



# **MEDIA RELEASE**



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## **FORESTRYSA SUPPORTS AUSTIMBER08**

**The South Australian Government through ForestrySA has been enlisted as the major sponsor for the international forestry and timber industry exposition 'AUSTimber08' to be held in Mount Gambier next year.**

AUSTimber08 will differ from previous AUSTimber expositions in that it will be extended by two days to include a conference, entitled "If only I knew" dedicated to promotion of careers in the forest industry.

Forests Minister, Rory McEwen, and Chairman of the Board of ForestrySA, Mr John Ross say ForestrySA is proud to be a major sponsor of the 2008 event.

"The staging of AUSTimber08 in South Australia's South-East will provide an opportunity to highlight the Green Triangle region" say Minister McEwen and Mr Ross.

According to Mr Ross a looming skills shortage is confronting every link in the forest industry chain and the emphasis on careers as part of AUSTimber08 will be a welcome innovation.

Chief Executive of ForestrySA, Mr Brian Farmer said ForestrySA recognises the importance of such conferences and exhibitions for education, and for demonstrating and exhibiting cutting-edge information and world class technology.

"ForestrySA welcomes the opportunity to assist the forest industry showcase the world's best technology and ideas for the enhancement of our industry" said Mr Farmer.

Previous AUSTimbers held in Albury in 2000 and 2004 attracted representation from 28 countries to over 300 outdoor and indoor sites, and involved over 3,500 accommodation nights in the host city.

More than eight thousand visitors are expected to attend AUSTimber08 contributing more than \$10 million to the Green Triangle economy.

The AUSTimber tradition was first established by the Forest Industries Machinery Exposition in 1972, giving the Forestry and Timber Industry an opportunity to

convene every four years for the sharing and gaining of knowledge, experience and technology.

It is an international exposition now owned and managed by the Australian Forest Contractors Association, run in conjunction with the Institute of Foresters, the Australian Sawmilling Industries, machinery suppliers and the forest growers in Australia.

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