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**SENATOR THE HON. ERIC ABETZ**  
*Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation*  
*Manager of Government Business in the Senate*

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## **New forest facts website launched**

A new website that will help educate young Australians and their teachers about the facts of sustainable management of Australia's forests was launched today by the Minister for Forestry and Conservation, Senator Eric Abetz.

The website was developed by the National Association of Forest Industries and the National Forest Education and Awareness Network.

"This online resource will make a valuable contribution to the education of young Australians," Senator Abetz said.

"It will also provide teachers with a central point of factual information on the management of Australia's forest resources and their important role in managing climate change.

"Importantly, it puts onto the world wide web more factual information about our world-leading, renewable forest management, to counter the various misleading websites run by the Greens and their associates.

"I congratulate NAFI and NFEAN for this timely development, one which complements the Australian Government's efforts to counter some of the rhetoric and misinformation about Australia's forest management practices."

Last week the Australian Government launched the *Australia: Sustainable Forest Management* information booklet and DVD to address overseas campaigns by some extreme green groups.

"Their aggressive and misleading campaigns are clearly designed to cripple Tasmania's renewable forest industry. They fail to acknowledge the environmental benefits of sustainable forestry and that significant areas of Tasmanian forests are already in reserves," Senator Abetz said.

"For example, a total of 47 per cent of the Tasmania's native forests are protected in reserves, including 80 per cent of all the old growth forest.

"I welcome both initiatives and the role they will play in providing the facts about Australia's enviable record of sustainable forest management."

The website is located online at: [www.australianforests.org.au](http://www.australianforests.org.au)

Copies of the booklet can be downloaded at [www.daff.gov.au/tcfa](http://www.daff.gov.au/tcfa)

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