

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

and

THE AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY INDUSTRY

Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalise a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian Forest Industries. The partnership will work together with Indigenous people and forest industries in regions to expand the availability of a skilled workforce and build sustainable, prosperous communities in which individuals can be encouraged and supported into employment and business opportunities. The parties will also seek to identify opportunities for investment through engagement of Indigenous groups.

Parties

The Australia Government is represented by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs through the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC), the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA).

The Forest Industries are represented by the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI), the Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P), Timber Communities Australia (TCA), and Australian Forest Growers (AFG).

The Australian Government will coordinate its participation across all agencies, and draw on other levels of government consistent with the National Framework of Principles for Delivering Services to Indigenous Australians.

The NAFI, A3P, TCA and AFG will coordinate participation of their members.

Scope

This MOU derives from the National Indigenous Forestry Strategy (NIFS) launched by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation in July 2005.

All parties agree to work together to develop sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous people in Australia's forest industries; increase skills required by Indigenous peoples to participate in the forest industries ; identify opportunities; develop information sharing protocols; derive resources for projects developed under the auspices of the MOU; nominate points of contact within the respective organisations and meet as required for review and discussion purposes; undertake joint visits to properties and regions of mutual interest; and, communicate and work collaboratively in developing Indigenous capacity and involvement in the forest industries.

Actions under the MOU will primarily focus on Indigenous communities in forestry regions where the NAFI, A3P, TCA and AFG members operate. It will also spread to additional areas where Indigenous forestry enterprises or investment might be developed.

Principles

The MOU establishes broad principles to guide activity of the parties. These principles are:

1. The Forest Industries supported by the Australian Government and through engagement with Indigenous groups, will take the lead in identifying employment, training and investment opportunities.
2. Collaboration and partnership between the parties based on mutual respect and a commitment to facilitate implementation of the NIFS.
3. Collaboration and partnership between the parties and Indigenous communities based on shared responsibilities and respect for culture, customs and values.
4. Joint commitment to foster sustainable economic, social and environmental development as a result of partnership activities.
5. Joint commitment to build capacity within the communities with which the parties engage.
6. Joint commitment to work with Indigenous people to promote sustainable forest management in Australia.

Commitments of the Parties

The parties collectively agree to the following commitments to the extent of their respective capabilities:

- Identifying opportunities for employment, training, upskilling, work experience and business opportunities in the forest industry for Indigenous Australians.
- Encouraging capacity building by forest industries through mentoring and skills and expertise exchange.
- Identifying and providing tailored packages of assistance supporting employment business development and training. A key component will be inviting forestry companies to access support under the Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Project (CLIEP).

- Promoting and communicating the benefits of Indigenous employment, training and joint investment opportunities to the Australian forest industry.
- Coordinating and assessing the feasibility of potential programs and projects for Indigenous participation in the forest industry, including technical advice.
- Promoting the objectives and profile of the National Indigenous Forestry Strategy along with other Indigenous forestry programs and policies.
- Developing a network of Indigenous people and organisations to be actively involved in the development of Indigenous forestry programs and policies.
- Supporting and encouraging research aspirations of Indigenous communities in relation to forest industry enterprises.
- Promoting the contributions of Indigenous people to the sustainable management of Australia's forests.
- Strengthening on-going avenues for information exchange between Indigenous groups, the Australian Government and forest industries' stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased employment and accredited skills acquisition for Indigenous people.
- Increased business and investment opportunities for regional and remote communities.
- Increased skilled forest industries workforce and forestry estate.

Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee for the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding comprises representatives of all parties to this agreement.
- The Committee will provide advice on and where applicable, assist in the implementation of the National Indigenous Forestry Strategy including the provision of contributions for the development of annual plans.
- The Committee will endorse annual plans and review progress against the deliverables and outcomes on a bi-annual basis to determine that commitments and actions are undertaken by the parties.
- The Steering Committee can recommend the establishment of regional committees where it is determined that any such committee will further the

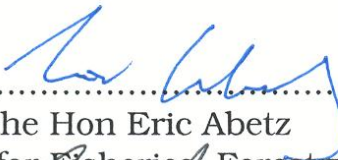
principles and objectives of this agreement and will assist in facilitating implementation.

- DAFF, through the Forest Industries Branch, will provide secretariat services to the Steering Committee.

Timetable

The term of this MOU is 5 years. This MOU will be reviewed in its entirety in 2011.

Signatories



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Senator the Hon Eric Abetz
Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation



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The Hon Joe Hockey, MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations



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The Hon Julie Bishop, MP
Minister for Education, Science and Training



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Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion
Minister for Community Services

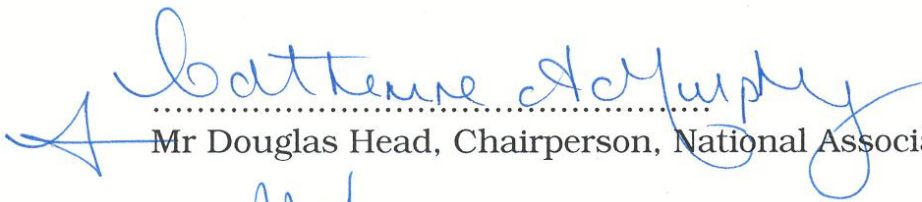
On behalf of The Hon Mal Brough, MP
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs



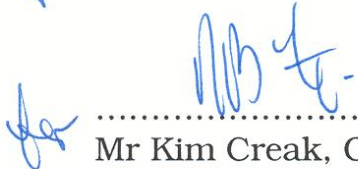
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Mr Joseph Elu, Chairperson, Indigenous Business Australia



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Ms Shirley McPherson, Chairperson, Indigenous Land Corporation



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Mr Douglas Head, Chairperson, National Association of Forest Industries



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Mr Kim Creak, Chairperson, Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council



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Mr Tony Cannon, President, Australian Forest Growers



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Mr Trevor Richardson, Chairperson, Timber Communities Australia