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Primary Produce Traceability Program
Product Integrity Branch, Biosecurity Tasmania
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
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TFPA Submission: Tasmanian Primary Produce Traceability Strategy 2022-2027

The Tasmanian Forest Products Association (TFPA) appreciates the opportunity to make comment to the Tasmanian Primary Produce Traceability Strategy 2022-2027 Consultation Paper.

The TFPA is the peak body for forestry that undertakes policy development, lobbying and advocacy for members interests. TFPA represents all elements of the value chain from the sustainable harvesting of plantations and multiple use natural forest resource including forest establishment and management, harvesting and haulage, processing of timber resources and manufacture of pulp, paper and bioproducts.

Sustainable forest management offers a holistic approach to ensure forest activities deliver social, environmental and economic benefits now and in the future. Certification is the tool to verify this and to connect the consumer with the sustainable origins of their products. As well as providing assurance of sustainable practices, forest certification also acts as an enabler of sustainability. It empowers consumers and companies to choose sustainably sourced, responsible wood-labelled products, thereby rewarding responsible forest owners, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and creating an incentive for uncertified organisations to obtain certification.

Forest management certification is an independent assessment of the forest management unit to check that a forest complies with the internationally recognised standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Forest Product Chain of Custody certification involves tracking the origins of wood to guarantee its authenticity through the entire supply chain. It also provides an assurance to customers, stakeholders and investors of the quality of forest management at the original source of the timber.

Forestry sustainably provides essential products such as timber for housing, building and construction; wood fibre for pulp, paper, and hygiene products; biomass for fuel such as domestic firewood and industrial boilers. Forest managers hold sustainability certification through forest management certification to internationally recognised standards with traceability of log products through to Tasmanian processors via their certified chain of custody certification.

Chain of Custody is the process by which materials are tracked by individual operations as wood is transformed from a tree in the forest to a final end product provided to a consumer in a wholesale or retail market (i.e. from forest to sawmill to processing facility to marketplace). Chain of Custody Certification provides the opportunity to differentiate forest products harvested from responsibly managed forests in the marketplace and gives an 'environmentally and socially-responsible' seal of approval.

The TFPA doesn't want to see any unnecessary regulations placed upon our industry, especially when we have in-place industry-wide traceability systems.

The forest industry believes that the systems being used under current legislation and certification provide an excellent traceability outcome for growers, processors, and end consumers on a global scale. On this basis we would like forestry to be excluded from the Tasmanian Primary Produce Traceability Strategy with that exclusion stated within the document.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Steel', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Steel
Chief Executive Officer