

# MEDIA RELEASE



## Wood products industry legality code workshop a success

**24/07/2009:**

An in-depth workshop about development of a code of conduct related to importation and trade of legality-verified wood-based products occurred in Sydney last week.

A full house affair, the workshop, with over 50 senior-level participants from across the country, represented diverse wood-based industry sectors including paper, sawntimber, panels, engineered wood, windows, doors, joinery, flooring and furniture.

The independently facilitated workshop was conducted to assist the industry understand the drivers for an industry code of conduct and for the project team developing the code to understand the concerns and get feedback from the industry.

TDA's project manager Stephen Mitchell confirmed that legality of forest harvesting and trade in forest-based products is a complex issue. "The participation from industry representatives from such diverse sectors will assist the development of a cross sectoral generic code of conduct directed at ensuring that all wood products are from legally harvested and traded sources."

"A code will incorporate and build on existing industry codes and company procurement policies, and on related codes from non-wood sectors. It will include appropriate objectives, rules and administration arrangements for verifying that timber and forest-based products are from legally harvested and traded sources."

He added that good direction was provided by participants on the work required to keep development of the code moving forward. "Workshop participants included Australian Government representatives from the Australian Customs Service and Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) who informed the meeting of how the code of conduct fits within a raft of projects funded by the Australian Government to assist implementing the Government's policy."

Mr. Mitchell advised that further consultations were scheduled to be held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> respectively. "Venues and further information will be provided through collaborating industry associations or directly from the TDA."

- ENDS -

### Media enquiries, interviews:

- Stephen Mitchell – Sustainability Program Manager, (02) 9279 2366 or 0432 860 100

# IMAGES

Image: COC01

Caption: Major participants at industry workshop were (l-r) Stephen Mitchell TDA project manager, Declan Tierney forum facilitator and Phil Townsend head of international forest policy, DAFF

Image: P1040259

Caption: Catching up over lunch were (l-r) Dave Angus, Boral Timber, David Marlay, Hyne and Juel Briggs, Briggs Veneer.

Image: P1040261

Caption: Industry leaders compare notes over lunch were (l-r) Norm Long, President, Australian Timber Importers Federation; Glenn Johnston President, Window and Door Industry Council and Allan Hansard, Chief Executive, National Association of Forest Industries.

Image: P1040263

Caption: Talking PNG issues are (l-r) Axel Wilhelm, Rimbunan Hijau, Bob Tate, PNG Forest Industries Association and Joe Chapman, Managing Director, TLB Timbers.

Image: P1040264

Caption: Talking border control are (l-r) Gordon Thomas, General Manager, Paperlinx Merchanting, Susan Jones, Manager Wildlife, Environment and Consumer Goods, Customs and Simon Penfold, Manager, Willmott Forests.

# MEDIA BACKGROUND

The project is being supported and funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The project is being managed by the Timber Development Association (NSW).

Further industry consultation workshops are being held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August respectively. Contact participating associations or Stephen Mitchell at the Timber Development Association (NSW) for details of these workshops.

The project team is comprised of staff from the following industry organisations:

- Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P)
- Australian Timber Importers Federation (ATIF)
- Australian Windows Association (AWA)
- Australian Wood Panels Association (recently merged into EWPA)
- Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA)
- Furnishing Industry Association of Australia (FIAA)
- National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI)
- Queensland Timber Importers Exporters and Wholesalers Association (QTIEWA)
- Timber and Building Materials Association (NSW) (TABMA NSW)
- Timber Development Association (TDA)
- Windows and Doors Industry Council (WADIC)