



MEDIA RELEASE

24th November 2008

For immediate release

WOOD COUNCIL TO PROMOTE TIMBER TECHNOLOGY

A group of existing State Timber Industry technical bodies have agreed to pool their expertise and cooperatively rationalise their activities to concentrate on particular areas of expertise.

Timber Queensland, Timber Development Association New South Wales, Timber Development Association South Australia, Wood Products Victoria and the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board have signed an MOU to create Wood Council Australia, each member agreeing to concentrate on particular areas of timber technology and development as Centres of Excellence in those disciplines.

The proposed "Centres of Excellence" are as follows:

New South Wales – Fire and acoustics and post-consumer wood

Queensland – Codes, standards and regulations

South Australia – Advisory service

Tasmania – Design innovation

Victoria – Sustainability and Education

Wood Council Australia will be led by a Governing Council, comprising the Chairs of the member State Associations. The CEO's of the State Associations will form an Operating Council. Inaugural Council Chairman and the Chairman of TDA (NSW), John Simon, said today: "This initiative will reduce duplication and allow industry to get the best value for money by concentrating and building expertise in particular areas as "Centres of Excellence". While State-based technical associations will still deal with local technical issues, they will limit their national involvement to the areas agreed under the MOU".

Wood Council Australia has the support of National Associations A3P and NAFI as well as Importers, and expects to work closely with Forest and Wood Products Australia, State and Federal Governments and other industry groups to seek funding to underpin the core activities of these Centres of Excellence" John Simon continued.

It is expected that the Council will commence operation by the 1st January 2009.

ENDS

Photo available.

For further information contact:

John Simon – Wood Council Australia - Mobile: 0411 288843

Rod McInnes – CEO Timber Queensland - Mobile: 0419 704028