



Mr Ross Hampton
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Forest Products Association
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6 March 2018

RE: FOREST INDUSTRIES

Dear Ross,

Thank you for your correspondence seeking the views of SA-BEST on issues important to the forest industries sector.

Our response to your 2018 Election Policy Candidate Survey is attached.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding. Over recent weeks we have experienced a significant number of requests for meetings and specific information about SA-BEST's views and policy positions.

We sincerely thank you for your interest in our views and look forward to discussion with you in the future.

In the meantime, if you require any further information about any of SA-BEST's policies, they can be found on our website at <http://sabest.org.au/state-policies/>

Yours Sincerely

The SA-BEST Team



South Australia's forest industries have a significant presence in the Electorate of MacKillop. It is vital for the continued growth of our forest industries that the local representative in the Parliament be a passionate advocate for them.

Our forest industries are united behind AFPA SA's strategic plan for the policy measures that will enable us to achieve this, and we will be supporting the candidates who best share this vision and commit to advocating for it within their parties and in the Parliament.

Please complete the below questionnaire so that the tens of thousands of forest industries workers across the state voting in the 17 March 2018 election know where you stand on these important matters.

Advisory Committee

- 1. Do you support the establishment of a permanent Minister's Forest Industries Advisory Council?**
YES
- 2. Will you support the Minister reporting to Parliament annually on progress of the Minister's Forest Industries Advisory Council?**
YES
- 3. Will you work with industry through the Minister's Forest Industry Advisory Council to achieve Government policy initiatives and targets?**
YES

Skilled workers

4. Will you work with industry to develop a 10-year Forest Industries Skills Plan?

YES

5. Will you commit \$2 million to support the implementation of the Plan?

YES

Energy

6. Do you commit to an energy plan which provides reliable, affordable energy for the manufacturing sector and all South Australians?

YES

7. Will you establish a Renewable Energy Fund to assist forest industries companies to reduce their reliance on high emission energy sources?

TO BE DETERMINED

8. Will you commit \$10 million in grants and \$10 million in loans over 4 years to the fund?

TO BE DETERMINED

9. Will you provide more attractive feed-in tariffs and incentives for forestry biomass?

TO BE DETERMINED

10. Will you include Forest Industries in any Ministerial Advisory Committees dealing with energy policy?

TO BE DETERMINED

Promoting the use of timber

11. Will you support the development of a SA Wood Encouragement Policy?

YES

12. Would you develop a procurement weighting for renewable and low carbon emission timber products?

IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT

R&D

13. Will you commit a second round of \$2 million over four years to support the growth of the Mount Gambier hub of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation?

YES

Bushfire mitigation

14. Will you commit to improving cross border fire prevention and mitigation by supporting private and volunteer fire fighting brigades?

YES

15. Will you commit to support research into innovative methods of fire detection and suppression?

YES

16. Do you support the development an arson prevention strategy?

YES

Supporting plantations

17. Will you provide incentives for new tree plantings for timber and other environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration?

TO BE DETERMINED

18. Will you commit \$2 million to a Softwood Timber Plantation development project between Government, industry and landowners to help identify and assess future investment opportunities in softwood timber plantations and removal of impediments to optimising the existing plantation resource?

TO BE DETERMINED

Grow domestic timber manufacturing

19. Do you support an SA target of doubling the economic value the domestic timber manufacturing sector by 2050 with a focus on regional SA?

YES

20. Will you work with industry to develop a timber domestic manufacturing first policy with the aim of contributing to the SA target?

YES

21. Will you commit \$500,000 to investigate impediments to the growth of domestic timber manufacturing by:

- conducting a 5-year review of the *SA Forest Industry Strategy Vision 2050*,
- conducting a 5-year review of the *Blueprint for the Future South Australian Forest and Wood Products Industry (2014-2040)*, and
- reviewing the implementation of initiatives identified in the Cellulose Fibre Chain initiative study undertaken by VTT Technical Resource Centre?

TO BE DETERMINED

Infrastructure

22. Will you work with industry to prioritise infrastructure investments (e.g. roads, bridges, communication etc)?

YES – refer regions policy and agriculture policy

23. Will you commit \$40 million (over 4 years) to improving regional infrastructure in Forest Industries areas (seeking matching Commonwealth funding)?

YES – refer regions policy

24. Will you work with Victorian Government agencies to develop collaborative infrastructure standards and projects?

YES

25. Will you provide a \$10 million fund for ‘last mile’ productivity enhancing infrastructure for Forest Industries (eg. power upgrades or heavy vehicle turning lanes)?

TO BE DETERMINED – refer agriculture policy support for 90 Day Transport project continuation

26. Do you commit to reducing red tape in relation to heavy vehicle movements, in line with other state jurisdictions?

YES – refer agriculture policy

Natural resource management and water

27. Do you commit to working with all industries to ensure that any future changes to water usage in the South East is based on sound scientific evidence and is independently verified?

YES

28. Prior to implementation of the Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan (LLC WAP) Review, will you work with all industries to assess the economic impact of the review outcomes?

YES – there is a need to assess and balance economic and environmental outcomes and ensure fair and transparent water allocation across all industries.