

MEDIA RELEASE

22 September 2016

Softwood Industry Strategy: Launch at WESPINE SAWMILL

The Forest Industries Federation has welcomed the announcements made today by the Forestry Minister the Hon Mia Davies to invest \$21 million in pine plantation establishment over the next 5 years.

“The foundation of our whole industry is trees. Without plantations local pine processors would not be able to operate. So maintaining the resource base is the first essential step in maintaining the industry. Forest Industries Federation Executive Director Melissa Haslam said today.

“Reinvestment in the state owned pine plantations is something FIFWA has been seeking for several years and today’s announcement is a fantastic step in the right direction for our industry.

“It is important not to underestimate the value of the plantation industry to the Western Australian economy. Over 3,400 people are directly employed by the industry and many thousands more are indirectly employed.

“Jobs are generated through growing, harvesting, transporting, treating and processing timber.

“There is already significant investment in plantation processing facilities in Western Australia including, the Wespine sawmill which produces sawn timber for the construction industry, the Wesbeam LVL plant which produces high strength engineered construction timber and Laminex, the largest particle board manufacturer in Australia which produces cabinetry and benchtops, to name a few. All of these significant local manufacturers are reliant on the pine plantations for their future.

“Today’s announcement was an acknowledgement of the value of the plantation industry to the Western Australian economy and a commitment by the State to the future of the industry”. Ms Haslam said

FIFWA’s aim is to continue to build the plantation estate to ensure an adequate supply of timber to support investment in local manufacturing and to meet future demand which is forecast to grow.

Melissa Haslam
Executive Director
0439 917 665

FOREST INDUSTRIES FEDERATION WA INC
U1 Abridge House, 5 Turner Ave BENTLEY WA 6102, Phone: 08 9472 3055.