

Media Release



1 June 2017

70 million reasons to celebrate launch of National Forestry Planting Day

The planting of around 70 million trees this winter officially starts today, with the official launch of National Forestry Planting Day to mark the start of the planting season for Australia's forestry plantations.

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) today launched the inaugural day to highlight the mammoth and unheralded task that the plantation industry undertakes every year of planting enough seedlings every winter to cover an area equivalent to 136,000 football fields, or more than 2 seedlings for every Australian.

Co-convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products – Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Joel Fitzgibbon MP and Member for Barker Tony Pasin MP – marked the launch with pine seedlings in front of Parliament House (download images from launch here <http://bit.ly/2rNxxn0>).

AFPA Chairman Greg McCormack said the annual event will be celebrated on 1 June every year to mark the start of the seedling planting season across Australia's plantation estates.

"Australia's plantations provide more than 80 per cent of the wood fibre and timber for our national forest product industries, which provides 120,000 direct jobs along the whole supply chain – many of them in regional Australia," Mr McCormack said.

"Every year, our plantation estates grow enough timber to build the equivalent of 60,000 new houses, and that's only possible because of the massive re-planting exercise they undertake every winter."

Australia's forest industries are recognised internationally as truly sustainable and managed to world-class standards. The forest products industry is based on a renewable biological resource that contributes to long-term carbon emissions abatement.

National Forestry Planting Day will be an annual opportunity to raise awareness about the plantations industry's contribution to our environment and economy.

National Statistics

	Trees planted annually in plantation estates*	Football Fields planted annually*	Houses worth of wood grown annually*
NSW	11.2 Million	22,400	8,900
VIC	15.5 Million	31,000	13,500
QLD	7 Million	14,000	5,300
SA	8 Million	12,200	5,100
WA	14.9 Million	29,800	13,800
TAS	12.4 Million	24,800	11,400
NT	900,000	1800	881
ACT	230,000	460	178
TOTAL	70.1 million	136,460	59,059

*Assuming the industry standard of 1000 trees per hectare; two football field equals one hectare; and 12 cubic metres per house.

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

Media Contact: Bernadette Cording
AFPA Communications Manager
(m) 0409 962 250 (e) bernadette.cording@ausfpa.com.au