



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 million research investment to grow Tasmanian forestry

The Federal Liberal National Government and Tasmanian Liberal Government are providing \$2 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 this investment through the Launceston Centre of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) will help boost sustainability, jobs and economic benefits to Australia's forestry industry and Tasmania.

"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 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 and services, and opportunities to obtain more benefit from existing forestry resources.

"The forestry industry sales and service in Tasmania for solid timber, log and chip products is worth over \$389 million, contributing to Australia's overall forestry industry sales and service income of more than \$23 billion.

"Projects under round one in Launceston saw nearly \$5.5 million in combined government, industry and research community funding for nine projects, which include developing new appearance grade products from hardwood, increasing hardwood durability, improving harvesting operations in small scale plantations, using new technologies in hardwood timber drying, and developing collaborative and integrated pest management systems.

"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 our 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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