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A3P welcomes FWPA

A3P has welcomed the formation today of the new industry owned Company, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA).

Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) will replace the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation, which currently only performs research and development functions.

“FWPA will continue the current investment in research and development in addition to the new role of promoting forest and wood products”, he said.

FWPA Implementation Committee Chair and A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said FWPA will play an essential role in promoting the timber industry during a crucial time of stagnating housing starts across Australia and a renewed focus on wood for its environmental benefits.

“For the first time, the Australian forest and wood products industry will have the capacity to deliver a national generic marketing campaign.

“The marketing program will provide leverage for existing sector programs and add strength to company brands. It will maximise our competitiveness against timber alternatives such as steel, concrete and aluminum.

Mr Fisher confirmed the Australian Government will continue to provide dollar for dollar matching of levies paid by the industry for R&D activities.

A3P appreciated the support of Minister Abetz, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation and Minister McGauran, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for assisting with the process of privatisation while maintaining government support for the new Company.

Mr Fisher said, “Under the new structure, levy-paying members including forest growers will have a greater influence over the company’s activities.

Mr Fisher congratulated Mr Ron Adams, Chairman, Dr Glen Kile, CEO and the other existing Board members for accepting industries invitation to establish the new Company.

“A3P has also been a driving force in establishing the new entity and we look forward to continuing our work with the Australian Government, State Government Business Enterprises and other national industry organisations, in supporting the new Company in its formative months”, he said.

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Further information

Neil Fisher, CEO A3P - 0412 637 550



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