

Wednesday 17 October 2007 - For immediate release

Plantation Industry Celebrates 10 Years of Growth under *2020 Vision*

A3P and AFG, along with Federal Forestry Minister Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, are today celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Plantations 2020 Vision Strategy, the national industry and government partnership driving the development of Australia's sustainable plantation sector.

Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision is a joint commitment between the Australian Government, all State and Territory governments, and the plantation timber growing and processing industry, to treble the nation's area of commercial tree crops by 2020.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said, "For 10 years, the 2020 Vision provided the national focus for the sustainable development of Australia's plantation area - an average of 70,000 hectares per year - providing more jobs in regional areas, and more investment in many regional communities.

"The strategy is a lasting and unique national icon representing a shared commitment to plantation industry development – an industry that produces greenhouse positive building materials; communication, hygiene and packaging materials; and a range of environmental services from Australia's sustainable plantation resource", he said.

AFG CE Mr Warwick Ragg said, "The 2020 Vision has provided an important strategic framework for the development of national policy, including the new federal taxation arrangements for forestry MIS, which supports continued private investment in new plantations. The strategy has been the impetus for the development of supportive regulatory arrangements in some States, such as the Plantation and Reforestation Act in NSW.

"The 2020 Vision helped secure crucial on-going funding for the Private Forestry Development Committees, which now play the primary facilitation role for plantation industry coordination and stakeholder interaction. The strategy assisted the National Timber Councils Taskforce to engage local government Australia-wide in forest industry development issues, and to help ensure the regional economic benefits of the plantation industry are realised", he said.

A3P and AFG commend the Government's ongoing support for the continued and increased expansion of Australia's sustainable plantation estate, through the Plantation for Australia: 2020 Vision.

Further information

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A3P – Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council



AFG - Australian Forest Growers