



12 January 2018

Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Innovative timber specialist prepares first export shipment, reflective of strong export data

A Tasmanian fine timber craftsman is about to dispatch his first international export of new special timber products, manufactured with the help of a Liberal Government innovation program.

This comes as statistics released by the ABS this week show that Tasmania's International Merchandise Exports in the year to November 2017 increased by 22.9 per cent to \$3.24 billion.

There has been high demand for quality Tasmanian products from overseas markets, including forest products, seafood, and agricultural products is reflected in the positive ABS statistics released for November 2017.

Tasmanians are experiencing the benefits of a strong majority Government, and the first term of the Hodgman Liberal Government has overseen more than 10,000 jobs created, business confidence reaching record heights, and Tasmania's budget returned to surplus.

Craig Howard and Son received a \$100,000 grant under the Liberal Government's Wood and Fibre Processing Innovation Program to upgrade processing equipment at the Geilston Bay business.

The new equipment enables more efficient production of specialist 3-4mm 'thick veneer' wood products, which increases the value of the special timbers he uses by as much as 500-600 per cent.

This week Craig is sending his first export shipment of the new product for use on furniture and doors to Malaysia. This is a great example of innovative business, supported by the Liberal Government, creating high-value products which are in demand nationally and internationally.

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government has set a target to double the forest, fine timber and wood fibre industry value-add to \$1.2 billion by 2036, and it is innovative businesses like Craig Howard and Son that will help achieve this goal.

Contact: James Billing

Phone: 0438 399 989