



# MediaRelease

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2 MAY 2008

## Value chain guides advice on research

Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) is strengthening links with its new and existing levy payers by restructuring its four industry advisory groups to encompass the forest and wood products industry value chain – from forest management through to wood processing and products to market development. This change reflects the broader mandate of FWPA compared with its predecessor organisation the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation.

Chairman Ron Adams said input from industry was essential to ensure FWPA had the best advice possible about gaps in industry knowledge and research needs, before commissioning further research.

“Under the new advisory group structure there is an increasing emphasis on sustainability across all industry sectors, including minimising the environmental impacts of forestry, harvesting and wood processing, as well as promoting the benefits of sustainable management and the benefits of wood as a product.

“These groups will provide advice on research directions, priorities and transfer of knowledge and technology developed through research into improved industry practices,” he said. “Our aim is to continue making the interaction between industry and research more relevant and dynamic, and to provide the best return on investment in research for FWPA members and levy payers.”

Mr Adams said advisory group members had been selected for their expertise, rather than for any particular organisation they represented. “The advisory group system has already proven its value to us, and it works because of the significant goodwill that group members and their employers and businesses bring to the table.”

The new advisory groups have been formed in line with FWPA's new five-year strategic plan, which is nearing completion. FWPA Managing Director Glen Kile said recommendations from the advisory groups are submitted to FWPA's Board of Directors as valuable input for their final decision making. The advisory groups will meet up to four times a year and each group is chaired by an FWPA Director. All four of the new groups will hold their first meetings in May 2008. The four groups are:

- Sustainability and Resources Advisory Group (chair Sadanandan Nambiar)  
Considers management of native and plantation forests, and will cover topics including tree breeding, silviculture, wood properties, water use, forest operations, pest management and climate change.
- Solid Wood Processing Advisory Group (chair Peter Zed)  
Includes both softwood and hardwood processing, and has strong interests in segregation technologies for logs and boards, drying, grading and quality assurance as well as optimising water use and energy efficiency in processing operations.
- Engineered Wood Products Advisory Group (chair Kathryn Adams)  
Provides advice on research in what is a comparatively small, but important industry sector encompassing plywood, wood panels, laminated veneer lumber and glue laminated products.
- Market Knowledge and Development Advisory Group (chair Ron Adams)  
Advises on research that provides market analysis and industry information tools, such as the recently released Timber Service-Life Design Guide. The scope includes research into market attitudes, energy efficiency, building codes and systems, and the value of wood products in reducing the environmental impacts of construction.

## FURTHER INFORMATION: