



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**
Inquiry into the Australian forestry industry

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

The forest or the trees?

—DSEWPaC and DCCEE to appear before forestry inquiry—

The government's lead environmental departments, the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE), will be appearing at the next federal parliamentary hearing of an inquiry into Australia's forestry industry on **6 July 2011**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra.

In its submission, DSEWPaC "supports a plantation industry that promotes sustainable natural resource management and does not create incentives for investment that conflicts with a resilient, adaptive and sustainable environment". The submission focuses on plantation forestry, but also notes the importance of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act in the management of the forest estate. DSEWPaC also "supports measures that encourage landscape scale environmental benefits and is committed to taking a more strategic, landscape-scale approach to managing biodiversity".

In its submission, DCCEE notes that the "forestry sector has already played an important role in helping to manage Australia's greenhouse gas emissions". The submission examines the current rules governing forestry under the Kyoto Protocol, the role of forestry under carbon pricing, and the potential for the Carbon Farming Initiative to stimulate forestry activities. The Carbon Farming Initiative will "allow farmers, forest growers and other landholders to generate carbon credits for emissions reductions and carbon sequestration, whether or not they are recognised under the Kyoto Protocol accounting framework".

The committee is keen to hear from DSEWPaC and DCCEE about the environmental costs and benefits of forestry and the potential for Australia's forest industries to respond to carbon markets. The Committee is also keen to hear how environmental policy will help ensure the sustainability of Australia's forests and contribute to the future of the forestry industry.

Committee Chair Dick Adams said: "The Committee believes that the potential for Australia's forestry industry to contribute to greenhouse gas abatement needs to be rigorously explored. The opportunities for the industry to benefit from carbon markets while contributing to economic productivity is vital to the long-term future of Australia. We also need a rigorous assessment of the broader environmental costs and benefits of forestry. The Committee believes that good forestry is not incompatible with good environmental management, and that government policy should reflect that."

PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 6 July 2011

WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Wednesday 6 July 2011, 5pm
WEBCAST: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (02) 6277 4293 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500, email arff.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/arff>