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## Media Release

### Wood Processing and Manufacturing incentive package announced by Government

Incentivising investment and growth within the wood processing and manufacturing industry is part of the Government's plan that was announced by Forestry Minister, Hon Todd McClay at Mystery Creek Field Days this morning.

The government strategy put forward by the Minister includes working with the industry to increase onshore wood processing, opening new and improving access to existing trading markets, easing burdensome regulations, enabling and supporting the development of new and innovative wood products, adjusting investment settings and supporting New Zealand's climate change goals.

'With only 40 percent of New Zealand's harvested trees processed within New Zealand this announcement by the Minister provides a positive way forward to grow our domestic processing, create more jobs in the regions and increase our export revenue through producing high quality value-added wood products,' said Mark Ross, Chief Executive of the wood processors and manufacturers association.

'To meet this growth, it is important to ensure there is a sufficient pipeline of suitable logs to support domestic wood processing', said Ross, 'we can only secure future log supply by working closely across the supply chain with our industry partners such as the NZ Forest Owners Association'.

'Wood processing and manufacturing's success is critical to rebuilding New Zealand's economy, boosting our GDP and providing regional jobs in a highly productive sector.' In the last financial year wood products export value totalled \$2.95 Billion and the domestic value \$2 Billion, with 38,000 people employed throughout the industry.

The Government's vision to grow the wood processing and forestry sector includes:

1. Spurring economic growth through jobs and exports;
2. Delivering low emission solutions and products;
3. Supporting land use resilience, adaptation, biodiversity & social benefits; and
4. Providing carbon removals to support climate goals.

Specific initiatives for wood processing and manufacturing announced this morning include mandating resource consenting for new and established site developments to a 1-year maximum, removal of unnecessary barriers for using New Zealand wood products, opening export markets for wood products, and development of a scheme that recognises the critical role Long Life Harvested Wood Products play in the storage of carbon.

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