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December 12, 2006

Japan FTA Study Task force
North Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221



Dear Sir / Madam,

re: **AUSTRALIA / JAPAN FTA**

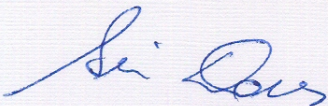
This letter is in response to the call for public submissions into the proposed Australia/Japan Free Trade Agreement.

The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAA) is a manufacturer's association representing manufacturers of Engineered Wood Products (Plywood, Laminated Veneer Lumber and other glued structural wood products) in the Australasian region. The EWPAA represents all major producers of plywood and laminated veneer lumber in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The EWPAA is currently a Registered Overseas Certification Body with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests. This enables the EWPAA to test and certify its members' products to Japanese Agricultural Standards providing greater access to the Japanese market.

The EWPAA has a very strong interest in the success of the Australia/Japan FTA and wishes to express the strong support of the Engineered Wood Products Industry for the development of the FTA. The FTA will only enhance the current export opportunities for EWPAA members and is key to the continued growth and success of the industry and the EWPAA strongly encourages the continued progress of the FTA.

I hope this brief letter has made the position of the Engineered Wood Products manufacturing industry very clear. To discuss this matter further I can be contacted on +61 7 3854 1228.

Yours faithfully,



Simon Dorries
GENERAL MANAGER