



Media release

The Hon Peter Walsh MP

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
Minister for Water

Monday 31 October 2011

New directors bring forestry expertise to VicForests

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Peter Walsh today announced the appointment of four new directors, including a new chair to the board of VicForests.

The appointments increase the level of practical expertise on the VicForests board, with three of the four new directors experienced in forestry-related industries.

“I am very pleased today to announce that Gordon Davis has been appointed to chair VicForests,” Mr Walsh said.

“Mr Davis has an outstanding track record in senior management at companies including Orica Mining Services and at AWB Limited, where he was appointed managing director in the wake of the Royal Commission’s investigation into the practices of the organisation.

“He was also employed as a forester with the Forestry Commission in Tasmania for about 10 years and has been the recipient of both the Commonwealth Forestry Prize and the Victorian Sawmillers Association Award,” Mr Walsh said.

Mr Walsh also welcomed Australian Foundation Investment Company board member Catherine Walter to VicForests.

“Mrs Walter has been on the audit committee of many other boards in the past, including National Australia Bank, Orica, James Hardie and WorkCover,” Mr Walsh said.

“She brings strong skills in the areas of law, remuneration, audit and business development, having practised law for 20 years in major city law firms, including as managing partner of Clayton Utz Melbourne.”

Mr Davis and Mrs Walter have already commenced in their roles, with two other new directors, Alison Posa and Graeme Stoney, to begin on November 19.

“From 2002 to 2010, Mrs Posa was employed by Kraft Foods, Australia and New Zealand, working as finance director and a member of the executive team from 2005,” Mr Walsh said.

“Between 1995 and 2000, Mrs Posa worked in finance and risk management roles for Fletcher Challenge Paper, which has pulp and paper operations in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and South America.”

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Mr Stoney joins the VicForests board having served as the State Member of Parliament for Central Highlands for 14 years, including four years as the shadow spokesperson for forestry.

He is currently honorary secretary of Farm Forest Growers Victoria, Mountain Cattlemen's Association executive officer and Mansfield Cultural and Arts Centre chair.

Between 2007 and 2009, Mr Stoney was also general manager of FFORNE Hardwood Co-operative which comprised 70 landowners growing 1700 hectares of native trees in north-east and central Victoria for high quality sawlog production.

Mr Walsh extended his thanks to the former VicForests chair Warren Hodgson and other departing board members Fiona McNabb, Susan Walpole and Monica Gould for their contributions and wished them well for the future.

Media contact: Stephanie Ryan 0488 441 820