



## Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia LTD

S:\Administration\EWPAAGeneral Correspondence 2010

February 4, 2010

*John Dorries*  
Free Trade Agreement Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade  
R G Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
BARTON ACT 0221

Dear Sir / Madam,

**re: Submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade re  
the Renewal of Negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement  
between Australia and New Zealand**

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia Ltd (EWPAAG) to briefly voice its position on the continued Australia – Malaysia Free Trade Negotiations.

By way of background, the EWPAAG represents plywood, laminated veneer lumber, particleboard, medium density fibreboard and veneer manufacturers in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Members of the Association produce approximately 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of product with a value over AUD1.5 billion and provides employment both directly and indirectly to over 10,000 people.

The EWPAAG wishes to voice its qualified support for the renewal of FTA negotiations with Malaysia. It is believed that the Malaysian market is a potential opportunity for Australasian producers but more importantly large Malaysian engineered wood product producers accessing a high quality, relatively low cost old growth tropical hardwood resource have potential to be a major threat to the Australasian engineered wood products manufacturing sector.

This said, it is the position of the EWPAAG that this potential threat to Australasian manufacturers must be mitigated by the continuance of a robust anti-dumping and countervailing system as a provision of the FTA to provide protection against potential anti-competitive behaviour and promote fair and equitable trade between the two countries.

In addition, an FTA between Australia and Malaysia should seek to promote mutual recognition of each Nation's product standards and conformity assessment mechanisms and provide for effective enforcement mechanisms to ensure that claims of compliance with each Nation's Standards remain factual and justifiable.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself should further information or clarification be required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Dorries', is written over a horizontal line.

Simon Dorries  
GENERAL MANAGER

