



22 November 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications (SEC) Inquiry on the Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013 and Related Bills (Bills).

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Inquiry on the Clean Energy Legislation Bill 2013 and Related Bills.

AFPA is the peak national body for Australia's forest, wood and paper products industry. We represent the industry's interests to governments, the general public and other stakeholders on matters relating to the sustainable development and use of Australia's forest, wood and paper products.

AFPA supports the removal of the carbon tax as detailed in these Bills and calls on the Senate to support the removal of the carbon tax.

AFPA has had a long history of stakeholder engagement on the development of domestic climate policy schemes as well as on international climate change negotiations and related policy measures.

The forest, wood and paper products industry is in a unique position in that it represents an industry that, with the right policy settings, could make a significant contribution to the climate change policy and Australia's emission reduction targets.

AFPA continues to advocate the need to recognise all the major pathways for emissions abatement from forestry and wood processing activities including:

- the carbon sequestered in growing forests;
- the carbon stored in harvested wood products (HWP);

- the substitution of high emissions materials (e.g. steel, concrete) with wood and other fibre based products that have a substantially lower emissions footprint; and
- the use of woody biomass for renewable energy, thereby displacing fossil fuels.

AFPA has identified a range of domestic activities that could potentially contribute up to 30 million tonnes of emissions abatement over the next 5 to 10 years. These activities (not exhaustive), include:

- new plantation expansion;
- improved silviculture and productivity (i.e. growth) in existing plantations and native forests;
- use of existing native forest and plantation forestry and processing wood waste (i.e. residues) for bioenergy;
- wood product substitution in new housing and commercial construction (e.g. greater use of solid and engineered wood for structural and non-structural uses);
- avoided deforestation of plantations;
- revegetation on marginal land for non-wood benefits (e.g. erosion control, biodiversity and farm forestry);
- use of combined mechanical (i.e. biomass harvesting) and fuel burning reduction treatments to reduce emissions from native forest prescribed burns;
- increased fuel reduction programs to reduce emissions from future bushfires, particularly from their extent and severity;
- renewable (i.e. bioenergy) heat capture and use in manufacturing processes;
- energy efficiency in the supply chain via the use of new machinery, fibre recycling and alternative energy sources.

Both the Abbott Government and the previous Government agreed to unconditionally reduce national GHG emissions by 5 per cent over 2000 levels by 2020.

Following the September 2013 election the Abbott Government was given a clear mandate to remove the carbon tax. We ask that the Senate promptly passes the Bills to remove the carbon tax, as it is in our national interest that businesses have certainty and policy clarity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the SEC Inquiry on the Bills. AFPA is available to discuss the issues raised in this submission in more detail at the SEC hearing on Tuesday, 26 November 2013.

Yours Sincerely

Ross Hampton
Chief Executive Officer