



**TMA**  
**TIMBER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION**

Committee Secretary  
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia  
By email: [ewer.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ewer.sen@aph.gov.au)

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010

Dear Secretary,

Our organisation is the Timber Merchants Association Victoria. We represent 96 member companies and cover some 135 sites with some 4000 staff. We are a Victorian Government registered Industrial body and began in 1883.

We have read the Forestworks submission and believe it to be an accurate representation of the effective workings of ForestWorks. We have worked with and participated in the review of skill standards required for our industry sector. Through this process ForestWorks has contributed to and facilitated in the up skilling of our workforce and continue to do so. The numeracy and literacy skills of our work force has been recognised as a major challenge, and with Forestworks and the CFMEU we are working together to overcome the situation in a practical manner. Their advice and knowledge of our industry has enabled ForestWorks to provide the practical advice towards skilling our current and future workforce.

A major challenge before the merchant, truss and frame, cabinet makers and window manufacturers is working with the Federal Government to stamp out illegally logged imported timber. To do this our sector will require a massive retraining of management and all staff and to overcome infrastructure costs to cope with multiple certifications being forced upon the industry. ForestWorks will be needed to assist the industry through what will be a major change to the way they operate their businesses on a daily basis.

We believe ForestWorks has good two way communication with all seven industry sectors Australia wide and with good levels of governance and elected directors, audited accounts and ASIC registration, gives us comfort in the fact it is a well run organization. As an industry we need their work to continue in this Industry Skills Council role.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Board and members of the Timber Merchants Association Victoria  
Ronald Caddy  
President.

**The Timber Merchants' Association (Victoria)**  
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