

Date: 15/06/2007 – For Immediate Release

A3P DISCUSSES PAPER MARKETS IN BEIJING

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher met with the Australian Embassy Minister in Beijing, Mr Graham Fletcher this week, to discuss concerns about recent import prices of copy and tissue paper from some South East Asian countries.

The concern comes to light after US manufacturers of woodfree papers launched an anti dumping case against Korea, China and Indonesia.

A3P is concerned that some Chinese companies may attempt to avoid US tariffs by redirecting paper products into Australia.

Mr Fisher said, "Imported paper products compete in the market place against Australian-made paper products which are produced under world-class environmental standards across the entire value chain from plantation growing to paper manufacturing.

"It is vital we don't allow Australian paper manufacturing standards to be undermined by the dumping of products from countries with lower environmental standards", he said.

Mr Fisher provided the Minister with a copy of A3P's Member Guidelines for stopping imports of illegally logged forest products into Australia. The guidelines provide A3P members with a practical framework for demonstrating the legality of their products.

Mr Fisher said, "China is a significant player in Australia's current \$2 billion trade deficit in timber and wood products.

Quick facts*

Australia imported \$191 million worth of paper and paperboard from China during 2005-06.

This figure includes: \$75 million worth of printing and writing paper, up 110% since 2003-04 and \$66 million worth of tissue, up 35% since 2003-04*.

* Figures courtesy of ABARE (the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics)

- ENDS -

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