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A3P welcomes new Rudd Government



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A3P, the peak industry body representing Australia's \$4 billion plantation products and paper industry, congratulates Kevin Rudd and the Australian Labor Party (ALP) on their resounding election victory on the weekend.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said, "The election of the new ALP Government marks the beginning of some major policy initiatives that will require different approaches, hard work and a cooperative relationship between industry and government.

"A3P welcomes the incoming Government as an opportunity to focus forest policy on the growth and benefits of Australia's sustainable plantation products and paper industry. We want to move away from the politics of confrontation and controversy that have plagued the native forest industry in recent years.

"A3P welcomes the Rudd Government's commitment to crack down on the importation of illegally logged timber. A3P is the only national forest industry organisation to have developed an illegal logging policy which provides a practical guide for our industry to demonstrate the legality of its products.

"A3P is keen to work alongside the Rudd Government to maximise the significant contribution our industry can make to mitigating climate change. A3P is uniquely positioned to lead this process; our industry produces greenhouse friendly building materials and renewable energy (plantation and sawmilling sector) and is carbon-intensive and trade-exposed (pulp and paper sector).

"A3P is set to develop the National Forestry and Climate Change Action Plan and we applaud the Rudd Government's commitment to invest a further \$8 million to explore the impacts of climate change on forestry.

"A3P is committed to working with the Rudd Government to determine our industry's important role in an emissions trading scheme and meeting the new renewable energy target of 20% by 2020.

"A3P welcomes the establishment of a \$9 million Forest Industries Development Fund to boost the export of forest products through increased investment in measures designed to add value to forest resources.

"A3P is pleased the Rudd Government will establish ForestWorks as the new Forest and Forest Products Industry Skills Council. As a member of Forestworks, A3P is committed to developing practical solutions to addressing the industry skills shortage.

"A3P enjoyed a very positive working relationship with outgoing Coalition Government and we thank them for all their support.

"Kevin Rudd brings to the position of Prime Minister a new vision for Australia both domestically and globally. He will build on the strong foundations and leadership established by John Howard's outgoing Coalition Government", he said.

Further information

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