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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Standing Proud on World Forestry day

Australia's timber communities (in fact *a//* Australians) can stand proud this World Forestry Day. Proud of the fact that our beautiful forests are continually benefiting from Worlds Best forest management practices, and appreciative of the wonderful sustainability practices employed by previous foresters and other timber workers for the last century or so.

I am proud to be able to boast the factual figures below, and am sure you will agree with me when I state "The vast majority of Australia's forests are well represented in reserves, and the remainder experience the benefits realized from employing the Worlds Best management practices", while at the same time providing significant employment and social benefit to all Australians.

- Australia has 149.4 million hectares of forest or 19% of Australia's land mass.
- Of this area 147.397 million hectares is native forest and 1.974 million hectares are plantations.
- Of the 147.397 million hectares of native forest only a gross area (including management reservations) of 9.4 million hectares, or around 6% is potentially available for management.
- On average across Australia 73% of all old growth forest is in reserves.
- Australia's forest industries directly employ 120,000 Australians, many in remote and rural communities. When you employ the flow-on effect, this equates to 840,000 real jobs.
- Australia's managed Native Forests and Plantations sequester about 46.9 million tonnes of CO2 per year, which is equivalent to around 7.7% of the total amount of Australia's National CO2 emissions.

So as we once again celebrate World Forestry Day we should be extremely proud of the massive contributions our extremely well managed forests (both private and public) make on a global scale.

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