

Media Release



Thursday 31 May 2018

AFPA calls for further crack down on single use plastic products as European Union moves to ban them

The Federal along with State and Territory governments should take note of the European Union's (EU) proposal to ban single use plastic products like cotton buds, stirrers, straws and balloon sticks, and consider a similar position, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Mr Ross Hampton said today.

"The European Union (EU) should be congratulated on its intentions to ban single use plastic products. If it follows through, not only will there be enormous environmental benefits, but recognition of and demand for sustainable and renewable forest product-based substitutes will increase," Mr Hampton said.

"Earlier this year, the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) called for a ban on single use, lightweight plastic bags across Australia. Many State and Territory governments have already acted while others have plans in place to phase them out.

"However, more can be done. Australian governments should consider a similar position to the EU's latest move.

"Many plastic products, including single use plastic products can be replaced easily with renewable and recyclable paper or timber product substitutes which can be made from sustainably sourced wood fibre.

"Using renewable and recyclable paper or wood products also underpins considerable economic activity and jobs in Australian sustainable forest product businesses. It's good for the environment and good for Australia's economy," Mr Hampton concluded.

ENDS.

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

Media Contact: Joe Prevedello

AFPA Communications Manager

(m) 0497 497 005 (e) joe.prevedello@ausfpa.com.au