

## 2023 National Conference

WPMA held their National Conference on 27 April 2023 - thank you for your support.

There has been a fabulous response to the conference with positive comments regarding the content of the programme, presenters, sponsors, venue and the overall standard of professionalism achieved.

The ability to network again with the industry after such a long hiatus was paramount and not to be underestimated.

Excellent presentations were well received, and their Bio's can be found [here](#)

Speaking at the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association Conference Hon Peeni Henare announced a new \$57 million fund that will enable the Government to partner with wood processors to co-invest in wood processing capacity to create products like sawn structural timber and engineered wood. Wood Processing Growth Fund (WPGF).



Hon Peeni Henare

Unlocking the potential of the wood processing sector, growing our economy and contributing to New Zealand's climate change response is the aim of a new fund announced by Forestry Minister Peeni Henare today.

"We want to process more logs onshore, help move our forestry sector from volume to value, lift our economic performance and resilience and create high-wage jobs in our regions," Peeni Henare said.

In 2021 wood product manufacturing plus pulp and paper contributed around \$3.8 billion to New Zealand's GDP and wood processing manufacturing alone makes up around 40% of this figure. It is estimated that this funding support will see \$500 to \$650 million of additional GDP over the life of the fund's investments.

The fund will support:

- greater domestic processing of wood to help meet our climate change goals as wood products store carbon and delay CO2 being released back to the atmosphere

- increased onshore processing that produces sawmilling residues which are a feedstock for low-carbon biofuels and bio-products
- a boost in producing high-value wood products in New Zealand that will help us achieve our climate change goals.

Applications for the Accelerator and the Catalyst **funds open on 3 July 2023 and closes on 17 July 2023**. For more information about how to apply, click [here](#).

It was a privilege and honour that the Minister and his wife returned in the evening to join us for dinner. He had been greatly impressed with the calibre of delegates attending, the capability and expertise of their companies and wanted to gain more of an overall understanding, in a relaxed atmosphere.

The evening was concluded with an inspirational presentation from Olympian [Eric Murray - MNZM](#).

Thank you to our sponsors for your support

