



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

Further \$2.5 million research investment to grow South Australian forestry

The Federal Liberal National Government and South Australian Liberal Government are providing \$2.5 million for the second round of research proposals to grow the future of forestry.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, said the investment through the Mt Gambier Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) will help boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits to Australia's forestry industry and South Australia.

"I encourage industry and researchers to work together to ensure proposals that will benefit Australia's strong forestry industry are submitted for support from the \$2.5 million investment available from the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation," Minister Colbeck said.

"We are seeking to support proposals that show innovation in areas such as new products in bioenergy, improving workplace safety and efficiency, and enhancing forest growth through health and genetic gains.

"The forestry industry sales and service in South Australia is worth nearly \$2 billion, contributing to Australia's overall forestry sales and service industry income of more than \$23 billion.

"Projects under round one in Mt Gambier saw nearly \$3.3 million in combined government, industry and research community funding for four projects, which include increasing the use of remote sensing for measuring forest inventories, tree health and nutrition and mapping weeds to improve productivity, wearable sensors to improve worker safety, and using remote sensing for early fire detection in forest estates.

"Global demand for timber products is expected to quadruple by 2050. To help meet this demand, we need to work smarter and sustainably. Under the Liberal National Government's National Forest Industries Plan, this second round of funding will help deliver world-class research.

“The plan is a roadmap to growth in Australia’s renewable wood products industry, and provides it with certainty and support.”

Applications for the second round of NIFPI research grants close 15 February 2019.

For more information, visit nifpi.org.au.

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