

4th August 2010

Dr Shona Batge
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Education and workplace relations

**Submission by the Forest Industries Federation of WA to the
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Committee Inquiry into the Industry Skills Councils.**

Dear Secretary,

The Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA) is the industry association for the timber industry in Western Australia. We represent the majority of the timber industry including hardwood contractors, native timber millers, major pine processors, and hardwood plantation growers and processors.

On behalf of the Western Australian Timber Industry we write this brief submission to convey our support for Forestworks as an effective skills council for our industry. We note Forestworks have always stayed up to date with our state skills, employment and training issues by keeping regular contact with our industry. Forestworks Directors and Staff have often times met personally with us and with our member companies which has enabled them to accurately and reliably represent the views of our sector on skills and employment matters to the Government. For this reason Forestworks has become the first port of call for our industry on these issues.

We value the advice and knowledge Forestworks provide on workforce training and skills recognition and find their regular industry updates, useful website and annual conferences an excellent source of information.

It is our view Forestworks provide an essential service to our industry and we would strongly support the continuation of this industry skills council.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Haslam
Director Environment