



MEDIA RELEASE

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Forestry industry training coup

A collaborative approach has allowed the Green Triangle forestry industry to attract almost \$290,000 for training in identified skill-shortage areas.

The Federal Government initiative will fund 48 timber industry-related qualifications within the region, as part of the government's Productivity Places Program for Existing Workers.

The recent funding announcement is the product of a successful ForestrySA funding submission, which was completed with industry support to benefit the entire local forestry sector.

As part of the program, employers will contribute just 10% of course fees to train existing workers, while the remaining 90% will be paid by the Australian Government, through the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

The Logging Investigation and Training Association (LITA) will provide training for certificates in forest growing and management, training and assessment, forest operations, sawmilling and processing and harvesting and haulage.

TAFE SA will provide training for horticulture (wholesale nursery) certificate training.

Training is scheduled to begin in early 2010.

ForestrySA Chief Executive Mr Brian Farmer said ongoing training and development was a critical part of ForestrySA's business.

"The support of both the Australian and South Australian Governments is much appreciated, particularly in times when business conditions are financially challenging," Mr Farmer said.

Green Triangle Forest Products Managing Director Mr Laurie Hein said the funding complemented recent developments in the region's forestry sector.

"Announcements regarding future industry infrastructure development and forestry asset consolidation set the scene for forest industry recovery and growth," Mr Hein said.

"Training and development are crucial to realizing this outcome. We welcome this funding announcement."

LITA Manager Mr Andy Cusack said the funding would allow his organisation to provide new training within the Green Triangle.

“It will give us a critical mass – the opportunity for increased training and upskilling of existing workers,” Mr Cusack said.

TAFE SA Regional Mount Gambier Campus Business Development Manager Mr David Meziniec said TAFE SA was delighted to take part in the program, which would help upskill the region’s timber industry workforce.

“The project will have a significant impact on the local forestry industry and TAFE SA is very pleased to be contributing its expertise in horticulture,” Mr Meziniec said.

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