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Media Release

Forest Products Commission employee national safe work finalist

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The Forest Products Commission's Safety and Training Consultant Bill Towie was recently announced as a National Australia Safe Work Awards finalist.

He is one of 30 individuals and organisations named in the premier national occupational health and safety (OHS) awards in Australia.

Last year Mr Towie, who has worked in the forestry industry for over 25 years, won the individual category of the WA Safety Awards.

He was recognised for his operational knowledge and passion for ensuring the safety of all staff and contractors leading to an increased safety and health profile within the Forest Products Commission.

In a media release (8 February 2008) Australian Safety and Compensation Council Chariman Bill Scales said the national awards promote continuous improvement in OHS by recognising excellence at the government, organisational and individual level.

"This group of finalists are a tremendous example of some of Australia's dedicated OHS ambassadors, who each and every day are committed to building, promoting and encouraging safer workplaces in Australia," said Mr Scales.

"When considering the high level of enthusiasm, initiatives and quality of award submissions received for these awards, it is important to remember why the efforts of the finalists and their dedication to improving the health and safety of their workmates are important.

"Over 140,000 Australians are seriously injured at work every year and more than 250 die as a result of work-related injuries. Many more die as a result of work-related disease such as mesothelioma."

The 2007 Safe Work Australia Award winners will be announced at Parliament House in Canberra on 28 April, 2008.

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