

Media Release

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Industry seeks consensus on Timber Standards Development

Industry workshop outcomes: FWPA should take a greater role in the timber design and product standards development process.

At the FWPA hosted Timber Standards Development Workshop on Monday July 20, participants supported that position FWPA take a coordination or facilitation role and help develop a longer term strategic work plan to assist in the development and revision of standards.

It was generally thought that the industry had been well served by Standards Australia and should continue to utilise Standards Australia as a Standards Development Organisation (SDO) if it was cost effective to do so. The use of other SDOs or the creation of a new SDO could be explored at a later stage.

“FWPA intends to deliberate on the outcomes of the workshop and respond rapidly to Industry's concerns about the standards development process,”

“The final decision on FWPA's role will depend on our Board who has been deeply involved in this issue over the last 12 months,” says FWPA Managing Director, Ric Sinclair.

The workshop held at the Airport Hilton Hotel in Melbourne was very well attended with over 50 people from companies, associations, suppliers, and standards committees.

Ron Adams, as Chair of the workshop asked participants to consider the statement:

What (if anything) should be the role of FWPA (with current funding and statutory obligation) to assist/support the Australian forest and wood products industry to effectively and efficiently manage a suite of desired and relevant timber product standards within the new operating parameters of Standards Australia.

Bill Iskander from Standards Australia provided a presentation on their new business model for standards development and discussed the implications of the recent decision that all new amendments or new standards will require funding from the proponent.

“The high level of interest in this workshop reflects the level of industry concern for future of the standards development process,”

“Mr Adams did an excellent job in giving everyone an opportunity to express their views while bringing the meeting to an agreed position,” said FWPA Managing Director, Ric Sinclair.

About Forest and Wood Products Australia

FWPA aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian forest and wood products industry through innovation by investing in effective and relevant R&D and promotion of the industry's products, services and values. FWPA undertakes industry-level activities where a collective approach delivers more effective and valuable commercial outcomes than individual action. We deliver services that support the industry's capacity as a major exporter and mainstay of regional communities in many parts of Australia.