

Media Release



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Governments waste no time in supporting innovative energy project

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) welcomes the joint Federal and Victorian governments' announcement of funding to support Australian Paper undertaking a full-scale feasibility study into a major waste to energy project in Victoria's Latrobe Valley.

The Federal and State governments have each committed \$2.5 million which has been matched by Australian Paper for a total of \$7.5 million in funding towards the innovative waste to energy project. If the project proves to be feasible, it is estimated it will divert around 650,000 tonnes of existing landfill waste in south east Victoria and convert it to baseload energy, saving up to 500,000 tonnes of CO₂-e each year.

AFPA CEO, Mr Ross Hampton, said it was good news for the Latrobe Valley community and would underpin new manufacturing and construction jobs and increased economic activity.

"Australian Paper is a major employer in the region, an innovative manufacturer and a key part of the forest industry value chain in Victoria that supports tens of thousands of jobs," Mr Hampton said.

The forest products industry is Australia's sixth largest manufacturing industry, and a greater uptake of bioenergy and waste to energy projects in Australia's energy mix would not only reduce forest product industries' significant energy costs – it can also make a major contribution to Australia's secure baseload energy supply and emissions reduction efforts.

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

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