

Developing the Australian Pulp & Paper Industry

The Australian Pulp and Paper Industry is a critical industry in many ways.

It is largely based in regional Australia and supports entire communities, not just CFMEU members and their families.

It employs more than 5000 workers directly and tens of thousands indirectly.

It reduces the reliance on imported pulp and paper.

It draws its primary resources (timber) from sustainably harvested native forests and plantations, unlike many of the countries that flood Australia with cheap paper products.

The future of the industry is a key union concern. It's an issue that the CFMEU works on continually, with the aim of improving employment security for workers in the industry, both now and into the future.

Major union activities include lobbying companies and Federal, State and Local Governments over issues that affect the future of the industry. Issues like:

- * Access to adequate supplies of sustainably harvested timber;
- * The need for new investment in existing mills and in new regions across Australia;
- * Development of training systems, courses and packages to assist workers in doing their jobs;
- * Ensuring government buys Australian made paper and paper products.

New investment is harder and harder to come by. The fact is that the Australian Pulp and Paper Industry is a part of the global industry. Workers know this because increasingly they work for giant global corporations. Even some of the Australian based companies now do more business overseas than they do in Australia. Australia has to 'compete' for new investments with other countries.

Our union is committed to ensuring that new investment does not come to Australia at the expense of workers and their wages and conditions.