

MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud visits Bell Bay with Kevin Hogan MP

On Friday the 5th of October Timberlink welcomed the Hon David Littleproud MP and Kevin Hogan MP to its Bell Bay mill to see firsthand how further investments could help generate jobs and growth in Northern Tasmania.

Timberlink recently announced a generational \$100m investment program at its Australian mills in Bell Bay, Northern Tasmania and Tarpeena in South Australia that will see the total processing capacity of the sawmilling company increase by over 15%.

“The plantation timber industry is vital to regional Tasmania and it is great to see an Australian manufacturing business make an investment of this size,” Minister Littleproud said.

MP Kevin Hogan was also delighted, stating that he was “impressed by the outstanding commitment shown by Timberlink in Tasmanian sawmilling.”

The investment will also see the creation of 90 jobs in the construction phase and 6 new permanent full-time positions at our Bell Bay mill.

Timberlink’s EGM of Sales, Marketing & Corporate Affairs David Oliver was able to show the MPs the \$15m of investments already made in the mill since the company’s takeover in 2013. “The level of technology in this mill is absolutely outstanding, it’s a world class facility that is only going to get better,” said Minister Littleproud.

The minister was particularly interested in the ongoing investment in training and upskilling of Timberlink’s employees, as the level of skill required to operate the complex machinery increased as the technology advanced.

At Timberlink’s Bell Bay site in Tasmania, new planer mill equipment will be installed along with a state-of-the-art contraflow kiln. Site infrastructure will be improved, including a new internal road system designed to improve safety outcomes and support the increase in site activity

Engaging with the Bell Bay staff, the minister stated that “It’s fantastic to see the focus of safety and the level of investment to back up that rhetoric.”

He went on to state that the sizeable investment was “great news for regional Australia,” securing the 1,350 direct and indirect jobs around the country, of which 650 are in Northern Tasmania.

The \$100 million investment program will take place in stages over the next 3 years.

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About Timberlink Australia | New Zealand

Timberlink (timberlinkaustralia.com.au, timberlinknz.co.nz) is a leading Australasian timber products manufacturing business. The business has three sawmills at Bell Bay (Tasmania), Blenheim (New Zealand) and Tarpeena (South Australia) that manufacture plantation structural pine products. Timberlink has sales and distribution teams based in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne and sales teams based at the Bell Bay and Blenheim sawmills. Aligning the Timberlink business with forest resources enables the company to have a long-term committed approach to its business and customers. Timber manufacturing is a carbon negative industry. For every cubic metre of dry finished timber produced, 631 kg of carbon dioxide is drawn from atmosphere and retained in the timber over its entire lifetime.

Timberlink is owned by investment funds managed by New Forests, a sustainable real assets investment manager headquartered in Sydney. Founded in 2005, New Forests manages approximately AUD 5 billion in assets under management across 940,000 hectares of forests and land in Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, and the United States. Learn more at www.newforests.com.au