

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BUDGET DELIVERS HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN FORESTRY**

The NSW Government will invest more than \$70 million to support an innovative, sustainable, and thriving forestry industry and support the many people who work in the industry around the State, Minister for Lands and Forestry Paul Toole said today.

The NSW Budget 2018 delivers a forestry package of \$71.8 million over four years to support an industry responsible for employing more than 22,000 people.

It represents a substantial increase in support for the forestry sector and comes at a time that the NSW Government is delivering once-in-a-generation forestry reforms.

“The \$2.4 billion NSW forest and wood product industry is an economic driver for the regions and we are pleased to be delivering this support for jobs,” Mr Toole said.

Investment in the forestry industry will include:

- \$24 million investment in plantations through Forestry Corporation NSW to increase supply;
- \$34 million for a concessional loan scheme to drive mill innovation;
- \$9.2 million for world-class forest mapping and monitoring; and
- \$4.6 million to support training and accreditation for forestry contractors.

“This is a comprehensive package of investment in the industry that will underpin a sustainable industry for years to come, supporting regional jobs and communities,” Mr Toole said.

The Budget allocates \$21.8 million for Crown land reforms, including implementation of new legislation, and \$15 million for the Public Reserves Management Fund.

“This fund provides grants and loans to reserve trust managers for the development, maintenance and improvement of public reserves for the benefit of local communities,” Mr Toole said.

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