

Plantation timber building Australia

TIMBER INDUSTRY PRESS RELEASE

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Timberlink Tasmanian Sawmill – successful grant to support ongoing improvement program

Timberlink Australia are pleased to announce that their application for a grant under the Australian Government Innovation and Investment Fund (Tasmania) has been approved. On Wednesday 11th March, the team at Timberlink welcomed The Hon Ian MacFarlane MP, Minister for Industry and Science and Andrew Nikolic AM CSC MP, Member for Bass to their Tasmanian sawmill at Bell Bay in Northern Tasmania, where the certificate of the grant was presented to the site.

The Bell Bay sawmill will use the grant funding to invest specifically in the log sorting infrastructure. More specifically, the project involves the expansion of log sorting capacity allowing batching of logs into their similar diameter classes, allowing a more optimal cutting pattern to be applied sawmill's current log input. The site current processes approximately 400,000m³ Radiata pine logs per annum with a particular focus on outdoor treated products, particularly their outdoor structural products, known as Timberlink Green™, which is used extensively across Australia in outdoor projects such as decks, patios and pergolas. The log diet at Timberlink's Tasmanian sawmill is unique in Australian in terms of access to pruned log resource which makes for superior appearance large end section material for outdoor structures.

Already employing a significant amount of people in the region, Timberlink are committed to ongoing training and upskilling of these 182 employees along with strategic investment in additional roles as the business expands. The process change will require the log debarking and sorting infrastructure to be run on a 3-shift basis rather than the 2 shifts run currently, this will lead to providing three new jobs.

Timberlink Australia, a national softwood products manufacturing business, applied for the grant under merit criteria set out in the grant scheme including but not limited to; proven capability in capital improvement projects and financial and engineering capability to deliver project co-funding and project execution.

“Given there are always competing priorities for funds in any business, this aspect of Timberlink's re-investment program would not be proceeding without the co-funding under the grant scheme”, said Timberlink's CEO, Mr Ian Tyson.

This improvement project represents ongoing investment by the new Timberlink owners since they acquired the softwood sawmilling assets of Gunns back in February 2013. The Timberlink business has reinvested more than \$5m in its Tasmanian facility alone since relaunching the business two years ago. This latest project, to be managed over the remainder of this financial year and into financial year 2016, will involve a total additional \$620,000 investment in their log yard area specifically.

This overall reinvestment program will be co-funded 3:1 Timberlink to Government funds. Timberlink's proven track record in capital improvement projects with respect to cost & time management make the business a reliable low risk partner in this grant agreement execution.

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About Timberlink

Timberlink (www.timberlinkaustralia.com.au) is a leading national timber products manufacturing business. The business has two sawmills at Bell Bay (Tasmania) and Tarpeena (South Australia) that manufacture Australian grown plantation pine, national sales and distribution teams based in Perth, Adelaide, and Melbourne, and a sales team based at the Bell Bay mill. Timberlink produces fit-for-purpose indoor and outdoor structural timber for Australian new homes and renovation projects. Aligning the Timberlink business with the forest resources enables the company to have a long-term committed approach to its business and customers.

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