

Media Release



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AFPA SA welcomes \$3,3m funding for Mt Gambier forestry institute

GOVERNMENTAL and industry funding of \$3,3m to Mount Gambier's National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) has today been welcomed by the SA branch of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA).

"The funding is a welcome boost for new research projects which could see our region benefit in many ways, including the creation of new products, services and jobs," AFPA SA branch manager Leon Rademeyer said.

"Of importance it that the research will be of value nationally since it would be applicable to plantation regions across the country."

Mr Rademeyer said the \$3,3m was part of nearly \$9m in combined funding for Australia's first two NIFPI centres located in Mount Gambier and Launceston respectively. The Launceston centre will benefit from a total of \$5,5m for research projects.

He said Federal Government was providing \$4m towards the funding with \$2m each from the state and Tasmanian governments. The rest was from the broader industry, including research agencies.

"Mount Gambier's new projects will focus on advanced remote sensing, worker safety, forest water use and forest management," Mr Rademeyer said.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the region to further establish itself as an innovation leader to the benefit of Australia's forestry industries and the communities they form part of."

Mr Rademeyer said in addition to this first round of funding for Mount Gambier and Launceston, Federal Government has announced the establishment of at least another two NIFPI centres under its National Forest Industries Plan which is good news for the national industry.

Ends

AFPA represents forest growers, harvesters, and manufacturers of timber and paper products.

Media Contact: Joe Prevedello (AFPA Communications Manager) or Leon Rademeyer (SA Branch Manager)

Joe (m) 0497 497 005 (e) joe.prevedello@ausfpa.com.au or Leon (m) 0437 958 929 (e) leon.rademeyer@ausfpa.com.au