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Protecting Australia's Plantation Industry Against Biosecurity Threats

A3P and AFG welcome today's launch of the Plantation Timber Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP) by Federal Forestry Minister Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz.

The IBP provides the blueprint for Australia's plantation timber industry in the fight against pests and diseases that threaten sustainability, profitability and viability.

Speaking on behalf of Australia's \$4 billion plantation products and paper industry, A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said, "The Plan will help Australia's plantation industry to reduce the risk of incursions, improve pest and disease diagnosis and develop contingency plans to deal with any outbreaks".

The IBP was developed by Plant Health Australia under the direction of an Industry Biosecurity Group made up of experts from industry, Government and the research community. Forest and Wood Products Australia provided funding to support development of the plan

Australian Forest Growers CE, Mr Warwick Ragg said, "The development of the plan provided an important opportunity for the entire timber plantation sector to identify priority biosecurity issues and develop a framework for managing those issues".

The IBP builds on the Generic Incursion Management Plan for the Australian Forest Sector (May 2000), developed prior to the establishment of the current plant health system.

The IBP identifies 11 Emergency Plant Pests (or groups of pests) of relevance to the plantation timber industry. These include Gypsy Moth, Pitch Canker and Eucalyptus (guava) Rust.

"A3P, through its membership of Plant Health Australia, and in consultation with AFG, will now consider the next phase of activity on plant health issues including the development of specific contingency plans for the identified emergency plant pests," said Mr Fisher.

Download the IBP plan from www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

Further information

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A3P – Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council



AFG - Australian Forest Growers