



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

Tony Pasin
Member for Barker



Tim Whetstone
South Australian Minister
for Primary Industries and
Regional Development

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

Delivering innovative forest research in Mt Gambier

Australia's forestry industries are set to benefit from more than \$2.4 million of new research through the second round of projects funded under the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) centre in Mount Gambier.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, and South Australia's Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone, congratulated the grant recipients and welcomed the benefits these projects will bring to Australia and South Australia.

"These projects will create jobs by driving forestry research and development in areas such as worker safety, carbon emission targets, design standards, biosecurity, fire detection, and genetics," Minister Colbeck said.

"The total value of these projects is more than \$5 million through a combination of Australian and South Australian Government funds, together with funding and in-kind contributions from industry and research agencies.

"NIFPI was an election promise which has been delivered by our Government and growing forestry research is a key part of our National Forest Industries Plan to plant a billion new trees over the next decade to meet surging demand.

"By delivering a strong economy the Australia Liberal National Government has been able to invest in forestry and scientific research to continue to create jobs and economic opportunities."

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone, said these projects provide exciting opportunities for the future of the South Australian forestry industry.

"Forestry is an important industry in South Australia and Mount Gambier is leading the way in research and development on Australia's plantation forests," Minister Whetstone said.

"Importantly, much of this research done in Mount Gambier will have national application—it can be applied to other forestry regions across the country.

“These projects build on the research being undertaken by those funded through round one.”

Member for Barker, Tony Pasin, pointed to the long history in plantation forestry and the invaluable local knowledge.

"All of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation projects are driven by the needs of the forestry industry. The industry and scientists are undertaking these projects in partnership and are building on the knowledge and the research and innovation capacity of the south east," Mr Pasin said.

Launceston NIFPI projects will be announced soon.

Find out more about the successful NIFPI recipients and the round two projects here: www.nifpi.org.au

Fast Facts:

- **The Australian and South Australian governments are contributing more than \$2.4 million to these successful projects – which is being matched by funding and in-kind contributions from the forestry industry and research agencies.**
- **The establishment of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation, and its regional centres in Mount Gambier and Launceston, was a 2016 election promise**
- **The Australian Liberal National Government is providing \$4 million toward the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation with matched funding by the Tasmanian and South Australian state governments (\$2 million each), as well as by industry.**

The successful projects are:

Applicant	Project Title	NIFPI Funding Approved (\$)	Total Project Budget (\$)
Australian Forest Products Association	Development of best practice guidance for protective guarding of mobile plant used in Australian forests	40,000	80,000
Edge Environment Pty Ltd	Development of a timber industry sector framework for setting carbon emissions targets using the Science Based Targets initiative	75,000	203,206
University of South Australia	Options for Operating Efficiently and Sustainably within Forest Water Licence Rules	55,000	102,000
University of South Australia	Characterising softwood sawn products in Australia	1,025,847	2,252,660
University of South Australia	Development and implementation of forest health and biosecurity systems and protocols based on quantitative pest risk and economic impact assessment	530,000	842,989
University of South Australia	Scoping an Automated Forest Fire Detection and Suppression Framework for the Green Triangle	100,000	206,539
CSIRO*	Closing the forest yield gap	155,000	470,575
Southern Tree Breeding Association Inc.	Development of state-of-the art genomic resources for pine breeding to enable single-step genomic selection	427,000	925,070
Total Investment		2,407,847	5,083,039

* Joint Application with Launceston Centre - funding amounts are for Mount Gambier Centre only

Media contact

Colbeck: Felix Ellis, 0457 517 734

Whetstone: Sara Bray 0402 465 349

Pasin: Charlotte Edmunds 0402 343 753