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## A3P member company HVP Plantations protects Gippsland native forest

A3P, the peak national body for Australia's plantation products and paper industry, welcomes the announcement by member company HVP Plantations of a landmark agreement with the Brumby Government to protect more than 20,000ha of native forests in Gippsland's Strzelecki Ranges.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said, "I would like to congratulate HVP Plantations on today's announcement. It is a great example of plantation companies working with the Government to manage forests sustainably."

Today's announcement means that all native forests across HVP's entire estate in Gippsland's Strzelecki Ranges will be reserved.

The agreement will also see an additional 15,000ha plus of native forests surrounding the Cores and Links containing significant rainforest and animal habitat reserved forever.

Mr Neil Fisher said, "Well managed plantations have the potential to be a significant benefit to the natural environment and to help address global problems such as climate change.

"Throughout Australia's 1.8 million ha plantation estate there are large areas of native vegetation that are permanently protected. The ecological value of these areas is enhanced by the surrounding commercial timber plantations which also provide a diversity of habitats, soil and water catchment protection and a carbon store.

"Plantations also support and re-invigorate rural economies through generation of employment, income and financial return into the local economy of the plantation."

Under the new agreement, between HVP Plantations and the Victorian Government, the plantation areas will be regenerated with local species to mirror those found in the native forests.

The Strzelecki estate includes land that was effectively sold to HVP in 1998 by the former Kennett government as well as land acquired by HVP from Australian Paper, also a member company of A3P. It includes land managed under licence, lease and private land owned by the company.

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### Further information

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