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Industry Calls for Tougher Action on Illegal Logging



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A3P is set to work with Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation and the Australian Government to displace products from illegal logging operations overseas.

In a submission on the Australian Government's Discussion Paper *Bringing Down the Axe on Illegal Logging – A Practical Approach* A3P commends the Government's commitment to addressing the supply of illegally logged forest products into Australia.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said "A3P welcomes measures to address the importation of illegally logged forest products but calls on the Government to implement tighter controls to exclude all illegally logged forest products from Australian markets.

"A3P commends the Government's pragmatic approach but we believe they need to do more to make compliance mandatory.

"A3P will cooperate with the Government's initiative by launching landmark Member Guidelines on illegal logging next week.

"Our guidelines provide a method for our members, who produce \$4 billion worth of products annually, to ensure their operations do not contribute to the supply of illegally logged products.

"The guidelines are consistent with the Australian Government's initiative and recognise the world class environmental standards of Australia's sustainably managed plantation forests.

"I encourage all members of the Australian forest and wood products industry to follow A3P's leadership and commit to processes that will exclude illegally logged imports", said Mr Fisher.

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz will launch the A3P Member Guidelines for *Stopping the supply of illegally logged forest products to Australia* at a Parliamentary Breakfast on Thursday 8th February.

A3P's submission on the Australian Government's Discussion Paper is available to download from www.a3p.asn.au. The Guidelines will be available on Thursday 8th February 2007.

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Further information

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