

# Southern Tree Breeding Association

Generating increased profits through innovative genetic solutions



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## NATIONAL GENETIC RESOURCE CENTRE TO BENEFIT AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY INDUSTRY

The Green Triangle region is set to further establish its credentials as a centre for plantation forestry innovation and development with a National Genetic Resource Centre (NGRC) to be established near Mount Gambier.

The Southern Tree Breeding Association (STBA), with financial support from the Government of South Australia and the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation (FWPRDC) has acquired 28 hectares of land for the National Genetic Resource Centre. General Manager of the STBA, Dr Tony McRae believed this strategic investment will provide multiple benefits for the plantation industry in the future. The importance of the centre was highlighted by the co-investment provided by the Government of South Australia and FWPRDC.

The Association, a national cooperative established in 1983 and based in Mount Gambier, manages the national cooperative tree improvement programs for Radiata Pine and Blue Gum, the major species used in plantation forestry. Industry Members of the Association include AKD Softwoods, Auspine Ltd, CRC for Forestry, CSIRO (ensis), Forest Enterprises Australia Ltd, Forestry Tasmania, ForestrySA, Great Southern Plantations Ltd, Green Triangle Forest Products Ltd, Gunns Ltd, Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd, Horizon2 Ltd, Midway Plantations Pty Ltd, Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australia) Ltd, Saxton Seed Pty Ltd, Treecorp Ltd, University of Melbourne (School of Forest and Ecosystem Science), University of New England (Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit) and WA Plantation Resources Pty Ltd.

Local industry representatives joined the STBA Board of Management, the Government of South Australia Minister for Forests Rory McEwen, and Dr Glen Kile Executive Director of FWPRDC to officially launch the centre on 25 August 2005. The NGRC will house the STBA's breeding stock for its tree improvement programs to provide efficiencies and increased genetic gain. In addition, the property will be used to conserve radiata genes by planting and preserving provenance material native of USA and Mexico.



(L-R) Hon. Rory McEwen and Dr Glen Kile plant the first tree at the National Genetic Resource Centre.

"The establishment of the NGRC on the outskirts of Mount Gambier will strengthen the region's status as a national centre of innovation and excellence for the forest and wood processing industries," Mr McEwen said. "To continue development of existing best-practice genetic improvement, the STBA, with its industry and research partners, has identified the need to consolidate genetic breeding material onto a central location."

Dr Glen Kile also recognised the importance of conserving radiata pine genes for the long term benefit of the industry. The threats posed to radiata pine in its natural habitat may prohibit Australia from accessing this material from overseas in the future.

"The support of all industry partners, including State and Federal authorities will ensure the plantation sector in Australia continues to be an effective and competitive industry in local and international markets," Dr McRae said.



(L-R) Hon. Rory McEwen (SA Minister for Forests), Dr Glen Kile (Executive Director, FWPRDC), Dr Tony McRae (General Manager, STBA), Philip Lloyd (Chairman, STBA) and Brian Farmer (Chief Executive, ForestrySA) at the launch of the National Genetic Resource Centre