



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 2pm, Monday 25 July 2005.
Attention Chiefs of Staff, News Directors.

Australia's position as a world leader in forestry science has been strengthened today with the launch of the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry by the Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation Senator The Honourable Ian Macdonald.

"The CRC is uniquely positioned to assist the national forest industry in developing a profitable and ecologically sustainable future," said CRC for Forestry Chief Executive Officer, Professor Rod Griffin.

Representatives from all major science, industry and government organisations involved with the forestry industry in Australia converged on Hobart today to celebrate the launch, and to discuss research priorities for the new CRC.

"CRC partners manage the majority of the nation's hardwood forest resources, and their collaboration with leading universities and the CSIRO will really make a difference in this industry," Professor Griffin said.

"An important role for the CRC will be to provide a source of knowledge for all stakeholders in the forest industry that will broaden the available options for forest management," he said.

"Research by the CRC for Forestry will focus particularly on plantation-grown hardwood for higher-value pulp and value-added products," he said.

The new CRC will have headquarters at the University of Tasmania in Hobart and receive \$26.6 million from the Commonwealth Government's Cooperative Research Centres Programme and \$57 million cash and in kind contributions from partners over the next seven years. The CRC is an active cooperation between researchers, industry and government.

Building upon the pioneering work of two previous forestry CRCs – the CRC for Temperate Hardwood Forestry (1991-1997) and the CRC for Sustainable Production Forestry (1997-2005) - the new CRC for Forestry will focus upon new technologies, innovation, value-adding, efficiency and competitive advantage; as well as landscape issues and community engagement.

"I would like to congratulate everyone who has worked to get the CRC for Forestry up and running," said Professor Griffin.

"We're looking forward to a fruitful collaboration over the next seven years," he said.

For more information:

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