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Commitment sought for Pulp and Paper Report Recommendations

A3P is calling on the major political parties and election candidates to commit to implement the recommendations contained in the final report of the Pulp and Paper Industry Strategy Group (PPISG).

The PPISG report demonstrates how an active Government with the right policy settings can boost Australia's GDP and increase jobs by enhancing our pulp and paper manufacturing industry. But more importantly, it recognises the integrated nature of the various sectors of the broader forestry industry by making recommendations relating to diverse areas including plantation investment, renewable energy, trade, skills development, infrastructure, and investment facilitation.

The plantation products and paper industry is a substantial contributor to the community, the economy, and the environment in more than thirty Federal Electorates and half of these electorates are held by the incumbents with margins of less than 5%. Due to the nature of the industry, these electorates are located in every State and in regional and urban areas.

The PPISG, made up of the CEOs of the major Australian pulp and paper manufacturing companies, union and Government representatives and independent experts, presented Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, with its final report in March 2010.

"The PPISG's recommendations provide a useful summary of broader issues facing the plantation products and paper industry," A3P CEO Richard Stanton said. "We encourage all political parties to consider these recommendations when evaluating their objectives and priorities for our industry, and the Australian economy more generally. The recommendations address common areas of interest to all Australians, including renewable energy, sustainable growth, skills development and infrastructure improvements."

Key PPISG recommendations to realise growth potential include:

- Facilitation of investment in plantation expansion to promote resource growth and security
- Support of rigorous forest certification standards to promote the use of raw material from sustainably managed forests for wood and paper products
- Incentives to realise the potential for increased renewable heat production
- Competitive electricity and gas supplies to promote investment in manufacturing capacity
- Road transport reform for greater freight efficiency
- Incentives for increased investment in new manufacturing plants and paper recycling infrastructure
- Strengthened, proactive anti-dumping measures
- Greater support for workforce training

The PPISG report can be found at

www.innovation.gov.au/Section/Industry/Pages/PulpandPaperIndustryStrategyGroupFinalReportMarch2010.aspx

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Further information

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