



## Media release

### **Institute of Foresters plans major initiatives reinforcing its leadership in forestry and land management**

The Institute of Foresters of Australia has announced major initiatives to be pursued through the next year to reinforce its position as the leader in professional forest and associated land management.

The Institute is the peak national body for professional foresters and other forestry professionals operating in associated sectors.

National President Rob de Fégely said governance changes had been approved at the Institute's annual general meeting held in association with the Institute's conference in April, had established a new skills-based Board of Directors. The Board had approved six resolutions agreed at the conference and initiatives flowing from these would be developed and implemented over the next year.

The initiatives covered support for indigenous forest management, forest fire management, carbon forestry addressing climate change, forest management assistance to Asian Pacific nations, the integration of forestry and agriculture and collaboration with other international professional forestry bodies.

Mr de Fégely said the Institute of Foresters of Australia was founded in 1935 and would celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> year this year (2015).

He said the new Board was determined to enhance its position as the independent voice of forest science and land management and was growing its membership base to support this.

The new Board of Directors is:

Rob de Fégely, President  
Bob Gordon, Director and Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Stuart Davey, Director  
Lachlan McCaw, Director  
Neil Byron, Director  
Hans Drielsma, Director  
Hilary Smith, Director

Rob de Fégely said the first initiative to be pursued was 'Forestry without Borders', providing assistance to countries in the Asia Pacific region.

**The IFA is Australia's professional body for foresters and other forestry professionals**



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“This is based on the Institute’s view that sound forest management transcends national borders.

“The April Conference supported and endorsed the work of Foresters Without Borders and the first project is to assist Vanuatu Forestry and the Vanuatu community.

“This project is raising money for the repairs and reconstruction of buildings and nurseries and will provide nursery materials to help growers produce additional trees to reforest areas damaged by the major cyclone that hit the island nation in March.

“This with other professional assistance will help Vanuatu in its quest to become self-sufficient in agriculture and forestry.”

Mr de Fégely said the funding would enable the Department of Forests and members of the Vanuatu Foresters' Association to re-build and support growers whose livelihoods had been affected by the cyclone.

He said this was just one example of how the Institute and its members could contribute to effective forestry and forest land management.

“The Institute of Foresters of Australia is committed to the principles of responsible and sustainable forest management and the processes and practices that translate these principles into real outcomes.

The Institute is the expert and acknowledged voice of reason on forest issues and our position is that for the Australia’s forests to thrive, the needs of people, the economy and the environment must be balanced,” Mr de Fégely said.

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