



# Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Funding delivered for Regional Forestry Hubs

The Liberal National Government has contracted the funding for the four initial pilot Regional Forestry Hubs as part of our National Forest Industries Plan – delivering this important element of the National Forest Industries Plan

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, said the Hubs will support growth in the industry, leading to more jobs in South West Western Australia, North and North West Tasmania, North East New South Wales and the Green Triangle region.

“The Liberal National Government has now signed agreements with each of the initial pilot hubs, with \$1 million to be allocated to each pilot hub over four years.

The Hubs are a central part of our National Forest Industries Plan to plant a billion new plantation trees over the next decade, with a focus on the right trees, at the right scale, in the right places.

Agreements have been signed with host agencies: Bunbury Geographe Economic Alliance (BGEA) (South West Western Australian Hub), Tasmanian Forests & Forest Products Network (TFFPN) for North and North West Tasmania, Timber NSW (for year 1) for North East New South Wales and Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub for the Green Triangle hub.

“North East NSW pilot hub, through Timber NSW, will receive \$250,000 for the first year as the Hub establishes a new representative body to drive future collaboration and investment, with the new body to then receive the committed funds for the Hub in due course.

“The World Bank has identified that global demand for timber will quadruple by 2050, driven in part by new products like cross laminated timber (CLT) and Cyrene, which are providing renewable alternatives to concrete, steel and petroleum.

“The Regional Forestry Hubs are about removing the barriers to growth in the industry and focusing on maximising the competitive advantages of our traditional forestry regions.

“Securing the future of Regional Forestry Hubs will help secure the future of forest industry and I look forward to rolling out the additional Hubs from 2020.

More information on the National Forest Industries Plan, including the pilot Regional Forestry Hubs, is available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/national-forest-industries-plan.pdf>

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