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Forest Industry supports critical road funding for Tumut timber industry precinct

Key Forestry Industry representatives met with State Liberal Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire today to discuss the implementation of the \$70 million upgrade of Gocup Road, announced by the NSW Government at the end of February.

Representatives from Carter Holt Harvey, Hume Forests, Hyne Timber and Visy joined the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Mr Ross Hampton at Gocup Road in Tumut to examine the plans for the upgrade.

Mr Maguire said, "A fully upgraded Gocup Road, including extra climbing lanes and major widening works, will do wonders for regional transport and freight in south western NSW, notably between Tumut and Gundagai."

The forest products industry supports more than 5000 jobs in the south west slopes of NSW. World-class companies including Visy, Hume Forests, Hyne Timber, Carter Holt Harvey, and the Forestry Corporation of New South Wales, as well as many private forest owners, have established their operations in the region on the strength of its natural resources and its community support. Together, they provide thousands of sustainable jobs and flow-on economic benefits.

Mr Ross Hampton said, 'The Tumut region is at the centre of one of Australia's most vibrant plantation forestry regions, producing high quality logs, sawntimber, manufactured paper, waste paper and forest residues that are delivered, processed and exported along the region's roads each year.'

The NSW Government will invest the \$70 million dollars over the next five years, starting with \$8.6 million before the end of this financial year, to complete the full upgrade of Gocup Road.

AFPA represents forest growers, harvesters, and manufacturers of timber and paper products.

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