



## Media Release

### Local Forester Admitted to National Register (170104)

Dr. Jim O'Hehir of Mount Gambier, South Australia, has recently become the first forestry professional in the Green Triangle region of Victoria and South Australia to be added to the national register of the Registered Professional Forester (RPF<sup>®</sup>) scheme. The RPF scheme is a national registration scheme that recognises professional expertise in forestry and is administered by the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA), the national body for forestry professionals.

Currently the Acting Green Triangle Roundwood Sales Manager, with plantation management corporation ForestrySA, Dr. O'Hehir said "The scheme provides a means to gain recognition for the skills you develop and the effort you put into maintaining those skills". Dr. O'Hehir has 19 years of experience in plantation management in the Green Triangle Region and received registration as a General Practising Forester including skills, knowledge and experience in Business Planning, Strategic Marketing, Management Systems, Forest Resources Management including growth modelling. Dr. O'Hehir also recently completed (2002) a PhD in the topic of "Growth and Yield Models for South Australian Radiata Pine Plantations" through the University of Melbourne. In order to be registered as an RPF, Dr. O'Hehir had to demonstrate he possessed a high level of expertise and up-to-date qualifications and experience within his nominated areas of forestry expertise.

President of the IFA, Mr. Ian Barnes said "Forestry professionals are people who understand forest ecosystems and trees, including plantations, and how they are sustainably managed".

"Registered Professional Foresters are forestry professionals of the future. They will provide quality assurance on forestry matters to companies, governments and private forest owners. The Institute is pleased to admit Dr. O'Hehir to the register as the first RPF<sup>™</sup> in the Green Triangle region of South Australia and Victoria" he said.

The RPF<sup>™</sup> scheme recognises specific areas of expertise in forestry and requires registrants to have up-to-date knowledge and skills through its requirements for continuing professional development. The RPF<sup>™</sup> scheme has been set up by the IFA to provide assurance of high standards in professional forestry and in the responsible management of forests, including plantations. The registration of forestry professionals is voluntary in Australia.

Further information on the RPF<sup>™</sup> scheme can be obtained from the IFA's website [www.ifa.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.ifa.unimelb.edu.au) or by contacting the Executive Director of the IFA, Mr. Adrian O'Loughlin, on 02 6281 3992.

#### Media Contact:

Mr. Adrian O'Loughlin, Executive Director of the IFA, phone 02 6281 3992.  
Dr. Jim O'Hehir phone 08 87242888