

Media Release

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\$9 million Solid Wood Initiative announced

A newly formed cross-Tasman partnership between Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and the New Zealand forestry industry will drive research into the development of better quality and higher yield solid wood timber in both countries.

One of the most important aims of the \$9 million Solid Wood Initiative (SWI) is to generate further profitability for the industry by developing sawmill processes that deliver better performing structural timber to customers whilst also reducing energy, kiln emissions and water use.

A joint initiative between FWPA, NZ Foundation for Research Science and Technology, NZ processors, NZ growers and North American forestry company Weyerhaeuser Ltd, the research will build on the highly successful Wood Quality Initiative (WQI).

FWPA will contribute \$2 million over a five year period to the research, allowing Australian and NZ researchers to create mill ready technologies that improve products and profit margin.

The objectives of the research are three-fold:

- Identify more efficient ways of manufacturing better performing structural products
- Produce better performing appearance grade products
- Significantly reduce kiln emissions, energy and water consumption in timber drying

Ron Adams, FWPA Chairman and the managing director of Wespine, is confident the study will deliver on its objectives.

“Importantly, this research represents a great opportunity for both countries to combine expert industry resources and ultimately drive profitability through the production of better quality and higher yield solid wood timber.”

Managing Director Ric Sinclair adds, “Our investment represents a leverage of 10-1 in terms of industry contributions and ensures strong engagement with the Australian industry throughout the entire research process.

“Significantly, it also provides our members who are sawlog levy payers with access to new research and intellectual property that not only relates to solid wood activities, but to all work completed under the Wood Quality Initiative.”

For further information regarding the Solid Wood Initiative visit www.fwpa.com.au.

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Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA)

FWPA is an industry services company whose work within the forest and wood industries includes investment in innovative research and development with the main aim of improving the competitiveness and sustainability of the industry. The organisation undertakes industry activities where its collective approach delivers more effective outcomes than individual action