

Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision Action Forum 15 December 2005 Forum Summary Report

Introduction

Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision is a strategic partnership between the Australian, State and Territory governments and the plantation timber growing and processing industry.

The strategy was originally launched by the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, The Hon John Anderson MP, in October 1997. It was subsequently reviewed, renewed and re-launched by Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation in February 2004.

'A Progress Report by the 2020 Vision Partners' was published in April 2005. The report identified a range of opportunities and challenges for 2020 Vision implementation. As custodians of the strategy, the Private Forestry Consultative Committee agreed to have a discussion to prioritise the opportunities and challenges identified in the progress report.

(Progress Report available from: <http://www.plantations2020.com.au/reports/index.html>)

The 2020 Vision partners participated in the 2020 Vision Action Forum on 15 December 2005 with the objectives of:

- Raising awareness of opportunities and challenges in relation to 'Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision' and sharing information across all stakeholders and partners, and
- Clarifying priority action at national, state and regional scales.

Summary of priority opportunities identified in the 2020 Vision Action Forum

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As a result of their discussions the partners committed to support and pursue the following priority opportunities according to their ability and responsibility:

PRIORITY OPPORTUNITIES	WHOM	2020 VISION STRATEGY CONTEXT
<p>1. Further develop strategic alliances and effective partnerships between the plantation sector and other industries eg National Farmers Federation, other sectors of government (across government and at all levels of government) and key community stakeholders</p>	All 2020 Vision partners	This opportunity encourages further activity in relation to Action 2 'Pursue a comprehensive policy approach to support plantation development.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ongoing commitment to building and maintaining relationships 	All 2020 Vision partners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop advocacy within political processes 	Industry partners – A3P, AFG, NAFI	
<p>2. Promote the contribution of forestry plantations to multiple government policy objectives – Environmental, social and economic eg; Regional economic development, water & energy efficiencies</p>	All 2020 Vision partners	This opportunity encourages further commitment to Actions 14 & 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Establish a cross industry portfolio/agency dialogue at a senior executive level 	Forest Industries Branch, DAFF with support of Minister's office, State & Territory Governments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pursue opportunities to engage with current and future NHT & NAPSQ programs and the regional natural resource management bodies 	2020 Vision coordinator, Forest Industries Branch DAFF, Regional PFDCs	
<p>3. Identify and develop a checklist of principles that will underpin best practice planning provisions for use by local government where they are responsible for implementing planning provisions for plantations. Local governments also require resources and adequately trained staff to effectively implement regulation.</p>	2020 Vision Coordinator, State and Territory Governments, Local Government	Action 3 – This opportunity is in progress with the proposed development of a local government toolkit
<p>4. Develop systems for repeatable quantification of environmental services and encourage government commitment to create markets for such services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review pilot environmental services schemes being conducted in all jurisdictions · Recommend practical applications 	Forest Industries Branch, DAFF in partnership with BRS, DEH & Industry partners	Action 14 - BRS has commenced a project that is seeking to bring together the learnings of various environmental services pilot projects.

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<p>5. Develop and implement a communication and a community engagement strategy (NB these are not the same things) for the plantation sector – not just the 2020 Vision project.</p> <p>This strategy will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles for developing and maintaining partnerships and identify commonality Tailoring ‘the message’ to the values, attitudes and beliefs of the target audience. Building plantation sector capacity to engage with a range of partners and stakeholders. <p>Note: Knowledge management, collation and sharing at all scales are essential to this process.</p>	<p>PFCC to seek funding from FFPC to engage consultants* to develop a communication and a community engagement strategy for the 2020 Vision partners to implement in a coordinated and cooperative fashion.</p> <p>(*We are not communications or engagement experts.)</p>	<p>This is a bigger task than the 2020 Vision project Communication Strategy Feb 2005 and specifically relates to Action 13 ‘<i>Improve stakeholder engagement in plantation industry expansion and inform communities about the strategic role of plantations in wood and fibre supply and environmental service delivery.</i>’</p>
<p>6. Pursue formation of ‘Forest and Wood Products Australia’ (new marketing entity) to enable the implementation of a marketing program with a consistent national message.</p>	<p>Industry partners and DAFF, Forest Industries Branch, with support of the State & Territory governments</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>7. Coordinate collection and publication of a core set of wood products industry data on a voluntary & confidential basis that is able to be aggregated and disaggregated to appropriate scales.</p> <p>Note: Funding of such to be a core government commitment.</p>	<p>DAFF, Forest Industries Branch in conjunction with industry partners, ABARE, BRS & ABS.</p>	<p>In process.</p> <p>The provision of sound reliable data is fundamental to implementation of all 2020 Vision actions.</p>

Glossary

A3P	Australian Plantation, Products and Paper Industry Council
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFG	Australian Forest Growers
BRS	Bureau of Rural Sciences
DAFF	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DEH	Australian Government Department of Environment & Heritage
FFPC	Forestry and Forest Products Committee
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NAFI	National Association of Forest Industries
NAPSWQ	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
PFCC	Private Forestry Consultative Committee
PFDC	Private Forestry Development Committee