

15 January: – For Immediate Release

Dumping injures Australian manufacturing but is allowed to continue



A3P
29 TORRENS STREET
BRADDON ACT 2612
AUSTRALIA

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

The Australian Plantation Products & Paper Industry Council (A3P) is disappointed with Tuesday's announcement by the Attorney-General the Hon Robert McClelland MP that dumping duties on imported toilet paper from China and Indonesia have been removed. The decision is to be retrospective and will impact on Australian manufacturers, their employees, and dependant businesses and communities.

A review by the Australian Customs Service (ACS) found that specific imported products from China and Indonesia were dumped and domestic industry suffered injury as a result. However, the injury was defined as not material on technical grounds.

"The outcome of the review is yet another confirmation of the major challenges facing Australian pulp and paper manufacturing and making it more and more difficult for domestic manufacturers to remain viable." said Richard Stanton, CEO of A3P.

"Australian pulp and paper manufacturers are competing against international producers who receive a range of subsidies and benefits including free or cheap finance, generous renewable energy and fuel subsidies, and lower regulatory standards for environmental protection and employment conditions. The ACS review shows some international producers have demonstrably dumped imported products into Australia with predatory pricing putting pressure on domestic producers and creating an uneven playing field."

The Australian pulp and paper industry produces some \$9 billion of finished product each year including newsprint, packaging, printing, writing and industrial papers along with tissue and other sanitary products. The vast majority of these products are sold in the domestic market and in New Zealand, but these markets are increasingly being targeted by low cost producers in countries such as China and Indonesia.

Australia must maintain a strong and consistent anti-dumping system to ensure Australian domestic manufacturing is not unfairly disadvantaged, and where dumping activities are demonstrably occurring the competitive playing field must be reinstated. This decision has demonstrated that the current system is complex, resource intensive, and costly to access for potential applicants, and even when dumping is identified and financial injury can be demonstrated, domestic industry receives no relief due to decisions made on technical grounds.

"We find the decision perplexing as dumping was found to be occurring, and impacting on domestic industry in both the initial investigation and upon review, yet the duties were still revoked." Mr Stanton said.

- ENDS -

Further information

Richard Stanton, CEO A3P - 0421 310 758

Natalie Loudon, Communications Officer A3P – 0401 757 172