

16 December 2010

Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Committee

**Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
Inquiry into the management of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan**

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport Inquiry into the management of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. NAFI requests that its submission be treated as confidential.

In broad terms, NAFI supports the proposals in the Guide to the Basin Plan and the need for the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin to be managed on a more inclusive and equitable basis, to provide the foundation for their management in an enduring and sustainable way.

NAFI fully supports the need for a rigorous triple bottom line approach to development of the Basin Plan that optimizes economic, social, and environmental outcomes.

Against this background NAFI is a keen supporter in processes to achieve development and implementation of an equitable and sustainable Basin Plan.

Notwithstanding this support NAFI has significant concerns regarding the proposed consideration of forestry plantations by the Guide. These concerns are detailed in the attached submission also provided to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in response to its call for submissions on the Guide to the Basin Plan.

NAFI appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry and would be willing to appear before the Committee to further discuss our concerns regarding the process for developing the Basin Plan and its socio-economic implications.

Yours faithfully

Allan Hansard
Chief Executive Officer