

MEDIA RELEASE



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TIMBER COMMUNITIES REJOICE WITH PENOLA PULP MILL APPROVAL

Timber communities in the Green Triangle are rejoicing with the announcement that the Penola Pulp Mill has been given the green light today said national grassroots organisation Timber Communities Australia.

“Congratulations must go to Protavia and the Rann Government for their foresight, investment and confidence for the forest industries and communities within the Green Triangle”, said Mrs Kersten Gentle, South Australian State Manager of Timber Communities Australia.

“Communities such as Penola, Nangwarry and Mount Gambier will see increased employment, increased population as families relocate to the region for work and all of this will boost school numbers, boost business income and generally boost the regions economy”, Mrs Gentle said.

“Managed Investment Scheme (MIS) forestry companies have invested heavily into the region over the past decade and the Penola and Heywood Pulp mills will provide downstream processing which makes the Green Triangle Australia’s leading plantation region”, Mrs Gentle said.

“The Victorian and South Australian State Labor Governments have shown their support for a viable plantation sector through their approval of the Heywood & Penola Pulp mills which will invest \$1.3 billion into the Green Triangle. All we need now is for the Federal Government to stand by MIS forestry companies during the MIS taxation review and not change the current arrangements, which could be devastating for the long-term viability of these great projects”, said Mrs Gentle.

“Surely with the announcement of two pulpmills in the Green Triangle, the Federal Government can see that investment into plantations in Australia is important. Surely they can see that it is not only the investors that benefit but all timber dependent communities”.

“Communities within the Green Triangle now call on the Federal Government to put the icing on the cake and announce no changes to the current MIS tax rules providing long term security for the plantation industry and downstream processing businesses”, concluded Mrs Gentle.

For further information please call:

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