

**Tabled document no: 5**

By: *DAFF*

**ForestWorks Industry Skills Council**

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The Government made an election commitment to strengthen the role of the Industry Skills Councils (ISCs) through the *Skilling Australia for the Future* policy. In order to ensure ISCs were able to meet their expanded responsibilities, this policy committed to a doubling of the funding allocated to ISCs until 2011.

On 17 April 2008, the ForestWorks Industry Skills Council (ISC) was established through the 2008-2011 funding agreement between ForestWorks ISC and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Under this agreement ForestWorks ISC will receive funding of \$8,048,440 (excluding GST) for the period April 2008 to July 2011. This funding includes the \$1 million identified in *Securing the Future of Tasmania's Forestry Industry* policy. By ministerial agreement the management of this \$1 million was transferred from DAFF to DEEWR through the budget process. The remaining \$7,048,440 is provided from the *Skilling Australia for the Future* election commitment.

ISCs are independent, not-for-profit companies that are funded by the Australian Government to fulfill key roles in the national vocational education and training system. Funding commitments for ISCs recognise that they require significant funding in order to fulfill their roles in the national vocational education and training system. This commitment was recognised by the May 2008 Budget decision to provide funding for ISCs until 2012.

**First 12 Months ForestWorks ISC Achievements**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations advises that ForestWorks ISC have provided two environmental scans, an annual report, and has met all of the deliverables in the 12 months since its establishment. These include:

- Implementation of new governance, management and staffing arrangements and transition to a fully fledged ISC, connected with wider ISC network.
- The 2008 and 2009 versions of the Environmental Scan for the Forest, Wood, Paper and Timber Products Industry were completed.
- A Review of the Pulp & Paper Manufacturing Industry Training Package, including redrafting competencies and industry consultation, was completed.
- Plans were developed for continuous improvement for the Forest Industry Training Package.
- The 2009 Training Package Stocktake for the Forest Industry Training Package was completed.
- Work has commenced on an industry wide skills set project and a new flexible traineeships model for the industry.
- The Forest, Wood, Paper, and Timber Products Strategic Plan for Skills Development was implemented.
- Professional development forums for training providers in the industry were conducted in Melbourne, Tasmania, NSW (Tumut), and WA.
- More than 100 new learner guides for learners in the industry were developed.