



Thursday 6 February 2020

## **Forest industries welcome Minister Littleproud back to the Agriculture portfolio**

Australia's forest industries congratulate the Hon David Littleproud MP on being appointed Minister for Agriculture.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), Ross Hampton said, "Minister Littleproud takes on this most important portfolio having already had experience in the role and has a great knowledge of the issues affecting agribusiness and regional communities across Australia including our renewable forest industries."

"In 2018 Mr Littleproud launched the Government's national forest industries plan, pledging a range of measures to deliver over the next ten years, including establishing one billion new production trees to provide the vital timber resource we need to secure our forest industry jobs into the future."

"AFPA is confident we have a strong advocate for the thousands of regional Australians who are part of our renewable forest industries, making a living from growing, harvesting, replanting, hauling, timber processing and pulp and paper manufacturing, and those who use Australian timber products, The Ultimate Renewable."

"That's especially important right now as industry, and many of the communities which rely on it, face a massive recovery and rebuilding task following the devastating bushfires."

"We are confident Minister Littleproud will hit the ground running, using his previous experience in the portfolio, and backed by the great work done by outgoing Minister for Agriculture Senator Bridget McKenzie."

"AFPA stands ready to work with Minister Littleproud, the Assistant Minister with responsibility for Forestry and Fisheries, Tasmanian Senator Jonathon Duniam, and the Morrison Government to grow our forest industries and recognise timber as The Ultimate Renewable."

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