

Media Release

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Australian forest industry leaders descend on Canberra for Gala Dinner

Almost 500 forest industry leaders are making their way to Canberra for AFPA's Industry Gala Dinner – the biggest event on the industry calendar – being held at the Great Hall at Parliament House tomorrow night from 530pm.

AFPA CEO Ross Hampton says the high-profile event is an opportunity for forest industry leaders to hear first-hand from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers and MPs about key policy priorities and developments within the renewable forest, wood and paper industries.

“This is the night of nights for the forest industry. We will be talking about plans for the growth of our industry and building on the already significant contribution to Australia's environment, innovation, job creation, community well-being and economic development,” Mr Hampton said.

“The forest industry contributes about \$23 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 communities around Australia.”

“In terms of innovation, the forest industry is leading the world in adapting leading-edge technology to ensure sustainability and underpin competitiveness. These are achievements that should be suitably recognised.”

“We have lots to celebrate, as we are also announcing the winners of the inaugural 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.”

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

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