

TIMBER QUEENSLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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New chance for Mary Valley: Forestry Minister visits world-class operation with big growth plans

Minister John McVeigh, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will see first-hand the secure jobs and major investment delivered by Superior Wood's Imbil and Melawondi sawmill and manufacturing plants when he visits the Mary Valley today.

Rod McInnes, CEO of peak industry body Timber Queensland said the Minister's visit highlights the vital contribution the hoop pine timber industry makes to the local economy.

"The last five years have been pretty tough for the Mary Valley so a world-class manufacturing business with big growth plans is a new chance for the area," said Rod McInnes.

"Export opportunities are improving for this Australian native plantation grown timber as people around the world discover that it's an excellent building product," he said.

Superior Wood purchased the Imbil softwood sawmill, kilns and dry mill facility and sophisticated low temperature drying, high technology chop line and remanufacturing facility in Melawondi in October 2013, offering stability to the 110 people already employed.

Superior Wood Director Skene Finlayson said the business is ramping up production both domestically and internationally.

"We've got export contracts with China, Vietnam, Japan and Taiwan," said Skene Finlayson.

"Opportunities are becoming available in other parts of the world, including the USA again, as some markets start to improve," he said.

Mr Finlayson said Superior Wood is on a mission to be the very best hoop pine sawmilling and value adding operation in the world.

"Major investment is just about to flow with state of the art value adding equipment ordered to compliment the excellent infrastructure the previous owners laid down."

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