

MEDIA RELEASE

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Wood Products Policy Signals the Way Forward

Support for New Zealand's wood processing and manufacturing industry, as proposed in the National Party 'Forests for a Strong Economy'¹ policy will advance New Zealand's economic and sustainable future.

"New Zealand's wood industry is one of the few sectors able to promote regional growth, strong communities, and environmental benefits," says the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA) Chief Executive, Mark Ross.

The National Party policy carves out initiatives such as implementing a scheme under the Emissions Trading Scheme making carbon values available to wood processors, introducing a streamlined consenting process to establish new wood processing facilities, and facilitating growth in our export markets for value-added wood products.

"As a major industry in New Zealand we are at the forefront of delivering economic growth, long-lived carbon storage and emissions reduction," adds Ross. 'Having a high-ranking Minister for Forestry (incl. wood) will also be a critical component to driving the industry forward'.

A strong domestic wood processing sector will benefit foresters, processors, contractors, manufacturers, and the building sector. This increases employment, investment in our regions, and helps meet our climate change emissions targets.

Creating and selling our wood product story, plus working closely with policy makers and the wider industry to encourage greater support and investment will provide the opportunities to lift growth in the wood processing and manufacturing sector.

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About WPMA

WPMA represents over 65 companies involved in the wider wood processing and manufacturing industries, including sawn timber, pulp and paper, panels, engineered wood products and biomass. Our vision champions wood processing and manufacturing as the core to New Zealand's economic growth, regional development, and environmental protection.

¹ <https://www.national.org.nz/forestsforastrongeconomy>