



Australian Government

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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An eNewsletter from Forest Industries Branch

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Plantation Tax Review

Submissions have been called for a review of plantation forestry taxation, announced in this year's Federal Budget.

Three Australian Government departments – Treasury, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Prime Minister and Cabinet – are conducting the review.

The review will examine the application of tax law to plantation forestry in the context of the Government's broader plantation and natural resource management policies and also consider:

- whether the Income Tax Assessment Act impedes investment in longer term forest rotations which produce higher value products
- the role of state and territory governments in plantation industry development – as investors, growers and land managers – and any implications for competitive neutrality on tax liabilities and incentives
- the capacity to adapt existing tax policies to further the Australian and state governments' desire to integrate plantation and natural resource management policies more to improve salinity and water quality management, and
- the relative roles and effectiveness of tax system and expenditure programmes in assisting the industry.

All submissions will be published on the Treasury website, www.treasury.gov.au unless correspondents request confidentiality.

The review is expected to report by the end of the year.

For further information contact:

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National Indigenous Forestry Strategy

A new strategy showing how Indigenous communities can play a role in forestry was launched by Australian Forestry Minister Ian Macdonald in Cairns in July.

The National Indigenous Forestry Strategy (NIFS) was developed by DAFF and ATSIC to encourage Indigenous Australians to become more involved in forestry activities by forming business partnerships with the forestry industry.

Business ventures could involve activities such as developing new forest plantations for timber to eco-tourism, wood crafts and bee keeping.

For further information go to www.daff.gov.au/nifs

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Australia in International Tropical Timber Talks

Australia participated in the recent third round of negotiations for a successor arrangement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994.

The Agreement is the umbrella under which the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) operates.

The negotiations held in Geneva in June and July did not finalise the successor agreement but approved more than 20 articles of the new agreement.

Since joining the ITTO in 1997, Australia has contributed to projects in the Asia-Pacific and helped advance sustainable forest management objectives in the region.

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XXII IUFRO World Congress

An international forestry congress held in Brisbane in August considered a wide range of issues, from climate change to illegal logging.

More than 2000 delegates, including forestry environmental and social scientists, foresters and commercial forestry operators, attended the 22nd International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was the principal sponsor of the congress, whose theme was Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology.

For further information go to www.iufro.org

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National Forest Inventory News



The latest edition of the Bureau of Rural Sciences' newsletter, National Forest Inventory News, is now available online at www.brs.gov.au/forests

It includes articles on the 2005 National Plantations Inventory, private native forestry, and a new set of publications on Australia's major forest types in the Forest Profile series.

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Forests at a Glance 2005



The Bureau of Rural Sciences has published a new pocket-sized booklet, Australia's Forests at a Glance 2005.

Produced by the bureau's National Forest Inventory, the booklet contains information on the values and uses of Australian forests, as well as facts on forest type, tenure, diversity and distribution.

You can download the booklet free from www.brs.gov.au/nfi or order a copy by phoning 1800 020 157.

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