



Plantation forestry — growing tress *and* rural communities

A new report has highlighted the important economic and social contribution plantation forestry makes to rural and regional economies.

Launching *Plantations, Jobs and Investment in Regional NSW* today (Thursday March 31) at the Bombala State High School, Australian Forestry and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said the report examines the contribution forestry companies like Willmott Forests make to communities in south-eastern NSW.

“Forestry, and the associated processing and value-adding facilities, provide important opportunities for rural and regional communities,” Senator Macdonald said.

“The Centre for International Economics (CIE) report found that Willmott’s spent over \$1 million in 2003-04 on local services and goods, and its operations contributed \$8 million to the local economy.

“This represents a significant investment, and clearly illustrates the important economic and social contribution plantation forestry makes to rural and regional economies.”

Senator Macdonald said the report backs the strong commitment the Australian Government has made to plantation forestry.

“The Australian Government’s *Plantations for Australia: — The 2020 Vision* strategy is helping to maximise the benefits plantation forestry, and the associated processing facilities, make to economic and employment growth in rural and regional Australia,” he said.

“The Vision enhances regional wealth and the industry’s international competitiveness by sustainably increasing Australia’s plantation estate.

“The CIE study confirms that private forestry companies are also making a vital contribution to regional investment and growth.”

Plantations, Jobs and Investment in Regional NSW is available on the Willmott Forests web site — <http://www.willmottforests.com.au> — under the ‘News Section’.

While in Bombala last night, Senator Macdonald attended the Industry and Community dinner at the RSL auditorium.

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Media Release