

5<sup>th</sup> June 2008

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Woolworths' Shareholders Try Change From Within



The *Wake Up Woolworths*\* Campaign will mark World Environment Day by writing to Woolworths' shareholders, requesting they ask the company to end the relationship with the disgraced Asia Pulp & Paper.

The spokesperson for the Wake Up Woolworths campaign, Tim Woods, said shareholders would also be asked to consider what form of shareholder resolution they would support at the company's 2008 AGM.

"Starting from World Environment Day, Woolworths' shareholders are being asked to take real action to end Woolworths' relationship with Asia Pulp & Paper, the world's least sustainable pulp and paper company." Mr Woods said.

"Asia Pulp & Paper has been accused for many years of widespread deforestation of Indonesia's rainforests, for the emission of millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases, for destruction of habitat for endangered species, for poor treatment of indigenous people and workers and even for the use of child labour in its forests.

"Woolworths knows APP is a disgrace and is damaging Woolworths' reputation. But instead of doing the right thing and dumping APP, Woolworths continues to stock the products under its own heavily promoted Select Brand label.

"*Wake Up Woolworths* is providing shareholders with detailed information<sup>#</sup> about Woolworths and its continued relationship with Asia Pulp & Paper. Shareholders can make a real difference by writing to the management and requesting them to permanently end the relationship.

"After almost a year in which Woolworths refuses to even meet with us to discuss the issue, it's time the owners of the company had a go at fixing this problem. We are also asking them to consider what form of resolution they would support at the 2008 Woolworths AGM if management has not changed its ways by then."

On World Environment Day – June 5<sup>th</sup> – Woolworths stores in WA, SA, Victoria and NSW will be visited by members of the *Wake Up Woolworths* Campaign team who will continue to advise consumers about APP, Woolworths and the Select Brand paper products.

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\* The Wake Up Woolworths campaign is funded primarily by the Pulp & Paper Workers' Branch of the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union

# Samples of the material being sent to shareholders are available on request

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## Wake Up Woolworths!

Woolworths has continued to use Asia Pulp & paper (APP) as a supplier after almost a year of revelations and intense scrutiny about the relationship.

Over the last year, because of APP, Woolworths has faced:

- Product withdrawals because of bogus ‘sustainability’ labelling
- Repeated newspaper advertisements exposing Woolworths and its supplier APP
- An ACCC enquiry that found Woolworths could not prove the claims made on its Select Brand tissue products labelling
- Serious questions about sustainability asked by shareholders at the company’s 2007 AGM
- Some of Woolworths’ own store managers boycotting the company’s own products
- Accusations that the company is involved in ‘greenwashing’ by refusing to label the Select Brand paper products with factual information
- The revelation from the Managing Director Michael Luscombe that Woolworths only “...wants to be seen to do the right thing”<sup>1</sup> on sustainability issues
- Increasing numbers of ‘at store’ protest actions across Australia, calling on Woolworths to end its relationship with Asia Pulp & Paper

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Luscombe, Lateline Business, ABCTV1, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008