# Australian Sustainable Hardwoods

Growth in Regional job opportunities for Australian Sustainable Hardwoods involves the removal of impediments to investment.

As a summary there are a number of impediments to the Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH) under taking major investment that would both boost economic activity and employment.

1. Security to invest. As we discussed in Heyfield, the ASH business is at risk of having the sawlog supply reduced or stopped through decisions of State Governments. This is a long recognised issue with a solution that is 95 per cent implemented. The last piece of the jigsaw is for the Treasury to sign off on the indemnity that would allow compensation to be payable in the event an act of Government reduces or stops supply.
2. Purchasing Policy. We still have the frustration of Governments (3 tiers) purchasing imported timber at a higher price and lower grade for Government projects. I think this is partly knowledge and partly care factor. If the local product is comparable on quality and price, surely it should be favoured over imported produced
3. When RDV partners with a business through providing a proportion of the investment capital, the project (and the benefits of the project) are generally brought forward. Reducing the availability of these partnering opportunities would be an impediment to major investment opportunities.
4. Availability of PLC engineers. The root cause of this issues is the availability of Regionally based PLC engineering programs.

Please note from your visit to ASH on February 5, 2015, I had written a note that RDV was to send through a tool kit of available support programs.

Vince Hurley

Chief Executive Officer