



The Hon. Tony Burke MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Dr Peter Volker
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08 SEP 2009

Dear Dr Volker

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2009 about representation by the Australian Government at the XIII World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires.

The government acknowledges that the congress is a valuable international forum for stakeholders in the forestry sector. However, in view of the considerable demands upon it for engagement in international meetings at present, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry does not propose to send a representative to this year's Congress. Australia will, nonetheless, be represented by an official from the Australian Embassy in Argentina who will provide a report to the government. If, from the Institute's perspective, there are any particular sessions during the Congress that are important for the Australian Embassy official to attend, I would suggest you raise these with Department by contacting Mr Phil Townsend on 02 6272 5677.

The Department of Climate Change is the lead agency in the development of Australia's climate change mitigation policies. The forestry sector has been widely consulted in preparation for the December meeting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will have representation in the Australian delegation, including a staff member from the Forestry Branch.

I look forward to further collaboration with the forestry sector on the outcomes of important international forums, such as the World Forestry Congress and COP15. These forums will play a key role in achieving greater recognition of the climate change mitigation benefits of sustainable forestry.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

Tony Burke