



TIMBER NSW

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An economically, socially and environmentally sustainable timber industry.

Media Release

Roadmap Offers Clear Support for the NSW Forestry Industry

The NSW Timber Industry welcomes the announcement today by the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, of the *NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap*, a strategic action plan for the future of the state's timber industry.

The Roadmap comes as the role of timber in the NSW economy becomes increasingly central: as a sustainable, renewable resource to meet the growing demand for affordable housing; for the innovative and diverse applications for cellulose fibre and other bio-products; and for its key role in the carbon economy.

Timber NSW President Andrew Hurford said, "The Roadmap provides us with the regulatory certainty we've been seeking. It will give the NSW timber industry the confidence to move forward, innovate and attract investment over the long term.

"Most importantly, as the NSW population grows, it will allow us to work with the construction industry to supply local timber to meet the growing demand for affordable housing, which is predicted to be over 660,000 new homes by 2031. Inevitably Sydney and other regional centres will continue to grow and we need to be prepared. A reinvigorated, innovative hardwood and softwood timber industry will also be well placed to play a leading role in the cellulose economy, with new products such as CLT (cross-laminated timber) just the start of exciting innovation in the sector."

The Roadmap is an important step towards consolidating a stronger, more competitive and sustainable timber industry in NSW, one that has been operating for over 150 years.

Timber NSW General Manager Maree McCaskill said, "As a major employer in NSW - over 22,000 people are currently employed - the timber industry applauds the Roadmap's objective of creating 30,000 new jobs in regional NSW. We will work with government to provide training and opportunities in the sector and continue to make an important contribution to the wider primary industries sector."

The NSW timber industry is the most highly regulated timber industry in the world, with significant protections afforded to the native forests and their fauna and flora. Both government and industry are committed to continuous improvement of forest health, which in turn provides a diverse and flourishing ecosystem.

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