

APPENDIX 4. SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Forest Industry Development Board

Submission Cover Sheet

Developing a Forest Industry Strategy for South Australia

Please complete and submit this form with your submission.

Submissions on this paper are invited by **30 April 2010**.

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FOREST INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD - CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Ref.	Questions	Comments
Q.1	What are the broad global and national factors that are shaping the forest industry in South Australia?	<p>Sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Climate change and carbon policy, including use of forest products.</p> <p>Water use by plantations and their role in regional water management.</p> <p>National demand for timber and other forest products</p>
Q.2	What is your vision for the forest and forest products sector in 2030? What words would you use to describe that future?	<p>A highly integrated sustainable forest industry, providing a range of products to be used in innovative ways.</p>
Q.3	What are the most important issues and priority areas for industry and government to address?	<p>Security of tenure of productive forests.</p> <p>Adequate skills base for all facets of the industry. Our interest is obviously on roles for foresters who provide the scientific basis and management skills for all aspects of sustainable forest production.</p> <p>R&D needs to be a renewed priority, due to the reduction of Corporate R&D effort over time and the fragmentation of CSIRO forest research. Answers are needed to looming questions of sustainability with pressure to sell more biomass from forest sites for biofuel as well as normal pressure for additional log and pulp.</p>
Q.4	What is your initial reaction to this Conceptual Framework?	<p>Positive; most aspects and challenges of the industry have been addressed.</p>
Q.5	What do you support in the Conceptual Framework?	<p>The emphasis on sustainability, a skilled and safe workforce, best practice forest management and optimising the value of forest products.</p> <p>Alignment with the National Forest Policy Statement, which is necessary to ensure that SA has similar objectives to other States.</p>
Q.6	What could be improved or has been missed in the Conceptual Framework, but needs to be in the Forest Industry Strategy?	<p>Integration of the training institutions into the Industry/Government partnership in some way, in particular to provide direction to the training institutions into training and skills requirements.</p> <p>The Strategy doesn't say much about native forest management. While native forest is conserved in SA, much of it is under active management, mostly by Government agencies. The Policy needs to outline the reasons for retaining native forest areas and where possible that they be actively managed to ensure their survival.</p>
Q.7	What opportunities do you or your organisation identify that could be facilitated by collaboration with industry and government?	<p>The Institute of Foresters of Australia is a professional organisation representing 1300 foresters who hold University degrees in forestry and who work in all aspects of the forest industry. It is uniquely placed to speak independently on forest management.</p> <p>The IFA has developed a range of Forest Policy Statements on matters of forest management (see our web site www.forestry.org.au). For example, Statements 2.6 and 2.11 refer to Sustainable Forest Management</p>

		<p>Statement 6.2 refers to Climate Change</p> <p>Statement 5.2 refers to Water Use by Plantations</p> <p>Statement 2.2 refers to Forest Certification</p> <p>These statements demonstrate the IFA's opinion on Best Practice Forest Management at this time. These Statements are reviewed periodically so they reflect current thinking in professional forestry which makes them a suitable independent resource for industry and the FIDB.</p> <p>The IFA is uniquely placed to provide input to the tertiary training institutions which provide forestry training throughout Australia. In particular, SA is fortunate to have the Forestry Degree course operated in Mt Gambier by Southern Cross University and it is important that the FIDB recognise this course and encourage its continuance.</p> <p>General support for Forestry Education at all levels needs to be encouraged. School leavers should be enticed to enter the industry which offers a broad range of employment opportunities and has a continuing positive future.</p>
	Any other comments?	<p>SA has a long history of effective management of plantation forests, primarily P radiata, which has led to a stable, integrated and competitive local processing industry. The Forest industry Strategy should recognise this and encourage continuance of this excellent forestry practice, which is often threatened by short -term commercial pressure. The Strategy should also support moves to ensure this level of forest practice is developed in the emerging blue gum industry so that it can develop into a long term, integrated and, hopefully, local value-adding industry.</p> <p>The reference to the contemplated sale of State Plantation Assets could lead to the major softwood forest grower in the Region being in a position of marketing constraint that currently does not exist. The present mix of growers and purchasers is one of the major reasons for the current competitive health of the Industry locally and this is at risk from such a sale.</p>

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Ref.	Section	Comments (including any corrections or improvements to statistics or information)
Section 1.	A SNAPSHOT OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOREST INDUSTRY	Good basic data but more detailed statistics would be useful.
Section 2.	DEVELOPING A FOREST INDUSTRY STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA	The need to align the FIS with existing National and State policies is appreciated, especially with the National Forest Policy Statement.

Section 3.	KEY ELEMENTS OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY STRATEGY	This includes most of the key current elements, in particular the sections on skills and best practice forest management.
Section 4.	ROLES FOR INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT	As noted above, need to include reference to integration of the training institutions in this section.
Section 5.	WHEN AND HOW THE STRATEGY WILL BE DEVELOPED?	Programme seems reasonable although timeline may be optimistic.
Appendix 2	IDENTIFIED STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR SA FORESTRY	Identifies most current issues.
Appendix 3	FACTORS AND INFLUENCES ON SA FORESTRY INDUSTRY	Covers the issues but many are of a National nature and often out of SA's control. The SA Forest Industry Strategy needs to address the matters which it can influence such as State forest ownership (which has proven very effective in the past) and the NRM/water issue.