

2 November 2015

AFPA supports strong action on anti-dumping reform

The peak body for the forest, wood and paper products industry, the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), supports strong action to further improve Australia's anti-dumping system.

AFPA Chief Executive Officer Mr Ross Hampton said "Today's announcement by the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, the Hon Christopher Pyne, and the Assistant Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Karen Andrews, of ongoing reforms and new regulations to strengthen the antidumping system is to be supported".

"Manufacturing in Australia has been under increasing pressure from imported products and it is crucial that we have an effective anti-dumping system to ensure fair trade".

"Forest products are widely traded. Australia imports around \$4.5 billion in wood, paper and tissue products each year, while we export around \$2.5 billion, producing a trade deficit in forest products of around \$2 billion each year".

"Domestic manufacturers must have confidence in the anti-dumping system to bring cases forward when they are concerned about dumping practices, as well as in the measures put in place to provide an effective and timely trade remedy".

"Many of the newly announced measures such as additional resources for the Anti-Dumping Commission, providing a regulatory basis for dealing with overseas businesses that avoid paying duties by slightly modifying their products, and more stringent application of investigation deadlines are all steps in the right direction".

"Many of these measures were identified by AFPA as part of its input to the recent Parliamentary inquiry into the anti-dumping system. Better availability and transparency of official import volume and value data would further improve the system by reducing the risk of overseas suppliers masking actual prices. AFPA calls for ongoing reform and strong implementation of the anti-dumping system to level the playing field for domestic producers."

AFPA represents forest growers, harvesters, and manufacturers of timber and paper products.

Media Contact: Elizabeth Goodfellow
AFPA Communications and New Media Officer
(m) 0409 962 250 (e) elizabeth.goodfellow@ausfpa.com.au