



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 12 February 2003

Public Hearing - Thursday 13 February 2003 - Canberra

**National Association of Forest Industries at
Inquiry into Employment in the Environment Sector**

The **National Association of Forest Industries** will appear tomorrow at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Environment Committee's inquiry into employment in the environment sector.

This will be the fifth public hearing of the inquiry. Appearing will be **Ms Kate Carnell, Executive Director**, and **Mr Phil Townsend, Deputy Executive Director**, of the National Association of Forest Industries.

The National Association of Forest Industries represents the interests of Australia's timber and forest industry. Their aim is to 'protect the resources they manage while delivering resource products at competitive prices with the least impact on the environment'.

The House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee is inquiring into the current contribution of environmental goods and services to employment in Australia, and the potential for future growth. In particular, the Committee is interested in examining how **federal policy** can assist future growth to be achieved.

The Committee is also interested in ensuring that Australia has an **appropriately skilled workforce** to service environmental needs, and in examining possible **information and reporting systems** that would boost the uptake of environmental goods and services, enhance overall business performance, and assist development of the sector.

Public Hearing, Thursday 13 February 2003

Who: National Association of Forest Industries
Where: Committee Room 1S4, Parliament House, Canberra
When: Thursday, 13 February, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm

The House Environment Committee will hold further public hearings around Australia in 2003.

Background: Environmental goods and services can be broadly interpreted to include activities such as production of pollution reduction equipment, employment of environmental consultants and workers in the public sector involved in national park management, as well as provision of services in related activities such as tourism, and conservation and environmental management in agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

For media comment, please contact:

Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, tel (02) 6277 4879 (Parliament House office)

For more detail on the inquiry, including submissions, please contact:

The House Environment Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or visit the inquiry web site at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ/greenjobs/index.htm