: A3P member companies certified under AFS

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Further information

Neil Fisher, CEO A3P - 0412 637 550

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



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Forestry Plantations Queensland

Forestry Plantations Queensland manages the Queensland Government's 188,000-hectare softwood and 8,100-hectare hardwood forest plantation estate.

Forests NSW

Forests NSW manages the largest plantation estate in the country consisting of some 200,000 ha of softwood and 40,000 ha of hardwood plantations. Forests NSW also manages 2 million ha of public native forest.

HVP Plantations

Melbourne-based HVP Plantations is Australia's largest private timber plantation company, managing around 245,000 hectares of plantations across Victoria.

ForestrySA

Mount Gambier-based ForestrySA is the South Australian Government's forest management agency responsible for 85,000 ha of plantation, predominantly softwood.

Green Triangle Forest Products

GTFP manages some 25,000 ha of softwood plantation in the Green Triangle Region of SA / Victoria in association with its softwood sawmilling and woodchip export operations.

Forestry Tasmania

Forestry Tas manages more than 50,000 ha of hardwood and softwood plantations in Tasmania as well as a large area of public native forest.

For more information visit www.a3p.asn.au