

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation 1

**3.35** The Committee therefore recommends that the revised 2020 Vision be amended by deleting all references to trebling the acreage by 2020 or plantation acreage of 3 million hectares. This should be replaced with the target of increasing the acreage of plantation forests at a sustainable and economic level.

## Recommendation 2

**3.40** The Committee recommends that the government commission an independent assessment of how the plantation prospectus industry relates to the 2020 Vision, including an evaluation of prospectus assumptions against returns likely to be achieved.

## Recommendation 3

**3.70** The Committee recommends that research and other studies to be carried out under Action 5 of Strategic Element 2, relating to codes of practice to support sustainable plantation development be the subject of a separate public report by the Coordinator, to be presented to the Primary Industries Ministerial Council and Federal and State Parliaments.

## Recommendation 4

**3.101** The Committee recommends that Action 9 under Strategic Element 3 be amended to include as an expected outcome the establishment of a Market Information Centre, based on the model of the current New Zealand body (or service), which will make available full and up-to-date information on current and projected prices and returns on various types of timber, including plantation timber.

## Recommendation 5

**4.29** The Committee therefore recommends that funding for Private Forestry Development Committees (PFDCs) be made over a 3 year period, subject to the delivery of outcomes against Action 13 of the *2020 Vision* for plantation forests.

## Recommendation 6

**4.31** The Committee recommends that the following matters be included in any report prepared by the Coordinator:

- Actions under Strategic Element 4 be reported against expected outcomes with regard to involvement of stakeholders in achieving the Strategic Element

goals. Each report by the Coordinator should provide detail of how stakeholders have been involved in each year's goal achievement and a measure of stakeholders' satisfaction.

- **Assessment or report on Actions – especially Action 13 under Strategic Element 4 – should give details of consultation, contact or involvement with local governments and Regional Catchment Management Authorities in achievement of expected outcomes under the Action.**
- **Details of current and proposed reviews and/or studies of social and community responses to further plantation development to be conducted by the Bureau of Rural Sciences and other bodies such as the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation.**

#### **Recommendation 7**

**4.32 The Committee recommends that research and other studies to be carried out under Action 13 of Strategic Element 4 (which involve consultation with Catchment Management Authorities) be the subject of specific report by the Coordinator.**

#### **Recommendation 8**

**5.38 The Committee therefore recommends that the plantation industry establishes joint ventures to encourage research to examine the environmental benefits that may be delivered by plantation forests, particularly in relation to the availability of water, salinity and water quality, and plantations in low rainfall areas.**

#### **Recommendation 9**

**5.39 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth urgently funds the conduct of a water audit in both the mainland and Tasmania, to assess the impact of plantation forests on both water quantity and quality.**

#### **Recommendation 10**

**5.40 The Committee recommends that the government review the application of the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) legislation as it applies to the plantation woody crop industry.**

#### **Recommendation 11**

**6.36 The Committee recommends that the government investigate the possibility of introducing a taxation incentive related to the period of time a plantation is grown, however urges the government to keep in mind the necessity for the industry to meet environmental goals without significant subsidies and tax benefits.**

---

## **Recommendation 12**

**8.205** The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as a matter of urgency, finalise and publish the Commonwealth's response to the Final Recommendations Report on the *Inquiry on the Progress and Implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (1997)*.

## **Recommendation 13**

**8.206** The Committee recommends that, within 12 months of the publication of the Commonwealth's response to the Final Recommendations Report on the *Inquiry on the Progress with Implementation of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement (1997)*, that this Committee conduct a review of operations under, and the enforcement of, the Forest Practices Code. The Committee should be able to seek expert advice in the conduct of its inquiry and the Committee would expect the immediate co-operation of both State and Commonwealth Governments. In the absence of full co-operation, the Committee foreshadows that it will recommend an immediate independent review with more compelling and drastic powers.

## **Recommendation 14**

**9.24** The Committee recommends Strategic Element 5 be amended to provide that the National Plantation Strategy Coordinator prepare an annual report detailing the plantation industry's performance against the expected outcomes of each of the 14 principal Actions required by the *2020 Vision* program.

## **Recommendation 15**

**9.25** The Committee recommends that the National Plantation Strategy Coordinator's annual report also indicate the extent of research and/or assessment work (and results) carried out by the Coordinator, industry and other agencies, applicable to plantation development.

## **Recommendation 16**

**9.26** The Committee recommends that the National Plantation Strategy Coordinator's report is presented to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, and to the Ministers equivalent in each State.

## **Recommendation 17**

**9.27** The Committee recommends that the National Plantation Strategy Coordinator's report is tabled in the Commonwealth and State Parliaments within a month of the relevant Minister receiving it, so as to allow scrutiny by the parliament and the community of the achievement of *2020 Vision* goals.