



## Media Release | 23 June 2010

### **AUSTIMBER returns to Mount Gambier with a new site and new local committee**

AUSTimber is the biggest event of its type in the Southern Hemisphere and preparations for the 2012 event have commenced, with a new site in the forest secured and the appointment of a new management committee.

AUSTimber is an international forestry and timber conference and exposition, first held in Mount Gambier in 2008, following the successful staging of AUSTimber every four years in the eastern states. AUSTimber 2008 in Mount Gambier exceeded expectations and attracted 8,000 people from around the world to the region. AUSTimber 2012 is a 3 day event. Day one Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March is an international conference and days two and 3 Fri 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March are the international expo.

**New location** - in the forest, just 15kms from Mount Gambier's city centre. The decision to change from the 2008 site to a single site in the forest will provide attendees with a unique experience witnessing the latest technology operating in forest conditions. It will also reduce labour requirements for exhibitors and provide visitors with better opportunities to closely examine the products on offer.

**New local committee** - the management of AUSTimber 2012 will be undertaken entirely by local people. The 2008 event highlighted the need to make use of 100% local knowledge and expertise and to increase the size of the committee to bring together an international event of this magnitude. The new management committee comprises:

David Quill ..... General Manager  
Brian Farmer ..... Forestry SA major sponsor  
Barry Fennell ..... Director Australian Forest Contractors' Association (AFCA)  
Steve Witherow ..... Director, Tabeel Trading Pty Ltd  
Ian Tyler..... Site Manager  
Libby Ditcham ..... Administration Manager  
Karyn Roberts..... Client Services Manager  
Anne Hinkly-Tyler ..... Marketing Manager

David Quill, General Manager, AUSTimber, said *'Mount Gambier was awarded AUSTimber 2012 as a result of the magnificent support the community provided to*

*the first event. Everyone came together to make sure it was a success, from the forestry industries, local government, transport, hospitality, tourism and educational sectors, service clubs, sporting clubs, multicultural groups and volunteers. We are looking forward to a bigger AUSTimber in 2012, enhanced by the learnings from the 2008 event'*

**Brian Farmer**, Chief Executive ForestrySA said *'to keep the industry competitive and profitable we continually need to improve how we work and adopt new ideas and innovative technology. AUSTimber2012 will be an important part of our continuing improvement process. AUSTimber2012 will showcase ideas and opportunities for forest contractors, growers , the processing industry and the community.*

*AUSTimber2012 will be a great place to exchange ideas, see the latest in forestry technology in action in a forest setting, catchup with colleagues and associates from throughout Australia and internationally. ForestrySA is a significant part of an industry that generates more than 7,000 jobs and over \$700m each year.*

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**About AUSTimber**

AUSTimber 2012 is the largest forestry and timber expo in the Southern Hemisphere, showcasing the latest in technology, machinery, products and services for the industry.

AUSTimber 2012 will be conducted in a single location in the forest, only 15kms from the city of Mount Gambier, the centre of the largest plantation forest area in Australia. The Expo will be held over two days 30th and 31st March delivering a dynamic environment to experience the latest in precision forestry technology with live demonstrations, indoor and outdoor displays.

The Conference will be held on Thursday 29th March in Mount Gambier city with the theme 'Precision Forestry'. The conference will provide an opportunity to hear from experts – Australian and international – on all issues facing the future of forestry from seed to end markets.