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Commitment to address illegal logging welcomed

A3P welcomes the ALP commitment to, if re-elected, restrict the sale of illegally logged wood in Australia.

“We are pleased that the ALP is continuing to focus attention on this important issue. Illegal logging is one factor undermining investment in plantations, wood and paper manufacturing and job creation in Australia” said A3P CEO Richard Stanton.

A3P is particularly gratified that the Government has acknowledged and responded to a number of the key points made by A3P during the consultation process undertaken by the Government as part of the implementation of its 2007 election commitment.

Firstly, the Government’s 2010 commitment covers the full range of imported timber products including sawn timber, wood panels, composite products, wooden furniture and pulp and paper products.

Secondly, Minister Burke has committed to a mandatory pathway based on a ‘due diligence’ approach whereby “...*importers would have to be able to meet, minimum standards that they would have to follow in terms of due diligence that they'd undertake to make sure the timber they were sourcing had not been illegally logged...*”.

A3P has been an active contributor to the discussion about addressing illegal logging for a number of years including publication of “*Member Guidelines – Stopping the supply of illegally logged forest products to Australia*” in 2007.

“We look forward to continuing to be involved in the development and implementation of measures to address illegal logging. It is important that the mechanism employed is risk based, flexible and not prescriptive so that producers and importers can demonstrate compliance as efficiently and effectively as possible” Mr Stanton concluded.

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Further information

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