



**The Hon. David Littleproud MP**  
**Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck**  
**Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources**

**M E D I A   R E L E A S E**

12 September 2018

### **A billion new plantation trees—forestry’s plan for the future**

Australia’s renewable timber and wood-fibre industry will be better prepared for future challenges and opportunities with the support of the Australian Government’s National Forest Industries Plan – Growing a better Australia.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud and Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Senator Richard Colbeck today announced the release of the new \$20 million dollar plan.

“The goal of this plan is clear: a billion new plantation trees,” Minister Littleproud said.

“A key theme which came up during consultation was Australia will need to plant a billion new trees over the next decade to meet demand in 2050, particularly sawlogs for building and construction.

“The Coalition has heard this loud and clear.

“I’m also excited about the potential for jobs in Indigenous communities.”

Minister Colbeck said the delivery of the plan will underpin growth in the renewable timber and wood-fibre industry, provide the vision and certainty for Australia’s sustainable forestry industries, and support the sustainable forestry industries as long-term growth engines for regional Australia.

“The goal and the actions contained in the plan will provide industry with the certainty it needs to invest in its own future and be prepared for the many challenges as well as opportunities ahead,” Minister Colbeck said.

“But only through investing in the future can the forestry industry continue to build on its achievements to secure the economic and social wellbeing of Australia.

“That is why in this year’s Federal Budget, the government announced \$20 million over four years to 2021-22 to support the implementation of the plan. We will also continue to negotiate and implement improved 20-year rolling Regional Forest Agreements with relevant state governments.

#### **Media contact**

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“The plan will also support sustainable access to native forests to supply highly valued appearance grade wood products such as flooring, stair treads, furniture, boat building and architectural veneers and features.

“There are huge opportunities for Indigenous employment and we will be working with interested Indigenous communities to unlock potential timber supply and deliver economic returns to landholders.

“The forest industry is in a strong position to continue to grow and prosper, and the Coalition Government will be there every step of the way.”

The National Forestry Industry Plan – Growing a better Australia is available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry>

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