

## WILSON TUCKEY

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR O'CONNOR

31/08/2006

### HOWARD GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$3,854,187 IN LOCAL INVENTION

A clever invention is a step closer to the market place today following the latest round of Australian Government innovation grants.

Member for O'Connor, Wilson Tuckey today announced local company Lignor has received \$3,854,187 to help develop its groundbreaking new process to create Engineered Stand Lumber, utilising Australian hardwood timbers.

Lignor is the first company in the world to use stranding technology to produce engineered wood products from hardwood eucalypts. Patents have been applied for worldwide for the stranding of eucalypt trees.

Mr Tuckey congratulated the company on its success, saying the Government was committed to helping businesses like Lignor take the important steps that turn bright ideas into great commercial products.

"Lignor's project is a good example of a clever Australian idea that just needs some extra help from the Government to make it to the marketplace," Wilson Tuckey said.

"This support is important to our local economy because innovative companies, like Lignor, and the products and services they develop, hold the key to future job, export and economic growth." Lignor was awarded the funding under the Howard Government's Commercial Ready program.

Mr Denison, Managing Director of Lignor Ltd thanked Minister Tuckey for his ongoing support of Lignor. "The grant will assist us in further research into refining products which have significant overseas and domestic markets. To commercialise a process and create new products requires intensive testing which has been completed so far overseas. This comes at a cost however, we are confident that with the extra funding assistance we will be able to service the demand for hardwood engineered products from the Albany plant".

"According to latest ABS figures, Australian Business Expenditure on Research and Development (BERD) has increased for the sixth consecutive year, reaching a record level of \$8.4 billion in 2004-05" Mr Tuckey said.

"The Howard Government is supporting this achievement with a range of carefully targeted innovation programs and I encourage local O'Connor companies to apply for funds."

Businesses interested in applying for assistance can access more information at [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au) or by calling 13 28 46.

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