

11 September 2009: – For Immediate Release

A3P welcomes State Government support for the procurement of wood and paper products from sustainable sources.



The Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P) is encouraged by advice from State Governments indicating their support for the procurement of wood and paper products from sustainable sources.

A3P
29 TORRENS STREET
BRADDON ACT 2612
AUSTRALIA

“A3P supports and encourages international third party certification schemes for sustainable forest management, and many of our members are certified against one or both of the major certification standards.” said A3P CEO Richard Stanton.

T +61 2 6273 8111
F +61 2 6273 8011
W www.a3p.asn.au

In May 2009 the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) agreed that Victoria would provide a report to the Council on its proposal to require government endorsed procurement and sustainability guides for wood and paper products to recognise the Forest Stewardship Council and Australian Forestry Standard as international third-party forest certification systems.

The 2009 Victorian Timber Industry Strategy – Public Consultation Draft proposes that the Victorian Government “... will require government and government endorsed procurement and sustainability guides to recognise international third party certification as meeting the highest possible environmental standards.”

A3P has since written to PIMC Ministers urging them to adopt a similar position and A3P is encouraged by the positive replies received which detail current and planned policy initiatives and changes to existing procurement strategies including:

- being signatories to sustainable procurement frameworks that provide a national approach to integrating sustainability into public procurement;
- development of tools and guidelines that promote a consistent approach to sustainability criteria and standards, supporting procurement of third party certified sustainable goods and services;
- development of sustainable buying guides; and
- commitment to sustainable procurement practices and policies for wood and paper products.

“Government leadership in recognising that third party certification to a credible standard demonstrates sustainable forest management is seen as very positive, and can be used to clarify and simplify the certification concept for consumers.”

“A3P looks forward to working with the Australian and State Governments, including through the PIMC, to encourage recognition and procurement of wood and paper products certified as being sourced from sustainably managed forests.” said Mr Stanton.

- ENDS -

Further information

Richard Stanton, CEO A3P - 0421 310 758
Natalie Loudon, Communications Officer A3P – 0401 757 172