

quote of the month

"Strategies, business models, products and services can all be duplicated. Talented people, by contrast, cannot be duplicated and will always set your organisation apart."

NBRI



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ILLEGAL LOGGING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) estimates that 10% of timber imports are at risk of being illegal. As a means of direct intervention, in 2010 the Federal Government made a policy commitment to work with regional governments and industry to combat the problem of illegal logging and associated trade. The Government is in the process of drafting legislation that will restrict illegally logged timber imports and require timber suppliers to undertake a process of due diligence by verifying the legal origins of timber products and disclosing species, country of harvest and any certification at the **first point of entry** of timber products onto the Australian market.

A series of industry consultation seminars were recently held throughout Australia. At the Brisbane seminar they announced the following timeline:

- ◆ 2011 (Early): Introduction of legislation to parliament that will make it an offence to import timber products not verified as legal.
- ◆ Within the next two years; development of regulations associated with the legislation.
- ◆ Within the next two years; development of an industry Code of Conduct (due diligence process imbedded in this code).
- ◆ Within the next two years; development of trade descriptions for legally verified timber products.

The legislation will focus on prohibition (for those knowingly and/or recklessly importing illegally logged timber products) and the penalties for breaches of legislation. The regulation will focus on the requirements needed to be undertaken by industry to determine the legal status of timber. The code of conduct and trade descriptions will outline what will be required to comply and the due diligence process to follow.

The model will require importers and primary producers to undertake steps to identify, assess and mitigate the risk of placing illegally logged timber into the Australian market. It will also require adequate reporting for auditing requirements. From a practical point of view, if their suppliers have certification, this process should be relatively easy to follow. Similarly, if dealing with a country of more questionable practices then a greater level of investigation may be required. According to DAFF, whatever rules legislation applies on the international stage, need to also be followed in the domestic arena. As such domestic primary producers need to be aware of this legislation and the due diligence programs put in place to ensure compliance.

There are a number of issues which have arisen from stakeholders that DAFF need to investigate and incorporate. Some of these issues centre around the tracking of timber in a finished product (such as furniture) or a product that has been manufactured across a number of different countries. As well as the definitions of 'timber products' (ie. a window that is a mixture of glass and timber). The fragmented and diverse nature of the timber industry also potentially requires a generic code, then specific modules per sector. We were informed that the questions and answers to these will be published on the DAFF website, www.daff.gov.au/illegallogging. This site hosts further information about the studies conducted and plans should you wish to investigate further.

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MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

For the month of FEBRUARY, the following TABMA Queensland members are celebrating their membership anniversaries. Thank you for your fantastic support of the Association!

AGORA TIMBERS
- 8 Years -

BRISBANE BUILDING SUPPLIES
- 6 Years -

**FORSYTH & ROMANO:
STAIRWAY CONSTRUCTIONS**
- 6 Years -

COMPLETIONS

Congratulations to the following who completed their qualifications this month!

AIDEN-REECE ARGUS

Certificate II Timber Merchandising
Hosted to Woodhouse Timber Co.

JAMES LUCAS

Certificate II Timber Manufacturing
Hosted to Brisbane Crates & Pallets



A step towards self-regulation of the timber industry.

Purpose

"Industry Associations bring together individual businesses within an industry to form a body that represents and acts in the collective interests of its members. Membership often requires businesses to comply with certain standards and rules that promote ethical behaviour and maintain quality. Associations advocate on behalf of members to government and other key organisations and also provide education for members on relevant laws."

(Industry Associations & The Trade Practices Act, ACCC, 2010; accc.gov.au)

The repeal of the Timber Utilisation Marketing Act (TUMA) has expedited the need of industry to overcome its fragmented nature and begin to self regulate. The founding guidelines of behaviours that all within industry need to follow include all Australian Standards, building codes, the Trade Practices Act and the TABMA Queensland Code of Ethics.

The concept of self regulation of industry and the expectation of ethical practices as standard will only become 'business as usual' if sectors start communicating more, putting their 'money where their mouth is' and follow through with action and contribution.

These forums are not the answer, they are a starting point. Through communication we can evoke change and encourage ethical behaviours that benefit all of our industry!

Attendance & Agenda

All TABMA Queensland members are eligible to attend, contribute to agendas and discussions, and take action within their own businesses.

Please contact the TABMA Queensland office via phone 3254 3166 or email karen@tabma.com.au, to identify an issue for the agenda of our first meeting that you feel is relevant to discuss.



TIME:

9am to 12noon

VENUE:

Timber House
500 Brunswick Street,
Fortitude Valley

Merchants
Wholesalers
Manufacturers

Tuesday 8 March
Wednesday 9 March
Thursday 10 March



recruitment SPECIAL

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**For more information
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Deal Available to Full TABMA Queensland members only. Valid for recruitment process started prior to February 28, 2011.



COST SAVING & ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVE



Rocky Point Green Power located at Woongoolba in SE Queensland offers an alternative to land fill for non-treated timber waste. This waste is used to create biomass power to operate the plant, the neighbouring Sugar Mill, and also export additional capacity to the Queensland Electricity Grid. Utilising this facility may offer some cost saving benefits for your waste disposal in addition to bolstering your environmental credentials. Please consider the following, do your sums and see whether you can save some cash!

COSTS	REGULAR DISPOSAL	RPGP
Gate Fees at Disposal Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Levies (as at 1st July 2011) C&I* and C&D* Waste \$35/tonne C&I Lower Hazard Regulated Waste \$50/tonne C&I Higher Hazard Regulated Waste \$150/tonne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER BONUSES	REGULAR DISPOSAL	RPGP
Qualify for Green Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* C&I = Commercial & Industrial Waste
* C&D = Construction & Demolition Waste



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact **Tom Howat**,
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This initiative is supported by TABMA Queensland. Please consider if this waste alternative is suitable for your business.

