

EWPA MEDIA RELEASE

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\$86m grants program to plant a renewable future

Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) welcomes the Federal Government's announcement today of \$86 million in grants for investment in new production tree plantings across Australia, to supply much-needed timber to our renewable industries while supporting jobs and regional communities.

EWPA's Chief Executive Officer, Gavin Matthew said, "This is a smart long-term investment by the Federal Government and timely recognition that our renewable wood product industries reduce emissions, store carbon, and manufacture essential products to build new homes and businesses. We urge State and Territory governments to co-invest in a renewable future by working with industry and the Federal Government to support the establishment of new timber plantations across Australia,"

"Wood fibre is a sustainable biological resource that produces renewable wood products, including an increasing range of innovative engineered wood products, used in the construction of new homes and businesses. Investing in new production trees and the associated manufacturing supply chain also provides many social, environmental, and economic benefits,"

"Using renewable timber sourced from plantations, our industries manufacture many innovative and essential products that should be recognised as preferred building materials in a low emissions future," Mr Matthew concluded.

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** **About EWPA.** Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) is a member association for manufacturers of a broad range of engineered and solid wood products located throughout Australasia, including Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea.*

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