



- MEDIA RELEASE -

SENATOR THE HON. ERIC ABETZ
Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and
Conservation

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

New forests need private sector investment

Australia's future new forests would depend on private sector investment, Forestry and Conservation Minister Senator Eric Abetz said today.

Senator Abetz was speaking at the launch of a new book, *New Forests — Wood production and environmental services*, which received \$130,000 through the Farm Forestry Programme of the Natural Heritage Trust.

New Forests is a culmination of work and research from Ensis – (the joint forces of CSIRO and Scion) and the University of Melbourne addressing issues that arise when growing trees in agricultural landscapes with low rainfall and which are often affected by salinity.

“The Australian Government has long recognised the social, economic and environmental benefits of new forests,” Senator Abetz said.

“That is why the Government supports *Plantations for Australia: the 2020 Vision* to create a sustainable plantation resource of 3 million hectares by 2020.

“To achieve the target of 3 million hectares by 2020, we need to establish new forests outside the typical high-rainfall zones where most of our plantation estates are located.

“The concept of the right tree, in the right place, at the right time contributing to meeting our natural resource management targets is one that I support.”

However, Senator Abetz said the scale of investment required for new forests went far beyond the capacity of the public purse.

“We will only obtain private investment if the prospects for profit are attractive,” he said.

“To achieve this, we are going to need a vast knowledge of products, markets and risks.

“The compilation of research in this book is a great example of what is needed for better informed decision-making.”

Copies of *New Forests — Wood production and environmental services* are available from CSIRO Publishing, www.publish.csiro.au

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