

18 March 2025

Media Release

Future timber and lumber trade with India takes a positive step forward

Signing of a new Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) for forestry between New Zealand and India as part of the Prime Minister's delegation visit to India this week is welcomed by the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of NZ (WPMA).

'As we look at rebuilding our forestry exports to India, it is important that we develop strong relationships with key Indian agencies' said Mark Ross, Chief Executive of the WPMA 'Connecting on values and demonstrating a clear focus on mutually beneficial areas of interest will be critical to the Indian Government opening the door to a longer-term trading relationship in forestry products, such as timber and lumber, with New Zealand.'

In contrast to what should be happening, New Zealand wood and forest product exports to India have decreased from a high of \$326 million in 2019 to an estimated \$76.5 million in 2024. Although export opportunities remain for a range of timber and lumber products, the bulk of the export volume and receipts have previously been driven by India's demand for New Zealand logs.

"With a recent ruling from the Indian government stipulating that federal housing schemes include 'a greater mix' of wood, there are new opportunities opening, for example, in the Indian residential market for our sustainable wood products," says Ross, 'Under brand New Zealand we have a leading story to tell as to the value our timber and lumber products have in addressing climate change and sustainability challenges, which reflects the direction of the Indian government'.

The MOC lays the groundwork for co-operation on areas such as sustainable forest management, research and innovation, capacity building, and certification. WPMA look forward to seeing the opportunities raised within the Memorandum of Cooperation take shape as a means of further developing our future export of timber and lumber products to India.

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WPMA – who we are:

WPMA is an industry membership association representing companies involved in the wider wood processing and manufacturing industries, including sawn timber, pulp and paper, manufactured and engineered wood products, along with bio-forest products. Our vision champions wood processing and manufacturing as the core to New Zealand's economic growth, regional development, and sustainable environment.