

An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense pine forest. The road is a light brown color and runs vertically through the center of the frame. The trees are a vibrant green. The sky is blue with some light clouds. There are several red geometric shapes overlaid on the image: a large red shape on the left side, a lighter red shape at the top right, and a dark red shape at the bottom right.

For  
the  
Future

Forest  
Industries

South  
Australian  
**Labor**

**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Labor will support a sustainable Forestry Industry to maximise its capacity to produce vital fibre for Australian construction and manufacturing, and supporting South Australian jobs through:



- ✓ \$15 million over ten years for a new Centre for Excellence to create a long-term Forestry Research and Development capability at Mount Gambier, incorporating the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation and other forestry funding streams.
- ✓ The new Centre for Excellence will establish Mount Gambier as a high-status recognised centre of forestry research in Australia.
- ✓ Development of the Trees on Farms initiative to quantify and promote the environmental and economic benefits of on-farm plantations (including soil protection, shade and shelter for livestock, income diversification) and guide appropriate partnerships between timber processors and landholders.
- ✓ Investigating the feasibility of incentives to ensure that arrangements favour local processors who may be locked out of contracts with the larger forest growers.
- ✓ Supporting and expanding the role of Forest Industries Advisory Council (FIAC-SA) so that there is a clear, ongoing platform for government and industry to work together. This will include clear KPIs, a revised charter that embeds a collaborative approach with other key agencies (DTF, Transport & Infrastructure, DEW), workforce and all sectors of the supply chain.
- ✓ Providing \$2 million over three years to develop a Forest Products Domestic Manufacturing and Infrastructure Masterplan, including a focus on future skills needs.
- ✓ Providing \$2 million to replace fire towers with new technologies such as camera technology to provide a landscape level fire detection program, while ensuring existing fire towers are serviceable during the transition period.

# BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT

Water management is crucial to the many industries in the Limestone Coast, including forest industries, and a sustainable water resource is essential. Plantations are an environmental asset due to their role in salinity abatement, enhancement of biodiversity values, and carbon sequestration. Our collective understanding of how water works in the Limestone Coast is continually evolving, and all sectors are keen to find solutions that allow growth and development.



## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✔ Undertake a comprehensive, independent review of the 2013 Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan, including its social, economic and environmental impacts.
- ✔ Establish a formal, representative industry reference group to work with the Landscape Board (NRM Board) to ensure all industry sectors are involved in scientific input for the review, and development of the next Water Allocation Plan.
- ✔ Appoint a hydrologist and an ecologist from the Department of Environment and Water to posts based in the Limestone Coast.
- ✔ Investigate the options for diverting water flow from the drainage network away from the sea and retaining it in the landscape, based on a scientific analysis and principles of improved environmental and sustainability outcomes.

## FIXING SKILL SHORTAGES

Labor recognises that specific skills shortages in regional areas can severely curtail local industries' expansion and ability to create more jobs.

Labor is committed to better support for training programs that underpin forest industries, and has announced additional support for funding critical training in critical trade shortages identified by Industry. One such example in the Limestone coast is in training for Wood Technicians (saw doctors).

Labor will also invest an additional \$5 million in facilities and equipment for the Mt Gambier TAFE to enable it to provide these critical trade shortage courses.



Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

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