



MEDIA RELEASE

Foresters meet to talk (14/05/2007)

The Institute of Foresters of Australia will host the joint Australian and New Zealand Institutes of Foresters Conference at Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW from 3-7 June 2007.

The Institute President Dr Peter Volker said it was timely for foresters from Australia and New Zealand to meet, when forestry issues are receiving increasing prominence in national politics on both sides of the Tasman. "In Australia, it appears that forestry issues will be prominent in the forthcoming election debate, while in NZ there has been disquiet over the government claim on ownership of carbon resources as a consequence of Kyoto agreements."

The Australian and New Zealand Institutes of Foresters represent professional foresters engaged in forest management across a diverse range of government, industry and private forest ownership.

The Hon. Senator Eric Abetz, Australian Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation has agreed to open the Conference. Other key note speakers include Dr Bill Jackson, Director Global Programs, IUCN (the World Conservation Union) and Dr Morgan Williams, former New Zealand Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

The theme of the Conference is '*Growing Forest Values*'.

Dr Volker added "The theme reflects not only the economic value that forests contribute to society but also the increasing recognition of social and environmental values which contribute to our well being as a society. Foresters have traditionally managed forests for these values, but we must be more forthright in sending this message to the general community."

Australasian conferences such as this occur at four yearly intervals and provide the opportunity for Foresters across Australia and New Zealand to come together to learn about current and future directions of the profession. The Conference is aimed at enhancing forest management in both countries and to foster networking amongst forest professionals.

The program includes presentations from Australian, New Zealand and international speakers, and a range of relevant field tours.

For further information contact Dr Peter Volker, President of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, Ph: 0418 125 319

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Dr Peter Volker RPF, FIFA