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PRESS RELEASE

National's Commitment to Growing Value-Added Wood Processing supported by the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of NZ

The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA) welcomes the National Party's forestry and wood processing policy[1], particularly its commitment to doubling value-added timber exports, increasing the use of wood in construction, and strengthening workforce development.

The policy reflects many of the priorities our sector has consistently advocated for, including creating greater value from the trees we grow and supporting increased domestic wood processing and manufacturing.

We are encouraged by commitments to develop a NZ Pine brand and expand international market opportunities for New Zealand's wood products. These initiatives align strongly with our objective of growing exports of higher value manufactured timber products and increasing returns to the wood processing sector.

WPMA strongly supports policies that ensure timber and wood-based solutions are considered early in government procurement and project design. Providing greater consideration for New Zealand made wood products creates a more level playing field and recognises the important role timber can play alongside other construction materials in delivering sustainable building outcomes.

Workforce capability remains critical to the future success of our industry and we welcome commitments to strengthen vocational training pathways, industry led qualifications, and skills development across wood processing.

We are also pleased to see recognition of the need to investigate opportunities to increase the supply of pruned logs. Higher quality log supply is an important foundation for increasing domestic processing, producing higher value products, and maximising the value recovered from every tree harvested.

As we head towards the election, WPMA's focus will be on ensuring these commitments translate into practical outcomes, regardless of which parties form the next Government. Our priority is to see policies that drive greater demand for New Zealand made wood products, support investment in domestic manufacturing, and create more jobs in regional communities. We look forward to working constructively with all political parties to realise that potential.

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[1] https://www.national.org.nz/policies/forestry

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 paperboard, 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.

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