Green Group’s Bogus Claims

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck, said it was time that green groups stopped trying to mislead the Australian community with false and anti-science claims.

Senator Colbeck said science showed that forests managed for production stored more carbon than native forests and had the greatest ongoing greenhouse gas benefits.

“You will actually store more carbon by managing forests and recognising that carbon is stored in timber products that come from our forests,” Senator Colbeck said.

“Over 200 years a managed forest can store up to twice as much carbon as a forest that is untouched for the same period.”

Senator Colbeck said a media release distributed by SEFR was an attempt to spread false information about the science behind carbon storage in forests and misleading statements about the Coalition’s forestry policy.

“The Coalition has no plan to exit native forest logging and does not support any further forest lock ups,” Senator Colbeck said.

“We will introduce new regulations to reverse the previous Labor government’s absurd decision to prohibit the use of native forest residues for the generation of energy and access to renewable energy credits. This will provide another revenue stream for the forest industry.”

Senator Colbeck said Australia’s forest and forest products industries had a key role in managing and storing CO2.

“Forests managed for production provide the greatest ongoing greenhouse gas benefits,” Senator Colbeck said.

As the Director General of the FAO said in the latest State of the World’s Forests report:

"..the best way of saving a forest is to manage it sustainably and to benefit from its products and ecosystem services. If the principles of sustainable forest management are applied and forest products and ecosystem services play an increasing role, the global economy will become greener."