

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FIRST SHIPMENT OF GREEN TRIANGLE BLUEGUM PLANTATION WOODCHIPS**

Mitsui & Co., Ltd., Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd. and Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd., have despatched the first shipment of hardwood plantation woodchips from the Green Triangle Region of south western Victoria and south eastern South Australia.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, approximately 6,000 green tonnes of bluegum plantation woodchips were loaded onto the vessel, Sho Yoh, at Portland in Victoria. The vessel is bound for Nippon's Iwakuni Mill, which is one of the biggest pulp & paper mills in Japan.

Nippon will become the first Japanese paper manufacture to use bluegum plantation woodchips from Portland.

The shipment is a significant step forward in Mitsui and Nippon's plans to develop a viable bluegum export operation in the region. Construction of a facility at the Port of Portland capable of exporting in excess of 500,000 green tonnes per annum is expected to be completed by the middle of next year. Bluegum woodchip shipments from the Port of Portland will become more regular from next year.

Mitsui and Nippon have jointly established their own bluegum plantations in the Green Triangle Region. Additionally, they have actively invested in the development of bluegum plantation resources in the Green Triangle Region by entering into marketing contracts with private growers through the Green Triangle Treefarm Project (GTP), managed by ForestrySA. Mitsui and Nippon believe that long term marketing agreements are critical to underpin investments in bluegum plantations, and create an environment which encourages sustainable long term investment in the Green Triangle Region.

Parties interested in obtaining more information should contact:

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### About Mitsui & Co., Ltd and Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd.

In 1876, Mitsui & Co., Ltd. was established in Japan with the fundamental objective of promoting trade and economic development, and is one of the largest investment and trading house in Japan. Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd. is 100% owned by its parent company, Mitsui & Co., Ltd., and opened its first office in Sydney in 1909. Mitsui Australia's activities have expanded greatly to include investing and working with the public and private sectors in Australia, in areas such as iron ore, coal, gas, oil, machinery, food, salt, electricity generation and forestry. As of FY2003, Mitsui Australia is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest foreign owned company in Australia with revenue of \$3.6 billion.

### About Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd.

Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd is one of the biggest pulp & paper manufacturing companies in the world. Nippon operates 13 mills in Japan and has 11 associated mills overseas. Paper production in 2003 was approximately 5.0 million tonnes.

To establish the sustainable supply of woodchips, Nippon has been driving the "Tree Farm Initiative" in Australia, South Africa and Chile since 1991. By the end of 2003, Nippon had established and secured 79,000 hectare of plantation, placing Nippon well on the way toward the goal of more than 100,000 hectares by 2008. Nippon has already established and secured more than 60,000 hectares in Australia.

Nippon has begun exporting woodchips from its own plantations in Chile, Western Australia and South Africa.

In light of Nippon's commitment to environmentally sound operations, and for the purpose of ensuring sustainable procurement of wood chips, Nippon is working to ensure that 100% of the hardwood chips it procures will come from plantations and certified forests by 2008. Nippon is also working to obtain Forest Certification for all of its domestic and overseas forests and plantations by 2008.

15 July, 2004.