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## Australia to combat overseas Illegal logging

A3P welcomes the Australian Government's announcement today to crack-down on an estimated \$400 million worth of timber imports, sourced from illegal logging overseas.

Federal Forestry Minister Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, launched the Australian Government's illegal logging policy today at the Complete Kitchen Solutions, Cambridge, Tasmania.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said, "A3P welcomes the Australian Government's commitment to seriously address the challenge of overseas illegal logging.

"Overseas illegal logging is a grave environmental concern that contributes to deforestation and undermines the viability of legally harvested and traded products world-wide.

"The Australian Government has today answered A3P's call for a risk management approach to identify and address sources of concern.

"A3P is pleased the policy complements A3P's own illegal logging guidelines. A3P guidelines provide the Australian plantation products and paper industry with a practical framework for demonstrating legality and control within their supply chains.

"A3P welcomes the Australian Government's commitment to regularly review the policy through the Forest and Wood Products Council. This provides importers with the opportunity to demonstrate their willingness to meet consumer expectations, initially through voluntary action.

"A3P will participate in and closely monitor the implementation of the policy. We will not hesitate to raise our concerns with the Government, if the initial steps are not effective in addressing this crucial global issue.

"A3P calls on consumers, Governments, NGO's and industry to work together to ensure the high environmental standards of Australia's plantation products and paper industry are not undermined by imported products from suspect origins", said Mr Fisher.

Download A3P's guidelines on illegal logging: [www.a3p.asn.au](http://www.a3p.asn.au).

### Further information

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