



An Australian Government Initiative

AusIndustry™

BUILDING BUSINESS · POWERING PRODUCTIVITY

Fact Sheet · Plantation Manufacturing Innovation and Investment Fund

The *Plantation Manufacturing Innovation and Investment Fund (PMIIF)* is a merit-based grants program that supports the implementation of the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement between the Australian Government and the State of Tasmania signed on the 2 May 2013.

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement the parties agreed to work together to support the Tasmanian forest industry to progressively transition to a more sustainable and diversified footing, to build regional economic diversity, community resilience and to deliver important conservation benefits.

The *PMIIF* will provide support to industry for the introduction of innovations, new technologies and investment to transition to greater use of hardwood plantation timber in Tasmania.

The *PMIIF* will provide up to a total of \$15.8 million in grant funding over the period 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. There is a minimum grant amount of \$50,000 for all proposals.

What projects are eligible?

The *Fund* will support investment in new Tasmanian activities, innovations and technologies, including plant and equipment, focused on solid and reconstituted hardwood plantation wood manufacturing to broaden the timber industry and to increase demand for hardwood plantation timber in Tasmania.

For the purposes of *PMIIF* 'Tasmania' is defined as the whole of Tasmania.

Grant funding will not be provided for retrospective activities. Collaborative or joint applications are acceptable, provided they have a principal applicant who is both the lead project proponent and an eligible applicant.

Project funding must be expended by 30 June 2016 when the *PMIIF* closes. Where projects continue after 30 June 2016, the applicant must demonstrate that the final stages can be carried out without any further grant funding.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be incorporated, and must engage in trading or financial activities that form a substantial or significant portion of their overall current activities. All applicants are required to have an Australian Business Number and be registered for the GST.

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Individuals;
- trusts; however, an incorporated trustee can apply on behalf of a trust provided that the Commonwealth is satisfied that the incorporated trustee will remain sufficiently liable for the performance of any agreement it signs;
- Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies and bodies (including government business enterprises); or
- Entities that do not comply with State or Commonwealth law, such as *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999*.

How do I apply for the program?

Applicants must complete the *PMIIF* Application form which is available online at www.ausindustry.gov.au or from the AusIndustry Hotline 13 28 46. ***PMIIF* opened on 3 August 2013. The *PMIIF* closes at 5pm AEST on 1 November 2013.** Directions on how to apply are set out in the *PMIIF Customer Guide*.

How will an application be assessed?

AusIndustry will evaluate each application in terms of its eligibility. If eligible, AusIndustry will then assess the application and determine the strengths and weaknesses against the Project Merit Criteria as follows:

- The degree to which the project will enable transition of the industry to a greater use of hardwood plantation timber;
- The level of net economic benefit the proposed project will bring to Tasmania, including:
 - the number of sustainable jobs;
 - new investment and innovation; and
 - the positive impact in regions adversely affected by the downturn in the forestry sector;
- The applicant's demonstrated capacity to successfully undertake the project, including the skills, experience and resources to which it will have access;
- The applicant's demonstrated capacity to provide matching funding for the project of at least 1:1; and
- The value for public money offered by the project as measured by the extent to which the project will be unlikely to proceed without funding support.

AusIndustry's assessments of eligible applications will be provided to the *PMIIF* Advisory Committee which will provide recommendations of applications to be supported under the program. The *PMIIF* Advisory Committee will comprise a

representative from the Australian Government and three other representatives, at least one of which must be an independent member of the Tasmanian business community. Funding will be approved by the Minister of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research or the Minister's delegate.

What will a customer be asked to do if successful?

Successful customers will need to sign a Funding Agreement in order to receive grant funding. The compliance and reporting requirements for customers will be set out in that agreement. A sample copy of the Funding Agreement is available on the AusIndustry website www.ausindustry.gov.au.

Further information

For further information about the Plantation Manufacturing Innovation and Investment Fund, please contact the AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46 or email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au. Alternatively, see the AusIndustry website at www.ausindustry.gov.au.

If you wish to discuss your application, please contact AusIndustry's Hobart office on (03) 6230 9900 or the Northern Tasmanian Regional Manager in Launceston on (03) 6331 4183 or email: aitas@innovation.gov.au.