



National Association of  
Forest Industries



WOOD  
NATURALLY BETTER

## Media Release

18 June 2010

### **Wood waste biomass: an important part of a renewable green energy future**

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) is calling on the Australian Government and Opposition parties to get serious about renewable energy and fully recognise the opportunities provided by wood waste biomass in the Renewable Energy Target legislative framework.

“The current regulatory environment fails to fully recognise the use of biomass from forestry wood waste for electricity generation, effectively ruling out a resource that could reduce Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions by 3 million tonnes each year,” said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

“Not a single extra tree would be harvested as a result of the utilisation of wood waste from sustainable wood harvesting and processing operations for green energy, which is inherently renewable through the regrowth of the harvested trees.

We have heard a lot about the potential of wind and solar as renewable energy sources but what has been missing in the debate is the key role wood biomass can play in assisting Australia meet its renewable energy target and place the economy on a low emissions path.

“Australia is not keeping pace with the rest of the developed world in the use of wood biomass as a secure and cost-effective source of renewable energy. The European Union, Canada and USA generate a significant amount of electricity and heat from renewable resources; in Europe over two-thirds of this comes from biomass, most of which is wood waste from forestry.

“We would like to see the Greens support this as the use of wood biomass for electricity and heat generation is supported by many of their European colleagues, such as the WWF, where much of this wood biomass comes from sustainably managed native forests.

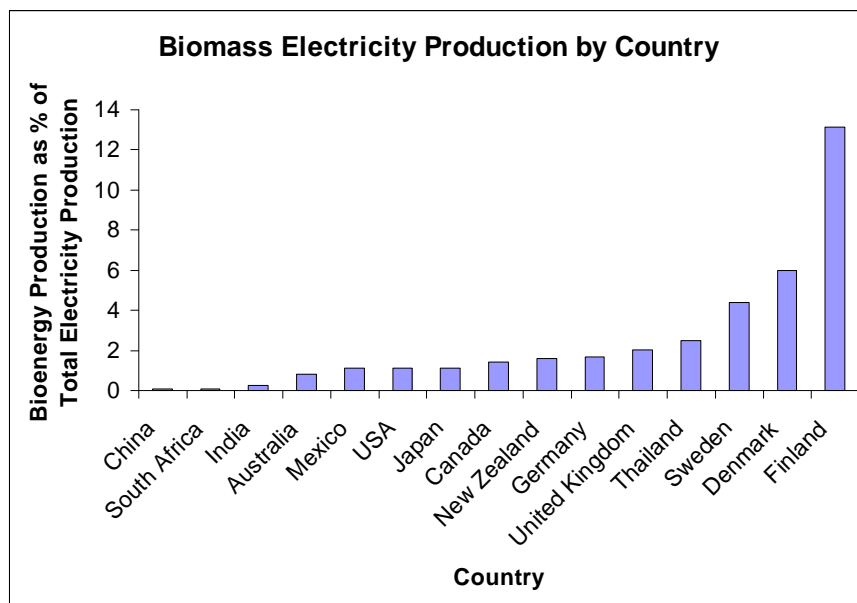
“Wood-waste based renewable energy could provide as much as 7 per cent of the Australian Government’s 2020 renewable energy target and generate an estimated \$800 million in direct investment and create 2300 sustainable jobs, many of which will be in rural and regional communities

“However, the RET scheme currently does not allow for this opportunity to be fully realised.

“Without amendments to fully include forestry wood waste the RET scheme will severely limit the ability of the forest industry to provide positive climate change outcomes and will have a negative impact on investment in renewable energy technology, innovation and infrastructure in Australia.

“NAFI will continue to work with the Australian Government and Opposition parties to ensure the renewable energy framework provides the best possible outcomes for Australia’s economy and environment.”

The following table demonstrates how Australia compares with other countries on the use of biomass electricity production.



Biomass electricity production by country (Data sourced from the International Energy Agency, [www.iea.org](http://www.iea.org)).

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#### **About the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI)**

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) is the peak national body representing the Australian forestry and forest products industries. NAFI represents companies, individuals and organisations involved in these industries and works with governments and other stakeholders to support its members, improve industry standards and practices, promote sustainable forest management and educate the community on the broader economic, environment and social benefits of a strong and vibrant forest industry.