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MEDIA RELEASE

Young forestry research scientist wins Forest and Wood Products Australia Award

Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) congratulates James Kondilios who has been announced as one of the winners of the 2019 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, run by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).

This year ABARES awarded 14 young agricultural researchers a share in \$330,000 worth of grants, with the forest and wood products award funded by FWPA.

James Kondilios was recognised for research on *Eucalyptus globulus*, which will help identify breeding materials for future plantings that are purposely selected to perform best under potential climate change models.

Kondilios stated, "We actually want to have a major industry impact. [The climate] is a really big problem that humanity is going to face... I want to be at the forefront of it."

FWPA's Managing Director, Ric Sinclair, said Kondilios' win highlights the value of young scientists and up-and-coming industry leaders.

"It's encouraging to see so many emerging scientists working on important industry projects with an eye to the future.

"I'm confident tomorrow's leaders in forestry will not only advance industry, they will also provide immense benefits to help the industry adapt to potential climate change scenarios.

"Forest and Wood Products Australia extends a huge congratulations to James," said Sinclair.

Sponsoring the award aligns with FWPA's commitment to supporting research and development within the forest and wood industry.

"We are proud to invest in our future scientists and will ensure that they have the ongoing support of FWPA," said Sinclair.

The 2019 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be formally presented to the 14 winners at a gala dinner on 5th March as part of ABARES 2019 Outlook Conference in Canberra.

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