



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

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Forest industry grows for fourth year running

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, welcomed the continued growth in the forestry sector as outlined in the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) report released today.

Minister Colbeck said the forestry sector was experiencing a strong surge in confidence and was benefitting from regulatory certainty and growing global demand for sustainable product.

“The Australian forestry industry continues to provide more jobs, exports and sustainable products for Australian and global consumers,” Minister Colbeck said.

“The Coalition Government continues to enable a strong resurgence in the forest and wood products industry, with the industry growing 4.4 per cent to \$8.8 billion in 2016–17.

“The value of woodchip exports, in particular, has soared to a record \$1.3 billion in 2017–2018, a 6.1 per cent increase from the year before.

“Paper and paperboard exports also increased by 5.8 per cent to \$962 million, driven by a massive 33.9 per cent growth in the value of newsprint exports.

“Global demand for timber and timber products is projected to quadruple by 2050 and the Coalition Government has delivered a National Forest Industries Plan to take advantage of this, which includes the planting of a billion new trees over the next decade.

“The Coalition Government will also establish Regional Forestry Hubs based in leading production zones to drive strategic development and research opportunities in regional Australia.

“20 year rolling extensions to the Regional Forestry Agreements are providing long-term certainty across the country, with the Tasmanian agreement already signed and other states set to follow.

“Exciting opportunities also exist with the recent release of the national standard for the Forest Stewardship Council certification to go with our existing Australian standard of the ‘Responsible Wood’ certification.

“Consumers and communities can be confident that Australia’s forestry and wood products industry continues to grow as a preferred supplier of sustainable timber products both here and around the world.”

Australian forest and wood products statistics: March and June quarters 2018 is available here: www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/publications.

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