



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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Our Ref: 08429

8th March 2018

Mr Ross Hampton
Chief Executive Officer
SA AFPA
By email: ross.hampton@ausfpa.com.au

TOPIC Re: Candidate response.

Dear Mr Hampton

Thank you for contacting Australian Conservatives and our candidates regarding their position in relation to your industry.

We felt that a yes/no response was not enough for the questions you have asked and as we have a detailed forestry policy, we have attached it for you to show you our party and our candidates' support and unified position.

Yours sincerely

Robert Brokenshire MLC

Hon Robert Brokenshire MLC

Encl: Copy of Australian Conservatives Forestry Policy



Australian Conservatives

...a better way for South Australia

Policy - Forestry

The Australian Conservatives recognise the economic importance of the forestry industry to South Australia and particularly in the South East. Federal government has committed to a forestry plan. The South Australian government needs to develop a forestry plan which supports and dovetails into the Federal plan and initiatives.

- This requires the establishment of a permanent Ministers Forestry Advisory Council made up of representatives from all sectors of the forestry industry chain: growers, processors and contractors.
- This panel to advise the Minister on policy directions required to maximise opportunities in South Australia timber processing industries as well as forest development. Ministerial report annually on recommendation acted on and reasons why others recommendations were not acted upon.
- This advisory council requires up to date and local technical information to make evidence-based decisions. To develop and maintain good research Australian Conservatives are committed to a second round of funding, \$2 million over four years to support the Mount Gambier National Institute for Forest Products Innovation hub. Further funding would be subject to the hub delivering real outcomes and opportunities for the forestry industry as assessed by the forestry industry.
- The Australia Conservatives Royalties for Regions program will provide a platform to improve infrastructure required for the vibrant forestry industry. Further funding would be fought for to reduce the current \$1 billion backlog in regional road maintenance.
- Australian Conservatives have consistently highlighted the need for cheap electricity through stable and available base load electricity. It is clear a forestry Biomass energy strategy and plan is required. Australian Conservatives would fund a feasibility study to investigate electricity and energy generation from forestry fibres as well as the reuse of timber waste from metropolitan areas.
- Forestry industry representation on Ministerial Advisory Committees dealing with energy.

- To move this biomass energy production from feasibility to reality, government should be facilitating proponents to get the plant/plants which can demonstrate a sound commercial economic case, operational.
- Australian Conservatives support a review of water allocations in the Limestone Coast area using independent scientific evidence presented to all water use stakeholders. Economic impacts and benefits to **ALL** South Australian would be the determining factor of water use.
- Australian Conservatives are committed to the revitalization of the TAFE and putting in place policy to ensure private registered training organisation can work with and access TAFE facilities to run courses and programs. A move to separate the training and assessing functions e.g. one organisation provides the training and another assessor would lead to more consistent and robust outcomes for all parties.
- Australian Conservatives is committed to the provision of training in the regions specific to the local industries requirements. A detailed forestry workforce plan would be supported with a commitment to funding the plan in conjunction with key stakeholders.
- Australian Conservatives would support the initiatives in the Federal Nation Forest Industries Plan and advocate for policy settings that enable further development of the manufacturing industry in South Australia. Policy would be developed in consultation with the industry to enhance and enable growth in the timber industry.
- Commit to the doubling of the domestic timber manufacturing sector with a focus on regional South Australia with required funding to review existing plans and initiatives.
- Australian Conservatives are committed to ensuring emergency services are adequately resourced and coordinated locally and interstate to be effective in the event of a bushfire. Ensure the airport upgrade can handle enhanced capability air fire-fighting equipment.