

21 May 2008 – for immediate release

A3P Welcomes new report 'Australia's State of the Forests Report 2008'



29 Torrens Street
Braddon ACT 2612

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

A3P, the peak national body for Australia's plantation products and paper industry, has today welcomed the release of *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2008*, which was released by the Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said, "The plantation products and paper industry welcomes the newly released *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2008* and its findings.

"The report is a comprehensive document that fulfils a commitment under the National Forest Policy Statement by providing the public with detailed information on the state of Australia's forests."

The report highlights that turnover of Australia's forest product industries increased in real terms by about 10% to more than \$19 billion between 2000 – 01 and 2005-06. The trade deficit in timber products increased from 1.7 billion in 2001 – 02 to 1.9 billion in 2006 – 07.

Mr Fisher said "During this time, when sustainable forestry management is of key importance to ensure the longevity of Australia's forests, the public have a right to be informed on the state of our forests and this report does that by using data from both the private and public sector."

Other key findings of the report include:

- The area of plantations increased from 1.63 million hectares to 1.82 million hectares (over the period of the reporting).
- Plantations now produce two-thirds of the country's log supply.
- The volume of recovered paper exported increased by 250% to nearly 1.1 million tonnes, mainly due to increased demand in China.

The 2008 report was prepared by the Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia (MIG) on behalf of the Australian, state and territory governments.

It comprises of 7 criteria and 44 indicators which provide a framework and methodology for describing and evaluating progress towards forest sustainability at the national level.

To view a copy of the report please visit www.daff.gov.au/forestsaustralia

- ENDS -

Further information

Neil Fisher, CEO A3P - 0412 637 550

Lisa Dogan, Communications Officer A3P – 0414 552 225