

Media Release



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Tickets SOLD OUT for forest industry's night of nights

The biggest event on the forest industry calendar has sold out, with about 450 tickets purchased for AFPA's Industry Gala Dinner to be held at the Great Hall at Parliament House on 12 September.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton described the high-profile event as a key opportunity for forest industry representatives to network and hear first-hand from Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and Members of Parliament. Forest Industry leaders are particularly looking forward to discussions with the federal members of Parliament who are also members of the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products. The co-convenors of this vital group are the Member for Barker, Mr Tony Pasin and the Member for Hunter and Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joel Fitzgibbon.

"The fact that both the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten will be attending this event is testament to the importance of the forest products industry and its significant contribution to Australia's environment, innovation, job creation, community well-being and economic development," Mr Hampton said.

"This is an industry which contributes about \$22 billion to the economy each year. When one includes the full value chain such as truss and frame making, this industry is responsible for about 120,000 direct jobs – many in regional Australia."

"This is an exciting time for the forest industry and we will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to further contribute to climate change policy and Australia's innovation agenda.

"On the night we will also be recognising leaders in industry through the 2017 Forest Industry Innovation Awards. The three awards are: Innovation in Safety, Innovation in Training and Innovation in Business. The winners in each category will win a \$1000 cash prize and a beautiful timber trophy."

ABC Radio National journalist Ellen Fanning will host the evening.

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

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