

# MediaRelease

Page 1 of 2

October 14 2013

## FWPA's AGM shows benefits of collaboration

*Attended by Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck and a record number of company members and stakeholders, the 2013 FWPA Annual General Meeting was the cornerstone of several events that reflected a growing confidence in the industry.*

Held in Sydney on October 11<sup>th</sup> the 2013 Forest and Wood Products Australia Ltd (FWPA) Annual General Meeting was attended by a record number of FWPA members and stakeholders and Richard Colbeck, Tasmanian Senator and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture.

Addressing the meeting, FWPA Managing Director Ric Sinclair observed that the company was now 6 years old and had clearly established systems and strong corporate governance. He noted that federal Government funding had been secured for the next 5 years, together with the opportunity to secure matching funds for voluntary contributions.

Mr Sinclair also explained that there had been a realignment of investment priorities, details of which were in the new 5 year strategic plan that had been approved by the Board.

"Our expenditure is now balanced with income and that's led to a 33% reduction in activities. This situation will continue until our levy payers and members are supportive of increased funding for collaborative activities," he said.

The meeting also saw the re-election of Ron Adams and the election of a new independent director, Craig Taylor who is a Director and Principal of The Fifth Estate, a Sydney based consulting firm. Mr Taylor has previously held management and executive roles with the State Forests of NSW, BORAL Timber, Wesfi and Jaakko Pöyry Consulting. He has a BSc (Forestry) from the Australian National University and is currently a Director of P.F. Olsen Australia.

"It is an honour to be voted in as an independent director by FWPA members. I look forward to working with my fellow directors to build upon FWPA's successes and to take the company to the next level," Mr Taylor said.

Mr Sinclair said that all resolutions, including a special resolution to make minor amendments to the Constitution, were supported by the company membership. At a

### 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.

subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors, Mr Ron Adams was re-elected as Chair of the Board and John Simon was re-elected as deputy Chair.

Following an industry leaders' dinner on Thursday night, Friday's AGM was held in conjunction with an R&D Forum and an extremely successful Industry seminar, 'Building Stronger Value Chains'. The audience of industry leaders found the seminar very positive with collaboration high on the industry's agenda.

## **ENDS**

### **For more information contact:**

Ric Sinclair  
Managing Director  
Forest and Wood Products Australia Ltd  
[ric.sinclair@fwpa.com.au](mailto:ric.sinclair@fwpa.com.au)  
0407 329 372

AGM presentation can be viewed online at:

<http://www.fwpa.com.au/sites/default/files/Presentation-to-2013-AGM.pdf>

---

### **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.