

Shareholders Asking Questions... 27.11.08



Woolworths held their Annual General Meeting in Melbourne on the 27th of November, 2008.

In its capacity as an interested and concerned shareholder, a representative of the **CFMEU Forest & Forest Products Division** attended the meeting and asked the following questions of the CEO and Group Managing Director, Michael Luscombe.

- 1. Woolworths has announced that its current contract for supply of Select Tissue Products has ended and the company will revise its tender criteria. Will the Managing Director please indicate to the meeting when that tender is expected to be completed?*
- 2. Woolworths has faced ongoing controversy over its Select Brand tissue products. This is because of evidence that the manufacturer – Asia Pulp and paper – is unsustainable because of its appalling environmental record, its regular failure to meet even Indonesia's terribly low labour laws, their constant abuses of the rights of indigenous people and their failure to meet their financial obligations. Will the Managing Director please outline to the meeting all of the steps that company is taking to ensure that it sources only sustainable paper products in the future?*

Michael Luscombe's response to both these questions was brief but did note that the tender process is due to begin in early 2009 and that 'ethical sourcing' is high on the agenda for this process. Ethical sourcing must address a range of criteria including legal compliance, international labour standards, forest certification and external review processes.

The **CFMEU Forest & Forest Products Division** has offered to meet with Woolworths in February, 2009 to discuss the development and progress of the tender criteria.

**Wake Up Woolworths! recommends interested parties contact
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